

2011 calendar available now!

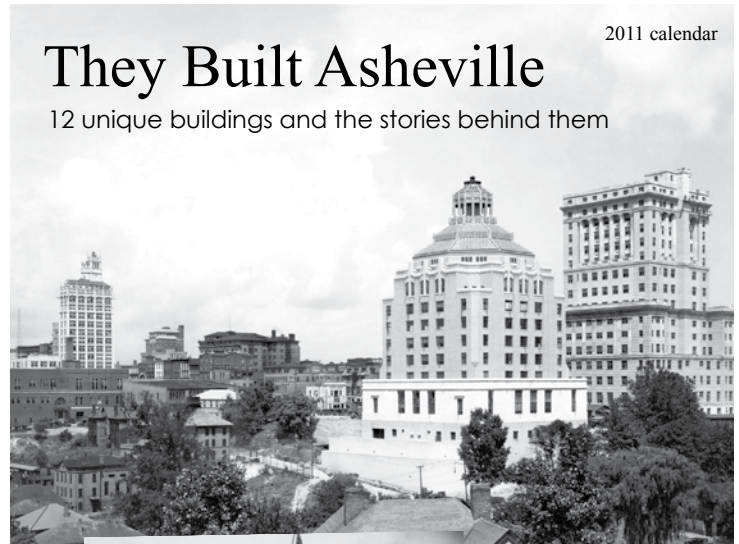
They Built Asheville is an exciting project designed to fulfill WNCCHA's mission of historical educational while raising funds—and the organization's profile.

These beautiful 2011 calendars reveal the secrets behind twelve of Asheville's most iconic downtown buildings. Each month, you'll find a detailed archival photograph from UNCA's Special Collections, accompanied by the story of how these unique structures came to be. You'll learn about the architects who designed them, the builders who forged them, and the influential characters who bankrolled them.

Did you know that a searchlight once beamed from the top of the Jackson Building? That a crenellated turret once topped the Drhumor building? Or that the Grove Arcade was originally designed to be surmounted by a 17-story skyscraper with a restaurant and a band shell? To take it further, calendar dates show not only national holidays but important dates in Asheville history—the day of the great flood of 1916, the date the railroad first came to Asheville, and many others.

Also, check the map on page three to find the locations of each building and plan your own tour!

The calendars make wonderful gifts and are available at many local bookstores and other venues, but you will provide the most support by purchasing directly from WNCCHA—and members get 10% off the \$12 cover price! To purchase, visit the gift shop during museum hours or call 253-9231. ■



2011 calendar

They Built Asheville

12 unique buildings and the stories behind them



The
Citizen-
Times
Building



The Grove Arcade



Pack Memorial Library

Downtown's distinctive buildings are highlighted in the calendar.

Upcoming Events *Info: (828) 253-9231*

Nov. 6, 10-3. Come help set up the gift shop for Xmas.

Nov. 11-13, 10-4. Volunteers needed to decorate the museum for Xmas. (See p. 2 for all holiday details.)

Nov. 18—Jan. 2. Christmas displays at the museum.

Dec. 3, 5 P.M. Holiday party for members, staff, and volunteers.

Nov. 20. Revolutionary War Bus Tour (see p. 4).

And the Wolfe Award goes to . . . Wayne Caldwell



Wayne Caldwell is the 2010 winner of the Thomas Wolfe Award for *Requiem by Fire*.

The Thomas Wolfe Memorial Literary Award has been presented every year since 1955 by WNCHA and Mrs. Joann L. Edwinn to a writer from Western NC or who uses Western NC material. This year, the competition for the Award was very keen, but Wayne Caldwell's *Requiem by Fire* emerged as the winner.

Caldwell, a Buncombe County native, earned a Ph.D. from Duke and taught English at the college level for a few years. But he returned to Buncombe in 1976 to work at the family retail furniture business, Sluder Furniture Company, remaining through its evolution into interior-design company Ambiance Interiors. His wife, Mary Long Caldwell, is the ethicist for Mission Hospital; they have two sons and two grandchildren.

Caldwell didn't begin writing fiction until the 1990s but, he says, "I began thinking about writing a novel when I was about 14. I read *Look Homeward, Angel* in Miss Laura Harrell's English class at Enka. I remember her kidding me about writing the Great American Novel. I think she'd be proud of me now.

