

GRAHAM COUNTY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION



HONORING THOSE WHO PIONEERED
THE RUGGED MOUNTAINS
OF GRAHAM COUNTY



www.HISTORYGC.org

828.479.5008

grahamcountymuseum@gmail.com

Volume 6, No. 2

April 2022

Tere Moore, Editor




Cheoah River Release
April 16-17, April 23-24 & May 7-8

NEWSLETTER

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GCHA meets the 1st & 3rd Mondays of each month at 5 pm at United Community Bank, 132 Rodney Orr Bypass, Robbinsville. At present, due to COVID protocols, we meet via teleconference.

Contact us for
 call-in information.

GCHA 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 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.

GCHA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

EDD SATTERFIELD – PRES
CAROLYN STEWART – VP
LAVINA WEST – SEC'Y
TERRI PHILLIPS – TREAS
DOYLE BROCK
MAX BUCHANAN
JAMES CALHOUN
TERESA GARLAND
JACK B. WIGGINS

WE  **HOW CAN YOU HELP?**
VOLUNTEERS Consider joining one of our Committees!

- ♥ Membership Development/ Public Relations/ Outreach Committee
- ♥ Oral History Committee
- ♥ Building and Grounds Committee
- ♥ Grants Committee
- ♥ Government Relations Committee
- ♥ Museum Layout and Display Committee
- ♥ Acquisitions and Collections Committee
- ♥ Finance Committee
- ♥ Strategic Planning Committee
- ♥ Activities Committee
- ♥ Pictorial History Committee

Interested in Volunteering? Contact us at grahamcountymuseum@gmail.com or call 828-479-5088

GCHA UPDATE

by Max Buchanan

Although GCHA had hoped to open our new museum in time for Graham County's Sesquicentennial year, the challenges in our country over the past three years [Coronavirus, public health restrictions, staff and materials shortages, economic challenges for businesses, etc.] have not allowed us to accomplish the things on our To-Do List within our planned timeframe.

Hopefully 2022 will be a turning point and help us get things moving at a faster pace.

We have not been idle, though, in spite of these challenges and having to work remotely.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

MEMBERSHIP & OUTREACH:

- Membership Drive
- GCHA Website and Facebook pages
- GCHA Quarterly Newsletter

BUILDING IMPROVEMENTS:

- Street drainage in front of building updated
- Sidewalk and front entrance updated
- New roof and insulation on main building installed
- Boiler and piping with asbestos removal completed
- GCHA Building qualified within newly designated Robbinsville Historical District

FUNDRAISING:

- Raffles – Yeti Coolers, ShopVac & Vacuum, Browning Rifle
- GCHA special events booths at GC Farmers Market and Drag-On Car Show
- Sale of donated furniture and miscellaneous items

MUSEUM DISPLAYS:

- Graham County T & T Office Displays – Museum Preview, Bill Cody Family, and Bear Creek Junction
- Snider Store Window Displays – Bill Cody Family and Bear Creek Junction

ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEWS:

Continuation of recording and collection of Oral History interviews of local long-time residents

GRANTS AND FUNDING:

Ongoing research and application for various grants and funding sources.

Ronnie Milsap - Honoring a Native Son

By Edd Satterfield

Graham County native **Ronnie Milsap** took a break from touring for some reminiscing, during a two-day tour of his childhood home on March 14th and 15th.

Having a couple of days of free time, he wanted to come to Graham County to visit some friends and family. While here, he met with several people in his childhood community of Meadow Branch and at the Meadow Branch Church.

As a way to honor this Native Son, on September 17, 2019, the Graham County Board of Commissioners unanimously passed a resolution to rename a section of US 129 as “The Ronnie Milsap Highway”. As part of the NCDOT process, the resolution stated that “Milsap has made a significant contribution to the national music industry” and “is widely known by residents and visitors to Graham County as a national music entertainer” and “embodies the values and heritage that make Graham County Strong in its cultural heritage.”

