

GRAHAM COUNTY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION



HONORING THOSE WHO PIONEERED THE RUGGED MOUNTAINS OF GRAHAM COUNTY



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NEWSLETTER

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GCHA meets the 1st and 3rd Mondays of each month at 5:00 p.m.

Graham County Public Library, 80 Knight Street, Robbinsville, NC 28771

The Origin of Wild Boar in Monterey County

From a letter from George Gordon Moore to Stuyvesant Fish Feb. 12, 1963.

Dear Stuyvie:

You would like to know where the wild boar originated that I turned loose on the Rancho San Carlos, etc.

It involves two names that you probably never heard of:

The Investment Registry, 2 Waterloo Place, London, England and Walter Winans, an American sportsman with a country place in Kent County, England. To answer your question without these names would be like Hamlet without the Prince of Denmark.

Before the first world

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The Origin of Wild Boar in Monterey County (Cont'd)

war, England, not U.S., was the world's banking center. Any security with merit, from any place in the world, found a ready market in England. The Investment Registry was its largest independent institution dealing in unlisted securities. All of the stock in this company was acquired jointly by a Canadian Trust Company and myself, about three years before the first world war.

After we secured control, one of the first properties financed was about 100,000 acres of first class timber in Graham County, North Carolina in the heart of the great Smoky Mountains. It borders on Tennessee and Virginia. You may think the country of your ranch and the San Carlos in the Santa Lucia Mountains very beautiful – it is, but nowhere have I ever seen anything as beautiful as this wild section of the great Smokies – rhododendrons 50 feet high; the widest variety of foliage imaginable and views of three states from Hooper Bald Mountain, the highest peak in the center of it. I understand the government has now purchased this area for a national park.

You must remember that all I am about to tell you happened before the U.S. has any income tax laws.

My prerequisite was a lease of the game rights of the property. There were still black bear and deer and the mountain men who lived there were natural hunters. I hired three of them; built cabins for them, enclosed a thousand acres in a high woven wire fence on top of Hooper Bald Mountain; built my own log cabin with six bedrooms and baths (no doubt the first bathtubs in Graham County); built a 20 mile road from Andrews, North Carolina, the nearest railroad to our center.

The first tenants inside the fence were a dozen elk and seven buffalo of both sexes, but the piece de resistance was about 40 bear of all ages that I purchased from various zoos.

Some amusing things happened with the bears. They lost no time in escaping from the fence, but the fact that they had lived inside of buildings during their first months made them seek to return to any building shelter.

One night when I arrived at Hooper Bald, I found a guest, a young Englishman, his arm and leg bandaged from bites from a young bear that had come into the cabin when he was putting it out.

The cabins of the mountaineers in this area had no glass in their windows. Believe it or not, Stuyvie, I was actually sued because one of my young bear crawled through one of these open windows on the Tennessee border and the lady inside had a miscarriage from fright.

I mentioned Walter Winans, an American with a country place in Kent. He had two great sporting interests, trotting horses and wild boar hunting.

About this time I had a great deal of international publicity because I had just bred the winner of the Kentucky Trotting Futurity, Justice Brooke, 2:9 ½, but more important, the colt was the first one to ever trot a mile faster than 2:10.

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GCHA HIGHLIGHTS

- Graham County Travel & Tourism have met and officially voted to locate their office in the GCHA Museum building.
- The Strategic Planning Committee, the Research and Development Committee, the Acquisitions and Collection Committee, and the Building and Grounds Committee have begun meeting regularly.
- Max Buchanan and Leota Wilcox attended an Oral History Workshop in Salisbury, NC.
- The next Federation of North Carolina Historical Societies oral history workshop will be held in Asheville April 16th at the DNCR Western Office. <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Federation2018Asheville>
- Donation of the title to 77 acres on Tuskegee was appraised at \$232,000.
- Donation given by Mountain Creek Baptist Church
- Two women from a church in Peachtree, Sister Wilson and Sister Larson, stopped by to let us know that Marlene Bryan (828-541-1961) would like to offer genealogy classes once a month at the library. Date and time TBD.

MISSION STATEMENT

To preserve, interpret, and convey Graham County, regional, and Appalachian history through exhibitions and educational programs to showcase our history, making Graham County a desired historical destination.

VISION STATEMENT

To maintain a heritage center located on Main Street, by focusing on education, history, and community activities, to assure that Graham County's place in history will be secured for future generations. Participate in the revitalization of downtown Robbinsville, N.C., and promote cultural tourism and economic development in our area.

GCHA BOARD

Edd Satterfield- Pres. ~ Carolyn Stewart- V.P.
Lavina West- Sec. ~ Terri Phillips- Treas.

The Origin of Wild Boar in Monterey County (Cont'd)

As the breeder of Justice Brooke, I received an invitation from Winans to spend the week-end with him. This was the first time I ever heard anything about wild boar. He had his own boar hunting forest in Belgium. He was so enthusiastic I decided to add boar to my Graham County collection. He gave me his price, I paid it. He said they were from the Ural Mountains of Russia. In due time they arrived at Andrews. Within a couple of years they had taken over the mountain; wild boar always have the initiative. You can never tell whether they run away from you or run at you, all the action any hunter wants.



