

PROGRAMS—SUMMER 2021

We are taking a summer program break during June, July and August. However, many excellent videos are available, produced by other organizations in Buncombe County about local history and families. Also check these groups' websites for announcements of upcoming programs. Beyond Western NC, even more live and recorded programs are available. Some of our suggestions follow.

WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION <https://www.wnchistory.org/>

Past virtual programs: <https://www.wnchistory.org/virtual-programs/>

- Dr. Ben Steere—"Cherokee Mounds and Village Sites" Mar 2021

Dr. Ben Steere, is a professor of anthropology at Western Carolina University who also directs the Cherokee Studies program. He reveals the loss of and simultaneous resiliency of many Cherokee sites, and describes how mounds are considered living and active parts of Cherokee cosmology and identity.

- Peter Koch—"Settlement of WNC and Transportation" Feb 2021

Peter Koch of the Mountain Heritage Center at Western Carolina University discusses the settlement of WNC by the Cherokee and, later, the Scots-Irish, as well as transportation within the mountains.

- "When All God's Children Get Together"—Ann Miller Feb 2021

"Ann Miller Woodford discusses her book *When All God's Children Get Together: A Celebration of the Lives and Music of African American People in Far Western North Carolina*, the result of 5+ years of research. It combines vignettes about numerous individuals with a narrative history of African Americans in far-western NC where she grew up and lives.

- Rep. John Agee on the "Drover's Road and Sherill's Inn" April 2021

Rep. John Ager will discuss the drover's road through the Hickory Nut Gap and the historic Sherill's Inn, a route that connected the southeastern Piedmont to Asheville via the Hickory Nut Gap. The history of this vital passage through the Blue Ridge involves Native Americans, livestock and drovers, common and famous travelers, Civil War soldiers, and more.

- Two videos exploring the connections between the South Asheville Cemetery, Western NC's oldest public cemetery for African-American burials, and the Smith-McDowell House.

WARREN WILSON COLLEGE

That's (Not) My Home: Music, Racism, & the Railroad's Arrival in Buncombe County

"WWC faculty, Jeff Keith, Ph.D. and Kevin Kehrberg, Ph.D. present on the musical legacies extending from the late nineteenth century construction of the Swannanoa Tunnel...and how the song 'Swannanoa Tunnel' has traveled through folk and popular culture in ways that, among other things, obscure the vital role African Americans performed in the history of Western North Carolina—particularly in the context of the Western North Carolina Railroad."
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N2ybh8auGHw>

BUNCOMBE COUNTY SPECIAL COLLECTIONS, PACK MEMORIAL LIBRARY (previously the North Carolina Room)

The Freedmen's Bureau in Asheville with Dr. Steve Nash Feb 16, 2021

This lecture highlights Freedmen's Bureau's role in Asheville during Reconstruction, creating a moment in WNC's history when a biracial coalition made significant change possible. Dr. Nash, an associate professor of history at ETSU, is author of the book, *Reconstruction's Ragged Edge: The Politics of Postwar Life in the Southern Mountains*.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NfTZGbgVtNI>

Their YouTube channel has large collection of videos from both in-person and virtual programs. Check the Playlists link for more choices.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCzcXFttbYGRc7In2Boxh4rw/videos>

PRESERVATION SOCIETY OF ASHEVILLE & BUNCOMBE CO.

Programs about area arts and crafts, as well as events on Chiles Avenue in Asheville and the Pollock and Bloomberg families who lived there. Their website also has the third program about the South Asheville Cemetery. <https://psabc.org/online-education-programs/>

SWANNANOVA VALLEY MUSEUM & HISTORY CENTER

This museum, a local history museum in Buncombe County, offers a wide variety of events and videos, including history hikes and WNC History Café (virtual).

<https://www.history.swannanoavalleymuseum.org/events/>

[SOURCES BEYOND WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA](#)

- [NORTH CAROLINA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY \(NCGS\)](https://www.ncgenealogy.org/) <https://www.ncgenealogy.org/>
[Two free webinars are being offered this summer.](#)
 - Kathy Gunter Sullivan "Where They Walked: Working with Deeds". This recorded Webinar will be freely available to the public from midnight Thursday night through midnight Sunday night (EDT), 4-6 Jun 2021.
 - Judy G. Russell "Courting North Carolina: The Courts of the Tarheel State – Part 1". This recorded Webinar will be freely available to the public from midnight Thursday night through midnight Sunday night (EDT), 6-8 Aug 2021.

[NCGS membership includes access to a library of webinars and handouts, plus many other benefits, and is well worth the modest cost.](#)

- **THE GENEALOGY CENTER at ALLEN COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY**

<https://acpl.lib.in.us/genealogy>

Free virtual programs offered weekly on a wide variety of topics. The library also has "one of the largest research collections available, incorporating records from around the world."

- **CONFERENCE KEEPER.ORG** <https://conferencekeeper.org/>

Conference Keeper curates details of genealogy events and freely shares the information on a single, organized website and across various social media channels. Genealogy events of all kinds in the US, Canada and other world countries are listed by location and date.

- **LEGACY FAMILY TREE WEBINARS** <https://familytreewebinars.com>
Legacy Family Tree Webinars offers several free webinars each week, featuring many well-known genealogists. A membership provides access to a library of 1400+ recordings.