The Graham County Historical Association, Graham County Travel and Tourism Authority and the Graham County Economic Revitalization Team all sent letters of support to the NCDOT.

In a response to the Graham County Board of Commissioners, Ronnie wrote, “No matter how many miles and years since I left there, I will always remember the lessons I learned at Meadow Branch Primitive Baptist Church or going down to Faset Jenkins Store... “Every time I sing or hear one of my earlier recordings of a song called ‘Streets of Gold’, it takes me back home to western North Carolina: ‘I’m a Western North Carolinian, made of stone and red clay soil’.”

On December 2, 2020, The NCDOT passed a resolution that states, “NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the North Carolina Board of Transportation names US 129 from the intersection of Yellow Creek Road and US 129 North to the Graham County Bridge #33 the **Ronnie Milsap Highway**.”

In 2021, a collaboration between the Town Of Robbinsville, REVVED UP, Scott Nurkin and Graham County brought to life a large mural of Ronnie Milsap placed on a building located at 39 South Main Street in Robbinsville.

The mural is located directly across the street from the Old Snider Department Store, which is now being renovated by the Graham County Historical Association into the Graham County Museum and Cultural Center, where it plans to create a Ronnie Milsap display.

Stay tuned...



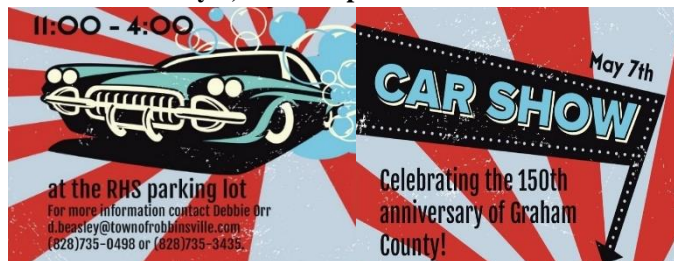
Ronnie Milsap – Carolina Dreams - photo by Art Miller

GRAHAM COUNTY EVENTS

CHEOAH RIVER RELEASE – April 16-17 & 23-24, May 7-8

The Cheoah River, located near Robbinsville, NC, is a nine-mile section of waterway between the Santeetlah Dam and Lake Calderwood. The release of approximately 1000 cfs of water results in a Class IV-V whitewater run making for a challenging kayak adventure.

CAR SHOW – May 7, 11am – 4pm



GCHA is proud to facilitate a rare appearance of the No. 37 driven by the late Rodney Orr in the Winston Cup Series. **Weather permitting**, it will be displayed at the Graham County 150th Anniversary Car Show on May 7th from 11am – 4pm at the Robbinsville High School parking lot.

Orr, a Native Son, had 13 top 10 NASCAR Goody's Dash Series finishes before being killed at Daytona Motor Speedway on Feb.14, 1994.

Stop in at the **Graham County Historical Association** booth for more information.



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GRAHAM COUNTY'S SESQUICENTENNIAL



Excerpts: "Planning moves forward for anniversary events" by Randy Foster – *The Graham Star*

"Graham County turned 150 in January and organizers are playing catch-up to put together some kind of celebration to observe the sesquicentennial milestone. The process to plan a celebration started two years ago, but COVID-19 delayed things.

"The first meeting was held on March 22, during which more than a dozen people expressed interest in helping plan for events this year.

"About the same number of people showed up for Monday's meeting, during which a possible timeframe for events – Aug. 11-14. One day each would focus on Robbinsville, Stecoah, and Fontana Dam, with Sunday set aside for a community-wide church picnic.

"Nothing has been finalized and lots of ideas were tossed around about dates, events, venues, food and performers.

"Possibilities include a history walk of the downtown area, a kid zone and parade, and live music.

"Tie-ins to the 100th anniversary celebration are also possible, including a beard-growing contest, period costumes and jail for anyone caught not growing a beard or wearing period-appropriate clothing... Some hope to have Ronnie Milsap appear, if not perform. Milsap visited his home county in March."