I had a great many guests, usually for periods of two weeks at a time, and the first day or two we had bear hunts with the native Black Bear Hounds.

Our bear hunter was Forest Denton, who was always on the first day, but on one trip he wasn't there, arriving a day late. He explained, "just after dark I was coming up the mountain and I thought I saw a bear coming through the Laurel, but it wasn't a bear – it turned out to be a boar and he charged me. I did a little bird work up a rock high enough to miss him, but he stayed there all night watching me until noon the next day."

For hounds to hunt the wild boar, we quickly found that the local bear hound had little value. The boar killed too many. However, by crossing Irish wolf hound with the Great Dane we produced an animal that could creditably hold its own.

The hunting period was October and November. Over the years I had many guests. The only Californian was Richard Tobin, but your neighbor, Henry Russell's first wife when she was Ethel Harriman, was there with her mother Mrs. Borden Harriman.

One of my guests was you All American relative Hamilton Fish. Ham was anxious to take a boar's head back to the Porcellian Club at Harvard. Unfortunately when he aimed at the boar, he missed it but killed the favorite cook hound of our chief hunter, Devereaux Birchfield. In those days human life was a cheap commodity in the Great Smokies. A good coon hound was slightly more valued than a child. Devereaux Birchfield had already killed three men for less important causes than the death of his coon hound. I suddenly found that I had

urgent business elsewhere and early the next morning our entire party returned to New York.

I don't think I ever told Ham the reason for our sudden departure.

In the early '20s, when I purchased Rancho San Carlos, the man in charge of Hooper Bald was Garland McGuire. I had him trap nine sows and three boar, the same number that I had originally purchased for Hooper Bald and he brought them to the ranch and stayed there at least a month placing them. He told me that in trapping them four hounds had been killed and one helper badly wounded.

The residents of the Carmel Valley can carry the store on from here.

The biggest boar we ever killed on the ranch, when hung, measured 9 ft. from tip to tip. The skin on his neck was three inches thick; eleven bullets were found which over the years had been imbedded in the fat.

The last time I was in Washington visiting Duffie and Sheila, one of their guests told me that he had just returned from Hooper Bald Mountain area where he was hunting the descendants of these boar and that the states of No. Carolina, Tennessee and Virginia granted licenses for the shooting of only one a years.

The last time I saw William Randolph Hearst, Sr., he said "your pigs have reached San Simeon"...

For more information on this story contact Graham County Historical Association, PO Box 1221, Robbins, NC 28771

GrahamCountyMuseum@gmail.com.



The Graham County Historical Association and the Graham County Public Library are working together to bring Dr. Dan Pierce, PhD, of UNC Asheville, to the Library on Thursday, March 22nd, 6-7:30 p.m. Dr. Pierce, a specialist in Southern and

Appalachian history, will be giving a presentation on his book "Hazel Creek: The Life and Death of an Iconic Mountain Community." Pierce has written several books on the history of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, including his most recent work, *The Illustrated Guide to Great Smoky Mountains National Park*, which features 40 original posters and historical information covering a wide variety of topics relating to the Smokies. In *Hazel Creek*, Pierce explores the complex history of the boom-and-bust mining and logging town, now located within the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. All are welcome.

GCHA Committees

MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT/ PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Educate on the importance of development activities and strong membership base for long term museum support.

- Solicit for new members and community support through Festivals and fund-raising events
- Develops social media strategies and implementation
- Reviews and recommends public functions, advising which Association members should attend
- Responsible for newsletters, brochures, fliers, advertisements, etc.

MEMBERS: Carolyn Stewart, Terri Phillips, Tere Moore, Leota Wilcox, Max Buchanan, Nick and Bonnie Nichols, Mary Ritter

ORAL HISTORY COMMITTEE

Implements a plan to gather and preserve oral history.

- Identification of individuals in which to gather oral history
- Questions to be asked
- Individuals who will conduct interview, etc.
- Preserving and using information for education
- Equipment to be used

MEMBERS: Tere Moore, Kaeli Schurr, Lavina West, Leota Wilcox, Max Buchanan, Bob Wehr, Carolyn Stewart, Nick and Bonnie Nichols, Doyle Brock, Teresa Garland

BUILDING AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE-

To explore and make recommendations for the upgrade of the museum building including but not limited to electrical, structural, insulation, HVAC.

- Makes recommendations on maintenance of the building and grounds.
- When funding is available, makes recommendations for solicitation of qualified firms to do upgrades (sealed competitive bids).
- Consult with layout and display committee

MEMBERS: Edd Satterfield, Marty Ritter, Nick Nichols, Bob Wehr, Jim Calhoun, Danny Buchanan, Doyle Brock, Tom Ward

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE-

Responsible for research of potential grants which the association may qualify, implementation and follow through of the grant writing either in house or by sponsors and or partners.

