

SPRING NEWS

Preserving the legacy of pioneer settlers and experiencing how they lived.

Save the DATES

Dr. Lloyd Bailey join us for our history lecture series on

Saturday, June 15

How Did Our Pioneer Ancestors Get Here?

Sunday, August 4

TBA

Saturday, September 7

Education on the Frontier



The members of the
Board of Directors
Founding Trustees
President/CEO Geraldine Plato

Invite you to an OPEN HOUSE

to Celebrate

Earl Young's 90th Birthday

Saturday, June 8

2:00 to 4:00 pm

at the The Center for Pioneer Life

Earl has said the only gift he wants is the opportunity to visit with family and friends. Come see him!

September 18 through 21 we will host nationally acclaimed storyteller **Donald Davis** for a four day residency at The Center. Watch this space for more information on how he will inspire students, teachers, and family historians to learn how to tell their own stories.

Shoal Creek Guesthouse

Remember we have a very comfortable Air B&B on site, available to rent now, either by calling us at 828.536.0337 or book online www.airbnb.com, Shoal Creek Guest House. It offers excellent views, spacious rooms, and sleeps eight.

Earl Young has been a significant contributor to Yancey County since he returned from Korea and married Betty Banks. He founded Young McQueen, with the Banks family conceived and built Mountain Air Golf Club, was a leader in the development of the Cable vision industry in the Southeast and numerous other business enterprises. Each is a major employer and economic factor in this region.

Earl served several terms as County Commissioner, has been a lifelong member of Higgins Memorial Methodist Church and was an active member of the Yancey Fire Department most of his adult life.

He is a founder, chair of the board of the Founding Trustees, a major financial supporter, and director of construction for The Center for Pioneer Life.

Needs List

- ▶ Does anyone have or know where the Center might find or acquire a large hay sled, a springhouse box, a turning plow, a four-foot tiller, ad a single foot bull tongue plow?
- ▶ Copies of any volume of Lloyd Bailey's fourteen book series on The Toe River Valley or copies of books by Perry Deane Young.
- ▶ Foxfire Books Volumes 7 through 11.
- ▶ Good paintings of this area that reflect our heritage for office walls and exhibits.
- ▶ Usable pitchforks, preferable old, as well as a wooden pitch fork for exhibition only.
- ▶ Two flat iron fireplace screens, at least 44"x33". Old usable andirons.
- ▶ An old cast iron cook stove that is or can be made usable.
- ▶ A usable, fairly small, office desk and chair.
- ▶ Sturdy book cases.
- ▶ Good folding tables and chairs.

To avoid duplication and ensure we can properly use what you have, please email a photo to YoungHomePlace@gmail.com

You can receive tax deductions if these items are contributed. If you prefer to lend them for an exhibition the items will receive proper care, and you will get a big "thank you" when returned. We are currently developing a collections policy to ensure your items will be well cared for.

Note from the President/CEO

Geraldine Plato

The quiet of winter is past, and spring has come in in full-force at The Center. Thanks to your donations we have made a giant leap in creating a place that last year this time was only a dream.

We are creating an exciting line-up of programs for this summer and fall that I hope you will be a part of. As you read through this newsletter and see something that interests you, please call to get involved.

While the Center has recently received several generous grants, these funds are mostly restricted to developing facilities, exhibits, and programs. Funds remain scarce for our operational expenses like insurance, utilities, grounds, maintenance, payroll, and more.

I've been encouraged by many of you who have asked for a reminder of when your annual membership is due. When you hear from me, I hope you will renew your \$100 membership or better yet, for \$300 sponsor someone you wish to memorialize or honor on our 2020 calendar.

It was will great sadness that this winter, we learned of the passing of one of our **dear founders, Carl Winkler**. Carl was critical to jumpstart this project. He was the first to write a check that made The Center what it is today. Carl's gentle presence will be missed.

Thank you, **Pat, Donna, Brian, and Todd** for sharing Carl with us! Below are a few highlights from remarks at Carl's memorial service.



I'm humbled and thankful to be able to pay tribute to a good and generous man today. Carl always greeted me with the warmth of friendship. He was the Dad that didn't just say hello, he'd sit down and talk to you for thirty minutes. He could walk into a room full of strangers and within 10 minutes knew everyone in the room.