To Volunteer or Give Input: The next meeting for the 150th Graham County Celebration will be **Thursday, May 5, 2022 at 5:30pm** at the Graham County Community Building located on Knight Street, Robbinsville.

HISTORY OF GRAHAM COUNTY - PART VII

A compilation by Tere Moore

EDUCATION IN GRAHAM COUNTY

Travel around Graham County in the mid-1800s was rigorous and time-consuming. In communities large enough to support them, churches were built that then also served as some of the county's first schools.

Excerpt: *Graham County Centennial 1872-1972*

"Few schools were found and most children lived too far away to attend the three or four months' session during the early fall. Schoolhouses were of logs, with no windows, and seats were made of split logs without backs. For years there was a high degree of illiteracy in the county. Probably more people could not read and write than could.

"The small one-teacher school was the rule not the exception in the county. Each community had one and usually two of these one-teacher schools...

"The typical school consisted of from 20-30 students varying in age from 6 to 16. Grades were never mentioned. The level of progress was identified by the reader which had been reached. The teacher would announce the particular book and all in that book would come forward. The student usually showed his mastery of content by some type of memory recitation. The three R's constituted the main curriculum with history and geography often added. Cross spellings were common using the old blue back speller or the Harrington speller. Students often had individual slates to work on. Those without individual slates would go to the front and use the slate board. School opened with prayer and discipline was not neglected. The boys cut wood for heat as cold weather approached.

"The teacher always tried to complete the term before Christmas. The pupils took their own simple lunch to school with them sometimes having to fight off the hogs in order to eat. Some old timers recalled that three of the greatest problems confronting the early school were lice, itch, and fleas. The teacher lived in the community. When the teacher was receiving \$25 a month salary, he usually paid \$5.00 per month for room and board. Some of the early teachers taught in many different communities. Among those early teachers to whom special tribute should be given are Captain N.M.E. Slaughter, Sid Rose, and T.A. Carpenter..."

Note from the Editor: The schools mentioned in the following section are by no means a complete listing, as the Editor found little documented history to pull from.

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HISTORY OF GRAHAM COUNTY - PART VII (cont'd)

EARLY SCHOOLS OF GRAHAM COUNTY

Excerpt: *Graham County Heritage North Carolina Vol. 1*

“**ROCK SPRINGS SCHOOL** was established on the Cheoah River, about a mile below the site for the Santeetlah Dam. ...this school was first started in the early 1800s when this was still Cherokee County.. Students from Gladden’s Creek, Cochran’s Creek, Gold Mine Branch comprised a student body of about fifty.”

Excerpt: *Graham County Centennial 1872-1972*

“During the 1850's or 60's a simple log cabin structure was built on what was known locally as **MEETING HOUSE RIDGE SCHOOL**.

“This log cabin served as church and school during these formative years with Tom Mashburn recalled as the forerunner of the early teacher.... About 1875 a similar but larger log building was constructed... Oliver Williams served as teacher. In 1910 again at the same site the county erected a plank building for school purposes; however, when the community agreed to put weather boarding on the building they were permitted again to use the facility for a church. The white weather boarded church was used until replaced by the present brick structure in 1968. With the coming of the new brick building the last of the combination church-school building disappeared in the county of Graham...

“After the formation of Graham County in 1872, action was taken to set up some type of school system for the Cherokee. On Sept. 6, 1880, a school district was set up (**SNOWBIRD SCHOOL**)... Like all early schools, the Cherokee went to the one-teacher schoolhouse. Some Cherokee children were sent to school at Yellow Hill in Swain County. J.F. Hyde was one of the white school teachers that taught the Cherokee in Graham County.”



Snowbird Indian School

Excerpt: from *Graham County Heritage North Carolina Vol. 1*

“**STECOAH SCHOOL** was in two separate districts around the turn of the century (1900). The first was located on the Joel L. Crisp farm and the ‘upper’ school was close to where Howard Edward reside[d].

