



## “**THAT’S A LONG ROW TO HOE!**”

### THE NEXT EXCITING EXHIBIT AT THE TRANSYLVANIA HERITAGE MUSEUM

*Lifestyles in Agriculture, Farming, Gardening and Foodways—Mountain Style.* The kick-off events begin in January and continue through December of 2009, allowing visitors sufficient time for the discovery, experience, and educational value. Initial displays will include Dairy Farming and Grist Mills in Transylvania County.

Events planned for the first quarter of this program include a Historic Hayride Tour and special presentations by guest speakers. Things to look forward to? Displays on farming, gardening, and mountain foodways. This exhibit is in conjunction with Museums In Partnership.

Museums In Partnership (MIP) is a new resource for museum professionals in Western North Carolina. Museums, historic sites and heritage-related organizations are included. The Transylvania Heritage Museum is a member of this group. MIP meets the third Thursday of the month, with members visiting a different museum or historic site in the region.

This themed Exhibit Program is coordinated and promoted by Friends of Mountain History and Museums In Partnership to encourage year-long themed exhibits and auxiliary programming in museums and other educational sites in twenty-five counties. Themed Exhibits encourage presentation and discussion of a single topic for a year-long variety of programs and activities. The Transylvania Heritage Museum is excited to be a part of the program this year.



## COME HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Experience mountain traditions with storytelling, collections, and special activities throughout November and December. Our old time Christmas display will feature antique toys and vintage Christmas cards. Read more in “Happenings Draw Nigh” on page 6.

### *Transylvania Heritage Coalition Board of Directors*

<i>Anders, Linda</i>	<i>Darity, Edith</i>	<i>Rhodes, Rob</i>
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<i>Childress, Pat</i>	<i>Lutz, Sarah</i>	<i>Van Weghe, Lynda</i>
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## President's Corner



# Thanks for Your Support — Keep it up!

Fundraising will be a continuing effort for us, as it is for all non-profit organizations.

According to the Foundation Center, which helps connect non-profits with foundations whose mission matches theirs, an average 75% of income for all types of non-profit organizations consistently comes from individual donations and fundraising events.

Potential donors usually ask, "What about grants?" We are pursuing several grants and have our eyes on additional ones. Any given grant is designed for a particular purpose. We seek the ones that focus on heritage, historic preservation and museums. The grant request is submitted, according to the schedule outlined by the grant maker. It usually takes about a year from application to receipt of funds, assuming we are chosen to receive the grant. Grants are not available for routine needs such as rent, utilities, and payroll, the biggest part of our expenses. Grants are defined so that they can cover the cost of a particular project such as a special exhibit, printing of educational brochures, or equipment for proper storage of precious artifacts.

We will offer a variety of fundraising events related to heritage each year, and will rely heavily upon membership fees, for income. Donations larger than the membership fee are especially helpful. You can opt to give a donation monthly, quarterly, annually, etc. We have received a number of nice donations and our membership has grown in recent months.

Income from the gift shop also helps. Please visit Heritage Gifts beyond the exhibits at the museum. Our items are either locally made, written about local history, or theme-appropriate. You can help your museum by following the challenge of the Chamber of Commerce: SPEND IT LOCAL, KEEP IT LOCAL.

If our Heritage Museum is important to the community, we will continue to need the community's help.

*Pat Childress, President*

## SPONSOR A DAY

If you care about the history of our county and our fledgling Transylvania Heritage Museum, here is a specific way to help and also honor or memorialize a special person.

You can adopt the museum for a day with a donation of only \$100 in the name of this special person. This amount will cover all expenses of running our museum each day including rent, utilities, payroll, and exhibit materials.

Please call the museum at 884-2347 for further information or send your check including the name of the honoree to PO Box 2347, Brevard, NC 28712.

The Transylvania Heritage Museum is a non-profit organization with a 501(c)3 tax exempt status. A receipt stating the tax exemption will be mailed to you. This will help us out a lot for very little.

## VISIT OUR NEW WEBSITE

If you haven't checked out our new website at <http://transylvaniaheritage.org>, please do so.

Dwight Meyer has created a new look and much new information. Some items of special interest include a photo gallery of featured exhibits which you can access by clicking on the "Featured Exhibits" left-side link then clicking on the word "here" near the bottom of the page.

Also, you'll want to keep informed with "Upcoming Events" and the latest news through "Museum News" and the newsletters.

Dwight would appreciate any ideas that you might have regarding further enhancements to the website. Just e-mail comments to [dwmeyer@citcom.net](mailto:dwmeyer@citcom.net).



# BRANDIN' PARTY MOVED TO ALLISON-DEAVER HOUSE

The Brandin' Party, a long-time favorite activity of the Jim Bob Tinsley Museum has been preserved by the new Transylvania Heritage Museum. Previously held at the Tim and Camellia Ellenberger Farm, the scene of all the fun was moved to the Allison-Deaver House on October 11th in an effort to coordinate activities between the Transylvania County Historical Society and the museum.

