



Barn Memories

What to do with all those beans?

This is a transcript from our Barn Memories Project, audio/video stories of growing up on an Appalachian farm.

I am Roy Waldroup. I grew up on a small farm of probably less than 100



Roy Waldroup, retired from General Electric. He has led the congregation of Fletcher First Baptist since 1993.

acres in Bluff, North Carolina. On the farm we had two horses, Lou and Old Fred. We had milk cows. We usually milked two cows at the same time and they would have calves. We had chickens of course and always two hogs.

So part of the farm life was my brother and I, he's two and a half years older than me, and we had chores to do but what a wonderful thing it was. Planting was always the fun thing. We would plant corn. We would plant a garden of course because mom canned.

Let me tell you one thing, I got into the mischief. Mom gave us a quart of bean seeds, cornfield beans, and said plant these boys I'm going to the house to cook dinner. We planted and we planted and we realized that being no girls in the family we'd had to end up picking those beans, stringing those beans and having to help can those beans and mom always had the cellar full.

What will we do with this many beans? Well we have to plant them, mom said so. So we planted and we planted and then we planted enough to know we're going to have enough beans for the canning season so we dug holes and planted those in two holes. Those



Roy Waldroup, on right in photo, was born Jan. 15, 1943 in the Bluff community near Hot Springs. Allow Roy to tell you of hard work and fond memories while growing up on their small Appalachian farm.

seeds that we planted in the holes came up. Biggest bunch of beans you ever seen in one hole and mom said "what meant this?" We had to confess...but we 'planted the beans'.

I remember in high school mom and dad got a job at Hot Springs working and they were on second shift so my job and my brothers was to milk the cows in the morning because they got home probably at one o'clock in the morning. We got up early and in the winter time by lantern. We didn't have electricity in the barn. We would go and milk the cows. We'd take turns, I would milk one morning and he the next morning and we would milk those cows and then we

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Smith Farm update

The ABA is excited to see the fruits of our "grant labor" at the Smith Heritage Farmstead at the Bailey Mountain Preserve.

In the next several months, funds that we have received will begin the transformation of the Smith Farm into our vision of a Heritage Farmstead. Just this past week, funds received from the Madison County Tourism Development Authority were used to create a much-needed parking area and to develop the driveway to be a more welcoming surface! We are so grateful for the partnership with the town of Mars Hill to help us find a home for the historic southern Appalachian barns. And, to the TDA to set us on our way.



Work to develop a new entrance drive and parking area was recently completed by Clifton Hamlin Grading.

In the 15 years between 1997 and 2012, Madison County's ;
*** Farms growing tobacco decreased from 637 to 15.**
*** Tobacco acreage slid from 2,289 acres to 86.**
*** Tobacco farm income tumbled from \$5.592 million to \$293,000.**

Message From Our President

Events & Festivals Planned



So far, we've had a successful year in being awarded several prestigious grants which were earmarked for the Barn Alliance's work at the Smith Farm Heritage Homestead in Mars Hill, but we still need your help to continue our mission to document our rich rural heritage.

Save these dates, folks, now that we can all finally get back together. Additional detail will come as we get closer to the dates. We're grateful for the opportunity to meet up again, face to face.

- Sept. 11 will be **Barn Day** in Hot Springs, starting at 1:30 p.m. from The Lodge at Bear River, 189 Bear River Trail. In 15-passenger vans, you'll be given a guided tour of three remote barns, then return for food, drink, music and a chance to buy a raffle ticket for a handmade quilt.

- Oct. 2 marks the return of the **Bascom Lamar Lunsford Festival** in Mars Hill, where we'll have a booth, displays, volunteers to answer your questions and baseball caps, coffee mugs and homemade merchandise for sale.

- Oct. 15-16: **Pastoral Palette**, our fundraising gala and art sale with the artists' group, Saints of Paint, will take place from 5 to 8 p.m. Oct. 15 at Echoview Fiber Mill, 76 Jupiter Road, Weaverville, 1/4 mile from I-26 at Exit 15. Greeting you will be paintings that celebrate the heritage and art of western North Carolina barns and rural landscapes, music, hors d'oeuvres from local restaurants, plus beer, wine and alcohol-free beverages. On Oct. 16, the benefit will continue from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Watch Facebook, Instagram and our events page at appalachianbarns.org for information as details shape up - *Sandy Stevenson*

YOU can help!
call to Donate 828-380-9146
or Visit our website

Looking for 100-Year Old Farms

If you have or know of a farm that has been in a single family for more than 100+ years they may be eligible to register as a NC Century Farm. The program exists to honor farms for their longstanding contributions to North Carolina's rich agricultural heritage.

There are 1,950 farms currently in the program and represent a small fraction of the total 52,000 farms in North Carolina.

To be eligible for the program, the farm must be in continuous family ownership for 100 years or more.

Contact us for more information about registering your farm. →

Current Madison County Century Farms

Reeves Homeplace Farm (1884)
James R. Allen Jr. (1809)
Hall Bruce (1878)
Wake Robin Farm: Gail Lunsford,
Steven Bardwell (1840)

APPALACHIAN BARN ALLIANCE:

The Southern Appalachian style barn is an iconic symbol of the ingenuity of those hard-working landowners who carved out their existence in this rugged landscape.

Our Mission is to preserve the rural heritage of Madison County and surrounding areas through the documentation of the historical barn building traditions and the barns they represent.

STAY IN TOUCH WITH US:

This newsletter is published four times a year and is available at the Madison County Visitors Centers and libraries in each of our 3 towns.