"Wolfe casts a long shadow," he muses. "I didn't do anything about writing a book until I turned 50—something about that milestone tells you to get a move on. I began to see a long work coming into shape, whether worthy of Wolfe or not I didn't know."

Requiem by Fire picks up where Caldwell's first book, *Cataloochee*, ended, when the 1928 designation of the Cataloochee area as part of the National Park system begins the slow death of the community. In *Requiem by Fire*, Caldwell laments and convincingly documents both the losses and the value of the coming of the Park through vignettes that gradually reveal folkways and mores.

The power and timeliness of this story made it a particularly apt choice, given this year's 75th-anniversary celebrations of Great Smoky Mountains National Park and the Blue Ridge Parkway.

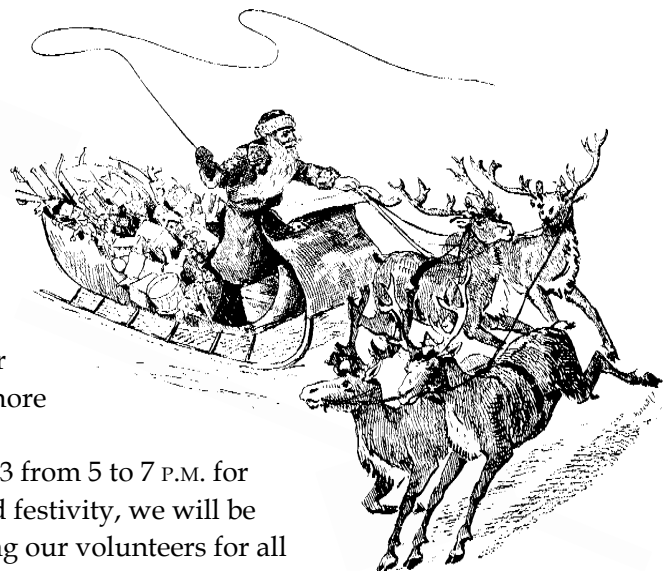
Christmas Cometh!

From decorating to parties, here comes Christmas 2010!

On November 6 volunteers are needed to help set up the museum gift shop from 10 A.M. to 3 P.M. (but it may not take that long!). Can you lend a hand?

November 11-13, we'll need more help decorating the museum for Christmas. Come any time between 10 A.M. and 4 P.M. and stay for an hour or six, whatever you can spare. Water and coffee will be provided; please bring your own lunch. For more information on volunteering, please call 253-9231.

After all that work, we'll hold a holiday party on December 3 from 5 to 7 P.M. for members, staff, and volunteers. In addition to enjoying food and festivity, we will be presenting WNCHA's annual Achievement Award and honoring our volunteers for all that they do. We hope to see you there!



Editor's Note: Hail to the Chief!

Recently, the WNCHA board has undergone several changes of personnel – including a fresh president at the reigns.

Please join me in thanking departing board members Lori Garst and Stephen Jones (also a former WNCHA president) for their invaluable service. They will be very much missed!

We are pleased to welcome in their stead new board members Gwen Wisler, Sharon Fahrner, Linda Bradley, and Nancy Mathewson.

Our longtime A-B Tech liaison, staunch volunteer David Holcombe, has retired, leaving us in the capable hands of Max Queen.

And finally, fearless leader Dan Huger is passing the torch of the

presidency to longtime board member Gwin Jones. Dan has successfully seen us through a lot of change, and will remain on the board for one more year. Gwin will, I'm sure, employ her Southern charm and strong organizational abilities in equal measure to keep us up to snuff!

—*Jessamyn Reeves-Brown*

The Golden Girls of Victoria Road

by *John Turk*

The late 19th and early 20th centuries were a time unlike any other in the history of the United States. A small number of men became incredibly rich. A new word entered the English lexicon: *multimillionaire*. Mark Twain called it the “Gilded Age.” Edith Wharton jestingly referred to it as the “Age of Innocence” – innocent it was not. Asheville was a part of it: George Vanderbilt’s massive estate was at the apex of Gilded Age splendor. To this day it remains one of our defining iconic structures.

The Smith-McDowell House had its own encounter with this age of gold. It was defined by three amazing women: a mother, her daughter, and her granddaughter. A triptych of their photographs – too long hidden away in the WNCHA archives – is now on display at the museum, on the sideboard in the hallway.