Rob Ewen, who has served with both organizations, said it was a good crowd. "A lot of people, especially the kids, were really 'wound up' about branding."

Elizabeth Rahn was impressed with the number of people coming to see Dottie Tinsley kicking up her heels while clogging with friends. Dottie explained that Tom Fredrickson cut the branding boards, square pieces of wood that make good keepsakes. "The favorite branding irons were the heart and the clover leaf" said Dottie. Fredrickson showed visitors how to get the brand really hot and apply it evenly to the wood.



Dottie Tinsley, in the cowboy hat, dances up a storm with some of her friends and students.

—Photo by Dwight Meyer

All the while, John Linville, with John Carter and Joanne Murphy played music and sang to enliven the party.



And the always faithful folks at the Pisgah Fish Camp provided a delicious barbeque plate. Our hats are off to Dan and Dana.

"The Brandin' Party is such a fun thing," said Dottie Tinsley. "If you didn't make it this year, check back next year and bring your friends." Many thanks to the Historical Society for letting us use their beautiful facility.

Crowds gathered around the tempered fire, ready to heat their branding irons. —Photo by Dwight Meyer

## Museum Christmas Wish List

This is a great way to make a specific nominal contribution and help the museum in many ways to continue with changing and interesting exhibits. If possible, some of the smaller gifts could be wrapped for our Christmas Party, to go under the tree. Please let us know if you plan to provide any items on the list so we will not have duplications.

1. A good office chair, no arms or high back
2. Package-wrapping tape and dispenser
3. 24-weight paper, plain, 90 brightness or card stock
4. Ink cartridges: Cannon 6 black bci-68-k; 6 yellow bci-6-y; 3 e black; 6 c cyan; (reasonably priced at Grovers)
5. Rolls of stamps
6. Folger's Colombian Coffee
7. Packets of sugar, Splenda or creamer
8. Paper Towels and bathroom tissue
9. 60 watt, soft light bulbs
10. A grasper for items on high shelves
11. DVD player for special programs
12. A new computer (call for details)



# A ROAD THAT COULD RATTLE YOUR TEETH “THE POOR MAN’S RAILROAD”

Soon after Buncombe County was organized in 1792, the commissioners of the county court considered plank roads. At one time 39 bills for plank road charters were before the legislators. The commissioners ordered the construction of the first road in Buncombe County, from Colonel William Davidson’s land on the Swannanoa River, to Benjamin Davidson’s Creek. This early road leading into present-day Transylvania County was known as the Boylston Road. Boylston Creek was named for pioneer James Boylston, who settled on the stream in 1786, when it was part of Rutherford County.

The road paralleled Boylston Creek from Mills River westward to Davidson’s Creek and closely follows the earlier old Indian trail, Eastatoe. It became the principal road into the region by the turn of the nineteenth century. A small segment of it can still be seen at the edge of the front yard at the Allison-Deaver House.



Plank road building began around 1850 when railroads were still slow to reach the mountains. The plank roads were also less expensive.

There were, however, spirituous debates between the Whigs and the Democrats, including character assassination. While some felt the spirit of progress, others strongly opposed: ***“You [Whigs] is always makin fun of the democrats and hard shel Baptusts. Case the sertain ways for themselves and case they bleve in the lord and do kist rite and case you hi floun whigs gits licked every onse and a while you awai a maikin things on us to try and injur our Karecktors.”***

A plank road was constructed by allowing the graded bed to settle and then placing over it pine sleepers (or wooden sills), placed lengthwise, end-to-end. Then pine planks were laid across them. They were all-weather

roads, enabling the farmers to market their grain all year. A team of horses or oxen could haul a heavier load on a plank road than they could on old dirt highways.

A team of 15 men could usually lay 650 feet a day, or about 40 miles a year. Toll houses were created along the way, charging different fees per mile depending on the size and weight of the traveler’s horses and wagon. Drivers were also charged. This led to some cheating and some travelers avoided the tolls.

The plank road era was of short duration. The life of a plank road was seven to nine years. The sills often had to be rebuilt with gravel. Plank roads required continual and costly maintenance. When the Civil War damaged or destroyed the plank roads, and the railroads reached further and further into the mountains, plank roads became a thing of the past. But they had served a purpose. The plank road did rescue the state from its “slothful” economic condition.

—Research on plank roads provided by the Transylvania County Library, North Carolina History Room.

## VOLUNTEERS WELCOME

If you love history, innovative exhibits, meeting and greeting the public or helping in a unique shop of local artisan-made creations, please contact us at 884-2347.

Be a part of Transylvania County’s new and unique history museum.



# EARLY NEWSPAPER “PROOFER” VISITS THE MUSEUM



In order to present interesting exhibits which urge the public to return again and again to the Transylvania Heritage Museum, Director Rebecca Suddeth and others continually look for compelling artifacts and antiques which tell a story. Most of the exhibits are changed every three months, with others added.