In 1903 the two schools were consolidated in a one-room, two-teacher building... By 1920, this school was expanded into three rooms.

“In 1926, the schools in the Stecoah Township were consolidated into Stecoah High School. Destroyed by fire in 1930, a new building was erected in 1931.”



Stecoah School – 1906

Thomas A. Carpenter, the principal is standing on the left and Etta Shehan, assistant teacher, is the lady at the right. Three people known to be in the picture are Crawford Jenkins, Pleas Sawyer and Andrew Crisp. (Courtesy Mrs. Herbert Carpenter - *The Graham Star*.)

Excerpt: *Graham County Heritage North Carolina Vol. 1*

“Yellow Creek also felt the tide of early settlers and a school (**YELLOW CREEK SCHOOL**) was established in the middle 1800s on the Ditmore farm... Tom Mashburn was a teacher in the log building that was used for 25 years... A larger log building was built about 1875...”

Excerpt: *Graham County Centennial 1872-1972*

“As the community grew and expanded its geographic boundaries, the school facility in the central part of the community became inadequate and inconvenient. Two one-room schools were then conceived... It was not until about 1939 that these were closed and children transferred to Tapoco School.”

Excerpts: *Graham County Heritage North Carolina Vol. 1*

“**TUSKEEGEE SCHOOL** was also established in the late 1800s. In the early 1900s the school was divided. An upper school was built near the Sawyer farm and the lower school was built about a mile from the Tuskegee Post Office. They both consolidated with Stecoah High School later on around 1926.

“The first school on Panther Creek (**PANTHER CREEK SCHOOL**) was on lower Panther Creek located near the Japan Post Office, formerly known as Welch Post Office. This building also housed the Methodist Church. The second school was located on lower Panther Creek near the mouth of the Roaring Branch.

“The third school was located at the mouth of Rough Branch. The fourth school was located on Upper Panther

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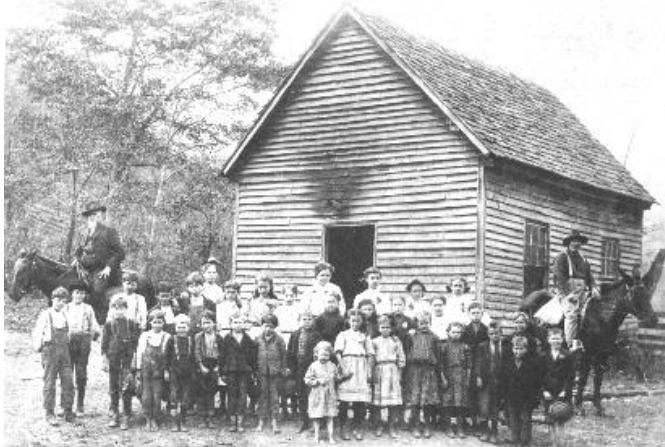
HISTORY OF GRAHAM COUNTY - PART VII (cont'd)

Creek. The fifth school was in the upper end one-fourth mile below Highway 28."

The sites of the first and one other are now lake bottoms.

"**SWEETWATER SCHOOL** was organized in the year 1888. Van Marcus donated the land where the Sweetwater Baptist Church stands today. In 1914, a three-room, two-teacher school replaced the original one-room building.

"**EAST BUFFALO SCHOOL** was another established in the 1800s and changed locations four times. The first building site is now covered by Santeetlah Lake. A small building was used until the twenties. A two-teacher school was built and then several years later, a larger two-room school was erected... Over fifty children attended East Buffalo.



East Buffalo School - 1905

"**ATOAH SCHOOL** was organized at the lower end of the creek in the late 1800s and was used for several years until a newer building was erected. Forty to fifty students attended this school.

"**WELCH COVE SCHOOL** was established in the late 1800s in a building located near what is now the Fontana Golf Course. Until the construction of the Fontana Dam began in 1941, about forty students attended here.

