

"Our mission is....to collect, preserve, protect and publicly display materials that are historically significant to Mitchell County...and to make its citizens aware of their heritage."

MITCHELL COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Second Quarter 2015

OLD ENGLISH CEMETERY

Randy McClellan, President of the Mitchell County Historical Society, joined in April with a couple dozen scouts from Boy Scout Troop #505 to clean up the Old English Cemetery on Hillcrest Circle in Spruce Pine. They worked hard with chain saws and other tools to clear the abandoned and overgrown cemetery.

Randy reports that the only two marked graves belong to Isaac and Alice Rowe English. There is another marker, with no name, plus a number of unmarked graves. According to the Mitchell County Cemetery Survey of 1967, conducted by the Mitchell County Public Library, there are ten unmarked graves. A notation on that survey suggested that some of the unmarked belonged to members of the Rose family.

Isaac English (1834-1910) was the son of Daniel and Jemima Wiseman English. Isaac married Alice Jane Rowe (1841-1885). Their 9 daughters were Mary Ellen Bailey, Sarah Louise "Sadie" Turbyfill, Ila Julia Wiseman, Caroline Josephine "Callie" Dorsett, Emma Jane Rose, Minnie Alice Rowe, Ora Aldecka Burleson, Ellen Cordelia "Cordie" Fowler, and Mabel Greene; their 2 sons were Thomas Avery English and John LaFayette English. Does anyone know who the parents of Alice Rowe English were? She was born in Tennessee, and her brother David married Isaac's sister Jemima Lavinia English; Alice and David also had a sister Adeline and brothers John and Thomas.



Isaac and Alice were for many years the proprietor of the English Inn in Spruce Pine; in fact, the story goes that Alice was the person who gave the town its name.



MITCHELL LEDGER



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THURSDAY, APRIL 1, 1971

"Gateway To The Roan"

10¢



Lily Bailey of White Oak back from the garden with a basket of cressie-greens

'Cressie-Green' Time-Sure Sign Of Spring

About the author: Don Seatz describes himself as a "simple country fellow with country roots" like those of the greens in this article. In retirement now he still resides in Mitchell County, after 37 years of teaching here. We wanted to reprint this article (notice the date on the masthead of what was known as the "Mitchell Ledger"), because it was written for a journalism class assignment by the author when he was a senior at Bowman High School. It reminds us that our traditions, though sometimes lost in modern times, should never be forgotten.

When "Cressie-Green" time comes, any old person will tell you that "Spring has Sprung!"

Through the years, things have been constantly changing. One thing that doesn't change is the coming of spring. Just as sure as spring comes each year so comes "cressie-green" time. It's now that time of year. To many people this is a tasty time. In plowed fields though the mountains, people are gathering the tender green cressie that mature in early spring. Today we might feel quite lucky to get a paper poke full of the greens. If you ask your grandparents if they used to pick cressies, their reply would probably be, "Honey, I used to pick 'em by the sacks full."

Years ago greens grew in abundance throughout the open sections of the mountains. Today you have to organize a search party in order to get a small dish of these delicious greens. The plants start in late winter when the weather begins to moderate and they mature in late spring. The time to gather them is in early spring when they are green. In late spring they shoot up and make a seed stalk and obtain a yellow-green color.

In days gone by people used to gather the seeds and sow them in the gardens after they harvested their crops. Today people seem to feel their time is too valuable to spend it gathering cressie seeds because you seldom hear of anyone who is interested in such a custom.

In the State of Virginia, people like cressies so well that they buy the seeds and sow them thick in their gardens to be sure they will have plenty of the greens.

Today cressies aren't as abundant as they were thirty or forty years ago. Old and young alike will surely miss them if they vanish from our fields. They are not only a delicious food but also serve as a sign to tell us that spring is here.

THE MITCHELL COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY PRESENTS

ALLEN COOK

Co-Sponsored with Mitchell County Public Library

JUNE 15 at 7PM

Historic Courthouse, Bakersville, NC

FREE TO PUBLIC

Moonshine, Murder & Mountaineers: The *Wildest* County in America

"Bakersville is the county seat of Mitchell County, one of the wildest districts in all this southern section of mountainous country. It is there that the illicit distiller of mountain dew has plied his vocation for years and defied all law."

The Sun, New York

"Allen Cook is a local author native to the *wildest* county. Growing up along the ridges and hollows near Roan Mountain, Allen listened to old mountaineers tell exciting stories about moonshine and murder. His current book, *Moonshine, Murder & Mountaineers: The Wildest County in America*, is meant to properly document a dynamic time in mountain and American history while providing an entertaining read."

Join us Monday night, June 15, at 7pm at the Historic Courthouse to hear Allen Cook tell stories from his exciting new book. The author will be selling his books at this event and will be happy to sign your copy.

The Mitchell County Historical Society also has Mr. Cook's book for sale in its office in the Historic Courthouse.

