

Quaker Meadows documentary to be aired

The second half-hour of the videotape documentary featuring "Under the Forest Floor," by Eunice Ervin, will be aired over CoMPAS/Falcon Channel 2 on Thursday at approximately 7 p.m.

"Under the Forest Floor" is a collection of biographical sketches featuring Revolutionary War-era pioneers buried in Quaker Meadows Cemetery, a Burke County landmark on the National Register of Historic Places.

Compiled by Laura Ervin Smith and Dottie Ervin, "Under the Forest Floor" was published by the Historic Burke Foundation.

The first half-hour of the documentary focusing on the legacy of the Tate family buried at Quaker Meadows Cemetery has been aired locally over CoMPAS/Falcon Cable.

The second half-hour focuses on the Erwin, Avery, Murphy, Fleming, and Scott family members buried at the Cemetery.

On the second portion of the video, Dr. Jean Ervin's is the voice of Nancy McEntire, an innkeeper in Morganton in the early 1800s. McEntire's observations were recorded in the journal of Silas McDowell. They offer "a kind of portrait gallery of the families that occupied the front rank of Burke's social circle." McEntire's comments provide the narrative thread which ties this portion of the video together.

Mary Lou Avery Furr appears on-camera to tell the biography of Margaret Stringer Avery, who was



Quaker Meadows is the earliest site associated with white settlement in western N.C.

raised by her uncle, Waightstill Avery of Swan Ponds.

This portion of the documentary also features one of the three women buried at Quaker Meadows named a Patriot by the Daughters of the American Revolution - Sarah Anne Robinson Erwin (told by Christie Smart).

Sarah Robinson died when she was only 35. One factor contributing to her death was an act of

courage. She stepped between a Tory (a British sympathizer) and a wounded Whig whom she was sheltering in her home and, in so doing, received the blow that was intended to kill the wounded man.

This portion of the documentary also records the burial of Julius A. Scott. The infant's grave now has no headstone, but historical records show that he was buried in 1884 - the last of the pioneers to be laid to rest under the forest floor at Quaker Meadows Cemetery.

This videotape is part of an ongoing project to document the lives of members of Burke County's founding families who are buried at Quaker Meadows Cemetery. Research and video documentation continues on the McDowell and Greenlee families who are also

buried at Quaker Meadows Cemetery.

Dr. Cheryl Oxford, Coordinator of Performing Arts at WPCC, adapted and directed the video documentary.

Tim Pittman, Coordinator of Media Services at WPCC, edited the half-hour video.

Phil D'Angelo was videographer, with additional camera work by Sherry McCracken and Buddy Noles.

Louise White provided musical accompaniment.

Financial support for this project is from an Instructional Mini-Grant through the WPCC Foundation, Inc.

For more information on the video documentary, "Under the Forest Floor," contact Oxford at 438-6093.