"**MOUNTAIN CREEK SCHOOL** was established early on in the century (1900s). Used until the early forties, students came from both upper and lower Mountain Creek... the school was consolidated with the Robbinsville School.

"**UPPER WEST BUFFALO SCHOOL** was built on land donated by Sim Hooper in the early 1900s.

"**LOWER WEST BUFFALO SCHOOL** changed location three times from its establishment until its consolidation with Robbinsville School. As was the case with East Buffalo, the earliest school site is now under the waters of Santeetlah...

"**SWEETGUM SCHOOL** was established in 1906, the first building was later sold for a church. The young folks in the Sweetgum Community attended a little one-room schoolhouse. A three-room school house was in use from the twenties until consolidation with Robbinsville.



Sweetgum School - 1909

The male teacher is Commodore Crisp. Standing in the door from left to right are Ruth Jordan Postell, Fanny Wiggins Lail and Frankie Rogers Colvard. Others in the picture (in no particular order) include George Wiggins, Robert Wiggins, Ross Wiggins, Dolphus Anderson, Charlie Rogers, Alex Phillips, Pearly Phillips, Mike Rogers, Tom Jordan, Tom Rogers, Lillie Wiggins Rogers, Julie Jordan Postell, Sallie Wiggins Rogers, Linabelle Hensley Carethero, Lula Wiggins Hyde, Aloe Rogers, Ayers, Maude Wiggins Riddle, Belle Wiggins Crisp, Mary Phillips West, Abby Adkins, Agie Anderson

"1916-1919 Tapoco was estimated to have a population of about 2,000 people... A two-teacher school (**TAPOCO SCHOOL**) operated during this time and is now used as Bethel Baptist Church. In the early 1920s the Tallassee Power Company, in cooperation with Graham County, built a larger building for Beers High School on Meadow Branch... It never did have last year of high school and in its last years in the late 1940s was an elementary school only.

RHYMER'S FERRY SCHOOL "There was a school on the bank at the lake. Children from Farley Branch, Rhymers Ferry, and across the lake from Swain County went to the school... When the road was built from rhymers Ferry to Tapoco (mid-1930s) children went to school at Meadow Branch.

FONTANA SCHOOL The second [Fontana] village was constructed by the Montvale Company, and was located further up on Eagle Creek. It was built in 1907... This Fontana boasted a modern school building, a medical service center, a Community Church, even a Fontana Hotel.

"The fourth Fontana sprang up across the river at called Welch Cove. It was hastily planned and equipped to house the builders of Fontana Dam, about 6,000 people. A large school was built."

Education in Graham County continues in "History of Graham County - Part VIII" in the next GCHA Newsletter.

Exciting News

Beginning in the July 2022 edition of the GCHA Newsletter, we will launch a Genealogy column featuring Graham County ancestry.

If you would like to see a feature about one of your relatives in a future publication, please email info to gchanewsletter@gmail.com.



Example: Select your family's first or oldest Graham County ancestor and provide birth/death date, names of their direct relatives, where they lived, any stories you've heard, and indicate how you are related to them.

If you need assistance with the genealogy, email us and we may be able to help.

LIVING IN RURAL GRAHAM COUNTY IN THE 1800S

During the 1800s, life in our agrarian community was rigorous, to say the least. Here is some of what you would need to know to survive as our ancestors did.