RECIPES FROM GRANNY

RHUBARB PIE

3 Tbsp flour

1 cup sugar

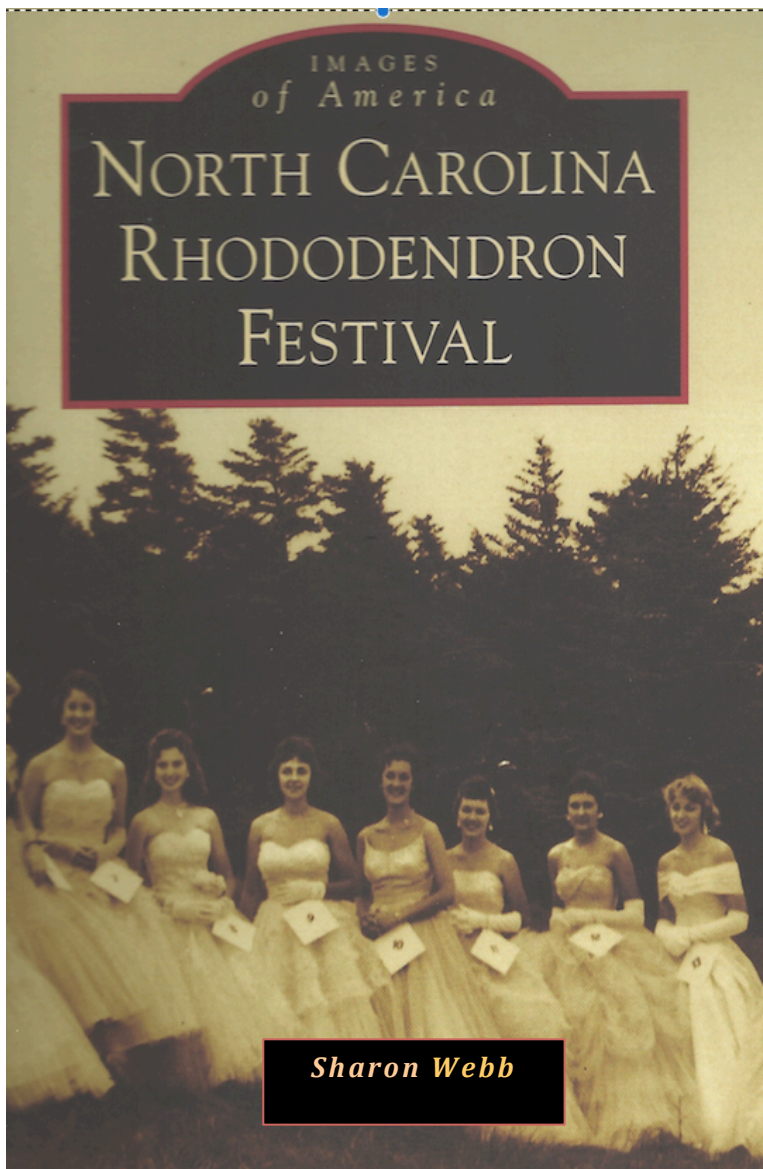
1 egg (beaten)

2 cups rhubarb cut in small pieces

1 recipe pie crust pastry

Mix sugar and flour together. Add beaten egg and rhubarb. Fill pie shell and cover with top crust. Bake at 425 degrees for 10 minutes and then reduce temperature to 350 degrees and bake 35 minutes longer. Makes one 9-inch pie. Strawberries can be added as well.





"Sharon Webb, a friend of the Mitchell County Historical Society, is a native of Bakersville and a long-standing member of the North Carolina Rhododendron Festival committee. Her hope is that the images shared in this work will inspire and preserve a passion and love for all things "rhododendron."

MCHS has copies of her book for sale in
our office for \$22.00.



MITCHELL COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Hours: Weds. - Sat, 10 to 4pm

JUNE 15 – *"Moonshine, Murder & Mountaineers: The Wildest County in America"* with author Alan Cook. Mr. Cook entertains & informs readers about historical events that made national headlines & earned Mitchell County, NC, a wild and defiant reputation. This event is co-sponsored by the Mitchell County Historical Society and the Mitchell County Historic Foundation.

JUNE 20 – Join us at the *2015 NC Rhododendron Festival* on the Creek Walk in Bakersville, NC, where we will have Sharon Webb's book, *North Carolina Rhododendron Festival*, for sale for \$22, as well as other publications, our famous Apple Butter and signature Christmas ornaments for sale.

JULY 20 -- *"The Early Spanish Settlers and the Catawba Indians"* with David G. Moore. Dr. Moore is a professor of archeology and anthropology at Warren Wilson College in Asheville, NC, and is involved in a major excavation at Berry, NC, near Morganton. The 12-acre Berry site along Upper Creek is the location of an ancestral Catawba Indian town named Joara, at which the Spanish captain Juan Pardo built Fort San Juan in 1567. The garrison was the earliest European settlement in the interior of what is now the United States, predating "The Lost Colony" [in Virginia] by 20 years.

AUGUST 17 -- *"The Melungeons"* with Rhonda Gunter, who will speak on this unique group of "tri-racial isolates" inhabiting the southeastern United States. "Tri-racial" describes populations thought to be of mixed European, African and Native American ancestry.

SEPTEMBER 20 – *Decoration Day in Mitchell County*. Gather with us at the Bakersville Cemetery at 2pm for a service to honor our fallen heroes.