- Explore and make recommendations on associations in which the GCHA should be a member
- Communicate with said organizations that help promote and assist the Association. (Examples- Museums in Partnerships, Friends of Mountain History, NC Museum Council, American Association of State and Local History, ARC, etc.)

MEMBERS: Mary Ritter, Rick Davis, Teresa Garland, Kaeli Schurr, Sophia Paulos, Lavina West, Bob Wehr

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Responsible for contacting officials to promote the mission of the Graham County Historical Association.

MEMBERS: Edd Satterfield, Carolyn Stewart, Sophia, Brian Johnson

MUSEUM LAYOUT AND DISPLAY COMMITTEE-

Explores and makes recommendations on the layout of the museum.

- Makes recommendations on displays of museum items
- List what categories the museum should display such as early Graham County Pioneers, Logging, Railroads, Lakes, Healthcare, Early Farming, Sports, History, veterans, etc.
- Interpretive plan

MEMBERS: Mary Ritter, Doyle Brock, Jimmy Calhoun, Dannie Buchanan, Terri Phillips, Leota Wilcox, Max Buchanan, Kaeli Schurr, Robin Turner, Ed Satterfield, Tere Moore, Kathie Hatton, Len Sheffield

ACQUISITIONS AND COLLECTIONS COMMITTEE-

Once it determined what the museum will house and display, this committee will be responsible for exploring, finding, and locating items

- Make recommendations on the acquisition of items and collections. Including but not limited to documenting, cataloging, labeling, number of items to collect, etc.
- Design form for items gifted to the Museum
- Develop acquisition plan

MEMBERS: Dannie Buchanan, Leota Wilcox, Max Buchanan, Lavina west, Kaeli Schurr, Doyle Brock

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Shall have the responsibility to advise Board on appropriate budgeting and accounting practices as a non-profit corporation.

- Propose an annual budget
- Monitor income and expenditures
- Recommend an auditor to conduct the annual audit
- The Treasurer of the organization shall serve as a voting member of this committee

MEMBERS: Edd Satterfield, Terri Phillips, Doyle Brock, Bob Wehr

STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE

Design and create a five year plan for the Organization's goals, objectives, and activities

- Assessment of current resources
- Strategic Analysis (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats)
- Update as necessary

MEMBERS: Leota Wilcox, Mary Ritter, Kaeli Schurr, Max Buchanan, Sophia Paulos, Jimmy Calhoun, Lavina West

OUTREACH AND ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

- Special events, speeches, programs
- Workshops
- Educational programs

MEMBERS: Brian Johnson, Bob Wehr, Mary Griffin, Mary Ritter, Tom Ward

MUCK-OUT DAY AT THE MUSEUM BUILDING

On February 10th, GCHA held its first Muck-Out Day at the museum building. We had 15 folks working and hauled off seven truckloads of primarily old furniture.



Bonnie Nichols



Thank You Covenant Construction



Jimmy Calhoun

We started by grouping three groups: that which the Church Mouse is going to sell and split the money with us; that which we conceivably might sell ourselves; and that which we want to keep to use. It is likely that, as time goes on, we will dispose of some amount of that we are currently saving. Another work day is scheduled for March 10th.

GRAHAM COUNTY HISTORY ASSOCIATION

HELP US REACH \$200,000+ \$70,000 Pledged

THE GOAL!

Now Available
Jonas Jenkins Jr. Family
 A Book by Merrell Jenkins Riddle
 Available at Register of Deeds Office
 \$5 discount until May 1st – Regularly \$40

THE GOAL IS TO
 create a museum of Graham County.

- A destination for families, friends and tourist.
- An education center for our schools.
- A place to learn how our community began, how industry changed the mountains, how families survived and made a living.
- A wealth knowledge with stories of our founding families and artifacts from earlier generations.

WE VALUE YOUR INPUT AND HELP

- GCHA meets every Monday at the Register of Deeds office at 4:30 p.m.
- This is a community effort to save Snider's building and our history.

GRAHAM COUNTY HISTORY ASSOCIATION

www.historygc.com | info@historygc.com
 828.479.7971 | 828.479.9411
 P.O. Box 406 | Robbinsville, NC 28771

DONATION FORM
 The work of Graham County History Association is greatly assisted by your generous support.

Name _____
 Company _____
 Address _____
 State _____ Zip Code _____
 Phone _____
 Email _____

Thank you for your donation!

Please mail to: P.O. Box 406 | Robbinsville, NC 28771
 Phone: 828.479.7971 | 828.479.9411
 Email: info@historygc.com

GRAHAM COUNTY HISTORY ASSOCIATION

METHOD OF PAYMENT

- **Check | Money Order** (Payable to GCHA)
- **PayPal** (Send to: info@historygc.com)
- **Credit Card:** (All major credit cards)

 Expiration Date _____
 Cardholders Name _____
 Signature _____

One time Donation \$ _____ **Monthly Pledge \$** _____

I authorize GCHA permission to auto-draft my donation from my bank account.
 Graham County History Association is a non-profit, tax-exempt, 501(c)(3) organization. Contributions are tax deductible.