- ▶ No electricity, power tools or indoor plumbing.
 - ▶ Medicine required you to familiarize yourself with a healing herbs list and learn to recognize gangrene.
 - ▶ Grow your own linen (hemp is preferable to flax for durability and comfort), and wool, and learn how to knit, spin and weave.
 - ▶ Use only your own feet or those of a horse/mule for transportation.
 - ▶ Dig your own well and do your own blacksmithing.
 - ▶ Have many children, all born at home, half of them dying before the age of five.
 - ▶ Get up with the sun and read by the light of your drafty fireplace.
 - ▶ Slaughter pigs and use everything except the "oink."
 - ▶ Spend all day Sunday at church.
 - ▶ Use a pan with water carried from the well in a bucket for rinsing your fingers before meals and washing your face in the morning. Everyone washed in the same basin and used one tub of bath water.
 - ▶ Babies wore cloth diapers (if anything at all) that had to be boiled before hung on the line to dry. In winter, hang them out so they freeze, take them down and snap them so the water crystals fly out, then hang them on a rope inside the house to dry.
 - ▶ Own one dress for mamma for church and one for the rest of the week. One pair of pants and a shirt for poppa for church and one for the rest of the week. The rest got hand-me-downs, being remade and remade until they ended up in the rag bag.
- ▶ Expect to be pecked by chickens, try to solve mastitis without antibiotics, treating thrush (on your horses' feet) with iodine, and trimming the hooves of everything that walks. If you want your animals to work for you, they need to be fed before you are. Know that horses kick and bite, bulls can gore you, a pig will eat you, and roosters' spurs are sharp.
 - ▶ Sew up cuts and have alcohol (that you made yourself) to wash out wounds.
 - ▶ Expect a drafty cold house with snow on the bed, no glass in the windows and two rooms. One room is the bedroom, the other is for all other functions, including mending the harness, sharpening and oiling your tools, spinning, and weaving, cooking and relaxing in the evening. If you are smart, put in a loft (heat rises). Up there you will find one bed for mom and dad and the baby, and the other for everyone else. Half the heads on the pillows, half at the foot of the bed.
 - ▶ Mend all harnesses, clean all glass lanterns of their soot, and drop a live chicken down the chimney to break loose all the creosote.
 - ▶ Chop down trees for cooking, keeping warm, keeping the wool warm so it will spin, etc. (there were saws, but most of them took two people); hitch up your horses to haul it out of the woods; chop it into smaller pieces, stack it and haul it into the house. Ten cords of wood should last you a winter.
 - ▶ The only food you have is what you grow or kill. If there is a drought or a flood, or the locusts hit your garden, or you get sick and can't carry the water from the well to water the garden, you'll go hungry.
 - ▶ There is nothing canned. It's all fresh, dried, salted, or fermented.
 - ▶ Dig a well wide enough to keep food cool, if you don't have a springhouse or a root cellar.
 - ▶ Make cheese to use up all the milk you ended up with by milking by hand.
 - ▶ Grow your own grain and mill it for flour.
 - ▶ Before the American Civil War, there were no "left" and "right" shoes; after wearing them often enough, they developed "left" and "right." When the kids go to school, they may get a pair. Before that they went barefoot most of the year.
 - ▶ Expect to be exposed to common diseases that killed or crippled: polio, measles, mumps, chicken pox, small pox, influenza, diphtheria, tetanus, typhoid, whooping cough, trench mouth, milk fever, goiters, warts, and worms.

History Makes Great News

Mountain Homeplace – Aug 8, 2002 – *The Graham Star*



This picture of George and Rindy Crisp's house is a classic look at mountain farm life. The house on Frank's Creek had a garden paling fence in the right background and fencing right up to the front porch. Holding buckets of foaming milk on the left is Nancy Deaver Crisp, mother of George and William Crisp and Jess Williams. To her right is her granddaughter Fannie Crisp Holloway. The other lady holding a bucket of milk is Rindy Crisp. The two young fellows standing on the steps are twins, Roy and Floyd Crisp. Seated on the steps is Jeff Crisp.