Anybody ever make the mistake of asking Carl about genealogy? There's no telling how many hours he put into tracing his family tree. I called him once to give me some counsel on starting a business. He told me to come over and he'd be glad to help. I got there and he took me into his office and the next thing I knew I was in the middle of Winkler history. It was something that you could tell he took great pride in and enjoyed sharing what he'd learned.

Carl was a highly intelligent and astute businessman. He began his career in the advertising department at the Citizen-Times, then worked as a Sheriff's Deputy for several years. He then worked in the advertising department at Sky City until he retired. Kind of. He later became part owner of the Media Group, built other successful businesses.

Grant Funds Are Helping Build Our Program

The Center for Pioneer Life received a \$50,000 grant from the Foundation for International Education (FIE). This grant is the result of a challenge given to The Center to secure 300 memberships during 2018. The Center is proud to announce over 300 individuals, groups, and businesses helped reach this goal by contributing a \$300 sponsorship or \$100 membership to earn this \$50,000. Thank you!

Dr. Pete Eberhart, chair of the Foundation for International Education, announced the award and added “We offered this challenge because we believe in the important work The Center is doing telling the story of the settlement of western North Carolina. This project also offers an unprecedented opportunity to strengthen the region’s economic and educational environment”. Funds from this grant are restricted to planning and implementing programs that will serve Yancey County residents, visitors, and researchers.

The Foundation for International Education is a private, philanthropic foundation that has been in existence for twenty-five years. It promotes cultural understanding by provides funds for international education and historic preservation.

A \$50,000 planning grant and an additional \$50,000 implementation contract will bring close to 100 international teachers to the The Center this summer as part of a partnership recently formed with Participate Learning, a Chapel Hill-based company that is the most extensive international teacher exchange program in the US.

These highly selected international teachers spend up to five years teaching in American public schools. As part of their required training, they must engage in activities that help them understand American history and culture. This opportunity prepares teachers to be more effective in their work in the United States, but of equal importance, they take this knowledge back to their native countries to share with their students.



Special thanks to The YANCEY FUND and The Community Foundation of Western North Carolina for granting \$7,722 to help fund *Pioneer for a Day*, a field trip program in partnership with Yancey County Public Schools.

These funds allow The Center to host hundreds of school children as they learn about the settling of this area and get a detailed understanding of the early American lifestyle. They will not only hear and see what life was like in this era but experience it through a series of hands-on activities.

Funds from this grant will be used for curriculum development, implementation, and evaluation of field trips as well as provide professional development for Yancey County public school teachers.

Come See Our Progress

Supported by recent grant funds, new exhibits are being prepared for the summer. These educational tools and facility improvements will be ready for the June 8 Open House. Bring family and friends to see these additions.

Josiah and Frances Ray Young Cabin

Tour this luxury pioneer cabin with period furnishings

Pigpen

Discover why pork was essential to pioneer survival

Demonstration Cow

Learn about butter, cheese, meat, and milking

Vegetable Garden

Find out how corn and potatoes are grown

Hayfield and Haystacks

Learn about storing winter food for the animals

Chickens and Hen House

Experience chickens as a mainstay

Tool Shed

See a collection of essential pioneer farm tools

Spring House/Spring Box

Learn about early forms of refrigeration

Log Yard

Observe the preparation of logs for construction

Corn Crib

Find out about the essentials of corn & corn storage

Will Young Family Exhibit

See a collection of artifacts from the Young Family



2019 History Lecture Series with Dr. Lloyd Bailey

How Did Our Pioneer Ancestors Get Here From "The Old Country"? Saturday, June 15 at 3 PM

Did you ever wonder how our pioneer ancestors got "here," not merely the means of travel but how they could afford it? How much did it cost in the 1700s in terms of current dollars? The answer will astonish you! How could the average impoverished person afford it, and what does that have to do with a "sabbatical year" as mentioned in the biblical book of Deuteronomy?

Do you have any idea of what conditions were like below decks on a ship voyage that might take 17 weeks? Where did most of our ancestors come ashore, and what sort of sale of individuals then took place? Where was the "Great Wagon Road" and why did pioneers travel down it? What great battle in 1775 caused settlers to flee to the "Carolina Cradle"? Are any veterans of that "battle for America" (it was not the Revolution) buried in the Toe River Valley? Do you know of a place nearby that was described in the 1700's as "the Back Bone of the Earth"?

Do you know about advertisements in Philadelphia newspapers that offered land for sale in Carolina? Did an agent from there actually come here and buy thousands of local acres for such transactions? Are there local deeds that reflect this? Please join us for our third lecture in this series.