

# WINTER NEWS

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

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## Non-Profit Status

The Strawbridge and Martha Wilson Young Foundation is a nonprofit 501c3 corporation making your donation tax deductible.



*Three haystacks are now part of the exhibition that greets you when you visit the HomePlace.*

**You and your guests are invited to join us for our annual Christmas Party on Saturday, December 15, from 2 to 4 PM.**

We'll have holiday decorations, hot cider, music, and Clarence Young promises to have a warm and welcoming fire in the cabin. Jared McQueen and Jack Sielaff are practicing their renditions of traditional holiday song to share. Jack has performed woodwind instruments around the world and Jared has made a name for himself with his extraordinary musical talent. Their performance is not to be missed.

At this time we'll also be celebrating Josiah Young's birthday. Had he live we would be celebrating his 207th birthday!

Read more about Josiah on the next page.

## Wish List

### For the Genealogy Room:

- ▶ Six-foot long desk or nice work table
- ▶ Office chairs for desks
- ▶ Book cases up to six feet long and any height to fit within eight-foot ceilings.
- ▶ A comfortable chair or two for sitting in while reading or doing research in the library
- ▶ Floor lamps
- ▶ Coffee table

### Reception Area/Living Room/Offices:

- ▶ Six-foot desk or nice work table
- ▶ Office chair for desk
- ▶ Floor lamp
- ▶ Two comfortable guest chairs for offices
- ▶ 6-foot sideboard

### Farm Tool Exhibition:

- ▶ Large hay sled and other old farm tools

*All donations are tax deductible.*

Special thanks goes to **Lowell Presnell** for donating to our library a copy of the book he authored entitled *Mines, Miners and Minerals*. This book contains over 200 pages of research on western North Carolina's hidden mineralogical treasures.

**Josiah A. Young** was born on December 15, 1811, the sixth child of eleven of Strawbridge and Martha Wilson Young.

The Young family had a habit of naming their children after Methodist ministers. Josiah's birth name, "Josiah A." may have come from one Josiah Askew, an early Methodist circuit rider who lived just up the road from where the Young family initially settled in North Cove in what is now McDowell County, North Carolina.

He married Frances Ray, daughter of James Ray and Martha Bailey. She was born on February 15, 1815.

Josiah bought 400 acres in 1841 in the Shoal Creek area in Yancey County from the heirs of John Gray Blount. He already owned 100 acres adjacent to this property at that time. He and Frances raised eleven children in the Shoal Creek area of Yancey County, North Carolina.

In 1864, Frances inherited her father's valuable house and land, referred to as the Old Young Ray house, and the family moved to the Bolens Creek area of Yancey County. They remained in this area until their death. Frances died on January 31, 1871. Josiah then married Rebecca Gibbs on November 26, 1874. Josiah died on April 7, 1881, at the age of 69.

### Did you miss Dr. Lloyd Bailey's lecture about **Christmas on the American Frontier?**

If you are a member, you can receive a free recording of this fascinating forty-five-minute lecture. Call or email us at [YoungHomePlace@gmail.com](mailto:YoungHomePlace@gmail.com) to find out how to access this recording.

Dr. Bailey will join us again in the spring to continue answering our core program questions:

- ▶ Who settled this region?
- ▶ Where did they come from?
- ▶ Why did they come and how did they get here?
- ▶ What did they find when they arrived?
- ▶ How did they live?

Answering these questions will help inform the development of our program, and will allow us to understand better and teach the story of the early settlers.

## It was 1895 on Shoal Creek

Students from all over the country and teacher, Dan Estabrook, from **Penland School of Crafts**, spent a day at **The Center for Pioneer Life**, creating photographs similar to how they were made in the early stages of photography. It's hard to believe that photography has been around just a little over 150 years. Back in the day, cameras were large and unwieldy (think Ansel Adams), the technology to develop and fix photographs was just being invented. Photographers in the field had to carry their cameras, tripods, glass negatives, all their chemistry, paper, etc. They made a darkroom out of a blanket and had no running water. Photography was a very dangerous livelihood, given the toxic chemicals that were required. Safer chemicals have been developed in the last 20+ years, so there is a resurgence of interest in the 'old' ways of shooting and printing.

The students found inspiration in exploring the 1850's cabin and surrounding farmland. They were especially taken by the two haystacks and farm equipment. The day became for them as much about the calm of the landscape, without other students and other studios, as it was exploring early photography. **The Center for Pioneer Life** offered them a step back in time.

**The Center for Pioneer Life** was delighted to host this group and are planning other partnerships with craft artist in the area.



**Speaking of photography  
we have beautiful  
Christmas cards on  
sale now.**

Christmas cards by Jim Young and Mary Ellis from the interior of the cabin are on sale for \$25 for a set of eight (four images of each). All proceeds will benefit **The Center for Pioneer Life**. Please call to find out how to purchase.



## The challenge grant of \$50,000 is still in play and we are within striking distance!

**With just 30 memberships left to meet our challenge we need your support now more than ever.**

**Sponsors** Friday, December 21, is the deadline to honor someone special on our 2019 calendar. Graphic designer Ellie Annand, a resident at Penland School is creating a beautiful commemorative calendar. Those sponsors who have contributed \$300 to honor a loved one will receive this printed calendar in January.

Looking for that special Christmas or birthday present for someone who has everything? Want to honor someone by sponsoring a day for them? They will be listed in the 2019 calendar. Call us!

**Members** The cost of a membership is \$100, and is invaluable to the development of The Center. We have many exciting things planned for our 2019 season that we want you to participate in. So many of you have helped get us this far. Let's get over the finish line. We'll send you a calendar too, and honestly, it's super nice!

### JOIN US NOW!

You can send a check payable to SMY Foundation, donate online at [StrawbridgeYoungFoundation.org](http://StrawbridgeYoungFoundation.org), or call us and we'll help you through your options.



Superintendent of Yancey County schools, **Tony Tipton**, brought all eight principals to The Center to learn about the potential we can offer students to explore the history of our region.