NORTH CAROLINA QUIZ

1. What is the North Carolina state bird?
 Bluebird Cardinal Hummingbird Owl
2. Which of these colleges are in North Carolina?
 UNC Chapel Hill Appalachian State University
 Duke University Yale University
3. What is North Carolina's state flower?
 Hibiscus Solidago Sunflower Dogwood
4. Which NC city is known as the Queen City?
 Charlotte Raleigh Winston Hickory
5. What is North Carolina's state tree?
 Birch Pine Maple Oak
6. What city holds the Biltmore Estate?
 Charlotte Asheville Wilmington Raleigh
7. What year was NC admitted to the Union?
 1789 1838 1866 1889
8. What is North Carolina's capital city?
 Wilmington Raleigh Charlotte Asheville

1. Cardinal 2. UNC Chapel Hill & Appalachian State University 3. Dogwood 4. Charlotte 5. Pine 6. Asheville 7. 1789 8. Raleigh

Huscussons, a typical hard-working farm family

Aug 8, 2002 – *The Graham Star*

In 1909, George and Julia Huscusson bought 30 acres for \$600 from Julia's father, Buck Campbell, on what is now Ledbetter Road. They built a small house on the property and later added another room as the family got larger. They began sawing and cutting down trees, grubbing up stumps and burning brush, picking up rock and clearing the land to plant crops.

They grew a lot of corn, potatoes, beans, peas and vegetables. They raised cattle, chickens, ducks, geese, hogs and sheep. They had milk cows and two horses. As the children grew big enough they helped work the crops and feed the farm animals. They also sawed and cut firewood for the fireplace and woodburning cookstove. Picking up rock was a continuous job for many years.

In 1921, George and Julia bought a two-story house and 10 acres of land that adjoined theirs for \$400 from John and Mary Nelson Colvard. The Huscussons moved into their new home with their six children. The family kept borders, who worked at a sawmill to make money to pay for the house and property.

The four older children — Hollis, Mae Belle, Earlie and Taylor — walked three miles and attended their first school at Bear Creek Church, which doubled as a one-room schoolhouse. The teachers were Abe Postell and Amanda Wiggins in imparting the three R's: reading, 'ritin' and 'rithmetic. About 1923 Bear Creek School was merged with Robbinsville School and the children walked one mile to catch the schoolbus and rode 10 miles to school.

The Huscussons were very active in Bear Creek Church, which also served as a community gathering place for social events. George served as a deacon for more than 50 years. He was also active in community affairs.

In the 1940s, he received several awards from the Graham County Farm Bureau for having one of the most productive farms in the county as well as for having the most corn and tobacco grown per acre.

The family also operated a corn grist mill and ground corn meal and grits for the family and all the neighbors. The family also operated a cane grinding mill, which was horse drawn and made molasses syrup. The children would make taffy candy and popcorn balls on Sunday afternoon.

President Franklin Delano Roosevelt created jobs for young people in the 1930s and early 1940s.

Taylor, E.J., George Jr. and Ernest Huscusson enlisted in Civilian Conservation Corp camps until World War II started.

Earlie served in the Army in Australia. E.J. served in the Navy Seabees in the South Pacific. Ernest served in the Army in England. Keith served in the Army during the Korean War.

Julia died in 1964 at age 78. George died in 1980 at age 94.



The Huscusson family homeplace built in 1899

GRAHAM COUNTY EVENTS (cont'd)

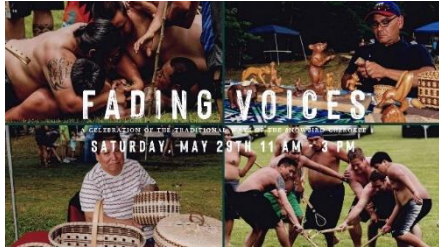
TAYLOR HICKS CONCERT – May 7th, 5pm



Graham County's music lovers will get an exciting jolt with the visit of one of today's top music legends, Taylor Hicks. Hicks performs a variety of musical genres, including rock, country, rhythm and blues, and pop. Big Oaks Stadium, A portion of the proceeds benefit Black Knight Band.

FADING VOICES – May 29th 11am – 3pm

Join in a celebration of the traditional ways of the Snowbird Cherokee. Experience demonstrations



of the sacred mound building ceremony, handmade crafts, traditional Cherokee foods, wood carving and basket weaving exhibits, traditional dancing, storytelling, singing, and children's games. The Sacred Mound Ceremony will begin at 11am. Bring one cup or one turtle shell full of dirt.