Transylvania Times Publisher Stella Trapp has loaned our most recent acquisition, a galley proofing press. “My father, Edward Anderson earlier owned the Forest City, NC Courier newspaper,” said Trapp. “He brought it with him when he took over operations of the Transylvania Times. “

A “galley” proofing press gave the compositor a chance to take a quick check at his hand-set type, to make sure the page came out correctly. These proofers could be either a table-top model or rested on a small stand.

A galley of type set was placed on the bed and inked by hand with a small roller called a “brayer.” A sheet of paper laid on top of the type and the roller was pulled across to get an impression.

In the 20th century, this sort of press was usually set with larger wood type as an economical, in-house way of making signs for stores and showcards for the theaters. The Challenge Printing Press Co. was founded in 1875 By Messers. Charles and J.W. Napier of New York City.

## CROWN JEWELS OF THE MUSEUM CORPORATE SPONSORS

**Diamond Sponsor: \$5,000 or more**

*Rowell Bosse Estate*

*Transylvania County Board of Commissioners*

**Emerald Sponsor: \$2,500 or more**

**Ruby Sponsor: \$1,000 or more**

*Citizen Telephone Company*

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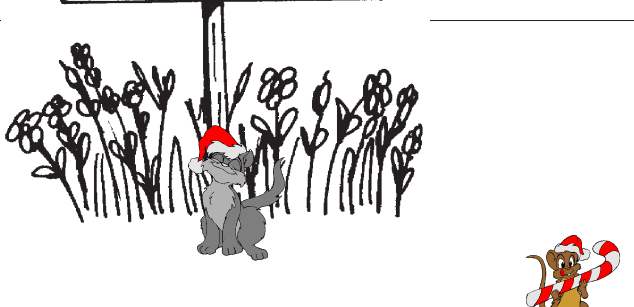
**Amethyst Sponsor: \$250 or more**

*Holbrooks & Nichols Construction*

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*Town of Rosman*



**HAPPY HOLIDAYS**



# Happenings Draw Nigh



Several events for the holidays are forthcoming and the Board and Staff of the Heritage Museum hope you will drop by and partake of some Christmas Cheer and enjoy the evolving exhibits.

**Trim-A-Tree:** During our regular hours from **10 am until 5 pm** guests can add a decoration to our tree and enjoy refreshments on **December 6<sup>th</sup>**, the day of the Twilight Tour.

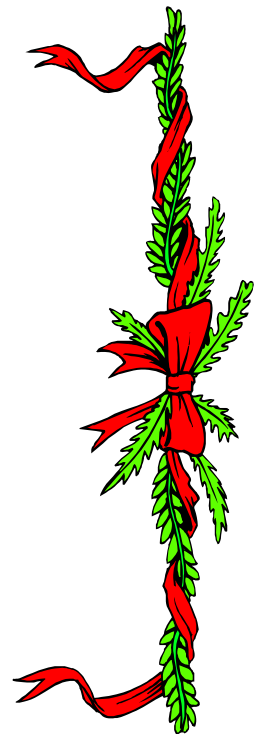
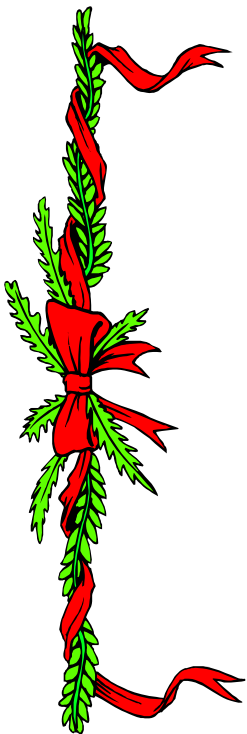
**Volunteers:** A special reception on **December 8<sup>th</sup>** for volunteers and potential volunteers will be held at the museum from **5:30 – 7:00 pm**. Refreshments will be available.

**American Girl Party:** A special event for girls who are “in the know” about the American Girl sensation. Fun food and activities for young ladies ages 8 to 11. This will be held **December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2:00 – 5:00 pm**. Due to limited space, **registration is required**. Call 884-2347.

**Christmas Bash:** Our first annual Christmas Party, will be held **December 19<sup>th</sup> beginning at 5:30 pm**. The Board of Directors, members, volunteers and their guests will enjoy a covered-dish dinner. Beverages will be supplied. So cook up your favorite Christmas recipe and join us at the museum.



**THE TRANSYLVANIA HERITAGE MUSEUM WILL BE CLOSED DECEMBER 19<sup>th</sup> UNTIL JANUARY 7<sup>th</sup>, 2009. WE WILL REOPEN WITH NEW EVENTS AND NEW EXHIBITS INCLUDING “THAT’S A LONG ROW TO HOE” IN COOPERATION WITH MUSEUMS IN PARTNERSHIP.**



Transylvania Heritage Museum  
40 W. Jordan St. • PO Box 2347  
Brevard, NC 28712  
828-884-2347 • Email: heritage@ctcom.net  
www.transylvaniaheritage.org

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