Sign up for our monthly newsletter:

info@appalachianbarns.org

Visit our website:

APPALACHIANBARNs.ORG

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The Appalachian Barn Alliance
PO Box 1441 - Mars Hill, NC 28754
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GOT A STORY IDEA OR COMMENT?

info@appalachianbarns.org
APPALACHIANBARNs.ORG

Virtual Tour on YouTube



A film produced by the Appalachian Barn Alliance Two Centuries of the Anderson Family Homeplace

This virtual tour was created by the ABA to highlight the importance of the four barns found on the Anderson family homeplace in Madison County, NC.

Over the years barn architecture changed with the economy and the availability of building materials and each style illustrates how the pioneers in the early nineteenth century to the farmers in the twentieth century adapted their techniques to the times.

This is an interesting visit of an iconic farmstead with Appalachian Barn Alliance researcher Taylor Barnhill as he describes the detail and weaves in history, stories and closeups leaving you

with a vivid picture of the farm life in the southern Appalachians during those times.

One viewers' comment sums it up: "I loved how you tell the stories of these barns and share the detailing that most of us overlook." We hope you enjoy the tour and invite your comments!

Available for viewing on YouTube
<https://youtu.be/OW4NuhRIuxM>.

Our gratitude for the grant received from the National Trust.

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had to get ready to go to school. We walked in those days. The bus was coming half way and we only had to walk three quarters of the mile. And the cows were hard to find and if they didn't shake their heads and ring their bell you would go to the backside, and the south side, and if you had trouble finding the cows by then we'd miss the bus but we had options. We could go down the Steve Branch, one mile or so down the stream through the woods and we'd catch a bus at the last stop but then the fall of the year, with all the colors and everything it was such a beautiful drive. The most enjoyable memories of my life was growing up on the farm and those things that might appear to be hard was fun and that's why I have such a good memory of it, because it was such a grand time and I told someone the other day, if someone would give me a million dollars to take away the memories of growing up on the farm in the happy times. Were there hard times? Of course there were but that was so incidental compared to other good memories.



Well, we had to plant them so we planted all of them in a couple of holes. Biggest bunch of beans you ever seen in one hole.

"Skippy" donated to the ABA

Taylor Barnhill learned that the Barn Alliance could earn some money when old clunkers were donated to CARS (careasy.org) and he jumped at the chance to help.

His 1990 Nissan pickup, nicknamed Skippy, had 265K miles on it and still ran well on farm chores but it hadn't been registered for a few years because the DMV didn't accept its many body issues. (Road salt during his Michigan upbringing had taken its toll.)

The careasy.org folks sent a tow truck to take Skippy away for auction, and the Barn Alliance became \$466 wealthier!



Skippy being carried away for a good cause.

You too can Help The Appalachian Barn Alliance by donating a vehicle. Just call 855-500-7433 and mention The ABA as your charity or visit their website;
<https://careasy.org/nonprofit/appalachian-barn-alliance>

'Barn Memories Project' is a collection of audio recordings along with historical photographs, as our friends and neighbors tell what it was like to grow up on a Madison County farm.

Additional stories may be found on our website: www.appalachianbarns.org under the VOICES & VIEWS tab. Funded in part by a grant from the National Trust for Historic Preservation (Terrence Mills Fund for North Carolina and South Carolina).

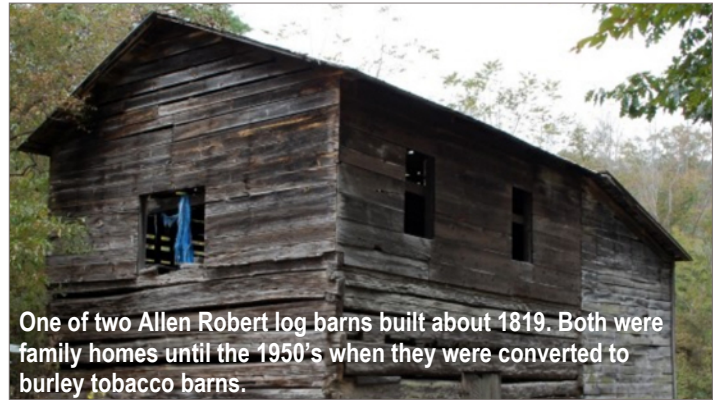
Enjoy Self-Driving Tour of South Marshall

Home To Amazing History

Wondering about Madison County in the 1800's? Need a topic for a term paper? Look no further than the Barn Alliance's self-guided driving tours to get you started. Download the Tour Map from our website or pickup a tour map from a Madison County Visitors Centers in any of our three towns. Take a ride on the historical South Marshall Barn Tour.

- The John F. Payne barn at 2225 Bailey Branch Road was built between the late 1800's to early 1900. It features the unusual use of square pegs being driven into round holes, and was built on 150 acres of land purchased for \$300 in 1880 by Anderson L. Payne at a county auction!

- See the Alfred Ramsey barn at 1138 Turnpike Road, was built by a family who has been on the land since 1826 when the traveling preacher, the Rev. Garrett Ramsey, lived here. Ramseytown, in neighboring Yancey County was named for him after he founded a church there before the Civil War.



One of two Allen Robert log barns built about 1819. Both were family homes until the 1950's when they were converted to burley tobacco barns.

- And then there's the Allen E. Roberts barn on Allen Drive which were once the log cabin homes of the Roberts family. The Roberts family purchased their farm in 1851. The area had been owned by two recipients of large land grants, Mark Mitchell and Thomas Davidson, who had served in the Revolutionary War. They were granted 50,000 acres by the state in 1795!

The Old Barn "to be preserved, and to be used as an educational tool for people to know what we are all about around here, and where we came from. That's what this barn is to me, a testament of where I came from." - Elaine Ray Thomas

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