Location: 1897 Little Snowbird Road ~ Call 828-479-8678

ANNUAL NATIVE AZALEA FESTIVAL – June 1st – 15th



The 5th Annual Native Azalea Festival will include both Virtual and In-Person opportunities to enjoy the blooms! Azalea hiking and area touring maps are NOW available at the

Graham County Travel and Tourism Office located at 474 Rodney Orr Bypass Robbinsville.

ROBBINSVILLE KIDS FISHING DAY – June 11th – 9am - 12pm

Kids learn fishing techniques, family bonds, kids learn good sportsmanship.

Info: gcfestivalsinc@gmail.com or call 828-735-0010.

HERITAGE FESTIVAL – July 1st & 2nd

A two-day Independence Day event held at the Graham County Courthouse Square. A unique gathering of People, Crafts, Games, Food, Music, Fireworks.



The Festivities start at 5pm on Friday evening and 10am on Saturday morning, with vendors selling things you can't go home without and food you just have to try. All-day fun for the entire family.

FIREWORKS AT 10PM SATURDAY NIGHT

TRAIL OF TEARS WALK – June 25th – 9am

Come and join the Trail Of Tears Walk and learn more about the history of the Cherokee Community. Cherokee Language Program, Main Street, Robbinsville

Info: gcfestivalsinc@gmail.com or call 828-735-0010.

SESQUICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION – August 11th – 14th

To Volunteer or Give Input: The next meeting for the 150th Graham County Celebration will be

Thursday, May 5, 2022 at 5:30pm

at the Graham County Community Building located on Knight Street, Robbinsville.

Check out the New App that assists in finding the best of Graham County at your fingertips!

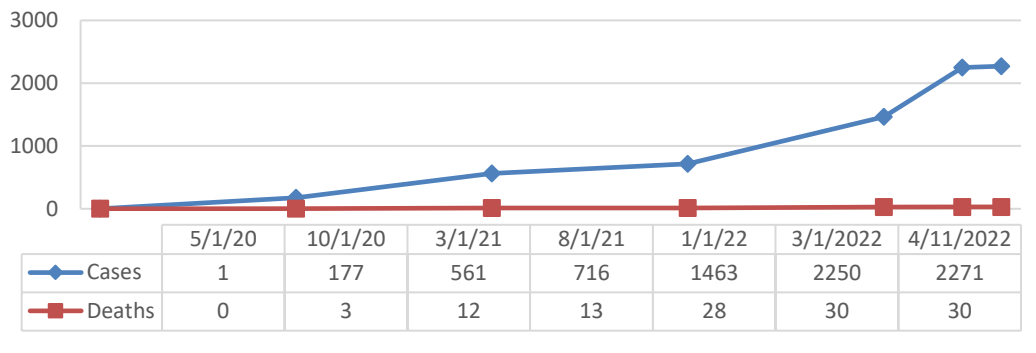
Thanks to the efforts of Rick Davis, the GREAT organization and Bob Wehr, GCHA member and committee chair, and many more, a fantastic idea blossomed into something yielding great results.



To open the Points Map on a computer: Go to

<https://pointsmap.com/grahamcountync/>

GRAHAM COUNTY COVID STATISTICS



For more info visit: <https://usafacts.org/visualizations/coronavirus-covid-19-spread-map/state/north-carolina/county/graham-county>

Become A Member

JOIN US TODAY



MEMBERSHIP LEVELS		Membership Benefits
1-year	\$25.00	Membership Card Quarterly Newsletter Meetings and Committees GCHA Decal 10% discount on GCHA merchandise
5-year	\$100.00 (1 year free)	All 1-year benefits plus GCHA Short-sleeve Tee Shirt
10-year	\$200.00 (2 years free)	All 1-year benefits plus GC Centennial Book
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