The mother, Caroline McCorkle (top right), was born into Gilded Age wealth. The daughter of Henry Martin McCorkle and Caroline Morgan Waterman, she married General Alfred Bates in 1875. Upon his retirement from the military in 1908, they bought the Victoria Road property. General Bates died one year later and Caroline sold the house to their daughter, Henrietta Bates McKee (center).



Mother and daughter resided in the house only during the fall

and winter. Summers were spent in Nonquitt on the Massachusetts shore; at Christmas they went to Washington, D.C.

Henrietta’s daughter, Francis McKee (at left), was born at the Biltmore Hospital in 1907. Upon the untimely death of her husband a few years later, Henrietta sold

the Victoria Road property and set up permanent residence in Washington with four-year-old Francis. Three years later Henrietta was remarried, to architect Frederick Brooke.

Francis McKee grew up within the intoxicating whirl of Washington society. When she was nineteen she attended an embassy party wearing a piece of jewelry now in the Smithsonian: the Hope Diamond. She was the last of the Gilded Age generation. ■

Rev War Battlefield Tour

Join us Nov. 20, 2010, on a bus tour to King's Mountain National Military Park and Cowpens National Battlefield. We will depart the museum at 8 A.M., and coffee and muffins will be served on the bus. A box lunch will also be served later.

At King's Mountain, we will tour the visitor center, see a film, and follow the park's battlefield trail guided by a park ranger. Although the trail is paved, it is moderately difficult. At Cowpens we will also tour the visitor center and see a film, but the guided trail is an easy walk and we will also take a three-mile automobile trail over the battleground.

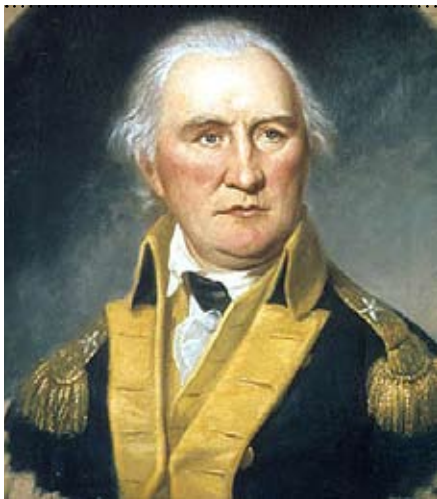
Although King's Mountain and Cowpens were small battles, together they had an important impact on the fate of the Revolutionary War. On Oct. 7, 1780, outnumbered militiamen under Col. William Campbell of Virginia encircled the steep slopes of King's Mountain, atop which Maj. Patrick Ferguson had placed his trained Loyalist troops, and took the summit. British Gen. Clinton called it "the first link in a chain of evils that . . . ended in the total loss of America."

At Cowpens on Jan. 17, 1781, brilliant strategist Gen. Daniel Morgan divided his Patriot troops so that the less-experienced slowed the enemy and then fell back, leaving the brunt of the fighting to more seasoned troops in the rear. Within an hour the Colonials sent Lt. Col. Banastre Tarleton's British regulars into retreat.

The cost of this unique tour is \$40 for WNCHA members and \$50 for non-members, including snacks and lunch. Reserve your place by calling 253-9231!



Patriots out-strategized the British at Cowpens.



Patriot General Daniel Morgan compensated for inexperienced troops with brilliant strategizing.

Web Extra: King's Mountain, Cowpens

Although not as famous as the battles of Lexington and Concord or Bunker Hill, King's Mountain and Cowpens are now widely regarded as a vital turning point in the Revolutionary War. Leading into these battles, Patriot forces were losing strength. The British supposed that their many Loyalists would make the South an easy conquest.

But backwoods militias in the western parts of the Carolinas and in Tennessee were staunch holdouts. The victories won here not only reduced the British fighting force, they reinvigorated the struggling Patriots.

With resources limited, it had come down to strategy. At Cowpens, the British Lt. Col. Tarleton, presuming an easy victory, had worn his troops out pursuing the enemy overnight and then failed to understand their strategy in the battle. As for the Patriots' General Morgan, historian John Buchanan writes that he may have been "the only general in the American Revolution, on either side, to produce a significant original tactical thought."



Lt. Col. Tarleton's tendencies to speed and daring were cleverly turned against him by Morgan.