

History Committee

The Bogart-Bowman Cabin is the meeting place of the Unicoi History Committee. The History Committee meets the second Thursday of every month at 6pm.

The History Committee, in association with the Town of Unicoi, hosts events throughout the year, including Pickin' at the Cabin. Live Bluegrass music can be heard coming from the cabin every Monday night. Pickin' on the Porch and the other events at the cabin are open to the public and are free to attend.

Some of the other events hosted by the History Committee are:

- Easter Egg Hunt
- Ice Cream Social
- Heritage Day
- Veteran's Day Appreciation Dinner
- Old Fashioned Christmas

For specific dates on the History Committee Events, check out the Town of Unicoi website at www.unicoitn.net and click on the events calendar.



Bogart-Bowman Cabin At Buffalo Creek Park

For More Information
Contact The
Tourist Information Center
423-735-0317
Or Town Hall
423-743-7162
Email: TownHall@unicoitn.com



Hidden Gem

The Town of Unicoi purchased this property in 2008 and discovered a hidden gem. What appeared to be a normal house turned out to be something much more historical.

The cabin had been covered by siding for over 80 years and the inside had been covered with sheet rock and paneling. Any evidence of the original log cabin had been hidden for years. The fireplace in the main room had been covered and the upper story had been closed off from use. The house had been occupied by tenants over the years who had no knowledge they were living in a historic cabin.

The Town discovered the origin of the home when they began removing siding and sheet rock and began efforts to preserve this historic home. As the sheet rock was removed inside the home, late 1800s to early 1900's newspapers were found plastered to the logs, which was a common practice in those days to ward off the cold. The chimney and fireplace were constructed from native Tennessee limestone.

Based on the architectural details and the craftsmanship of the carpentry, it is believed that the 2-story Bogart-Bowman log cabin, dog trot, and adjoining kitchen were built in the late 1700's to early 1800's.

Since the restoration of the Bogart-Bowman log cabin, the site has been a location for various town and history committee events for the public.



History

The earliest record of the land where the cabin is located, dates back to a land grant awarded to Evan Shelby, who was a land speculator, in 1782. This land, along the banks of Buffalo Creek, was comprised of 640 acres.



Evan Shelby erected his Shelby's Fort in 1773 in what is now Bristol, Sullivan County, Tennessee. In 1776, he was appointed Major in the troops against the Cherokees by Governor Patrick Henry, and appointed to colonel of the militia in Washington County later that same year. He led an expedition against the Chickamauga Indian towns on the Tennessee River, served in the Battle of King's Mountain, was elected a member of the Senate and was appointed as a brigadier general of the militia of the Washington District of North Carolina.

Evan Shelby died on December 4, 1794 at Kings Meadow in Sullivan County and is buried at East Hill Cemetery in Bristol, Tennessee.

The property changed hands from the Shelby family to the Bogart family and was then decended to the V.S. Bowman family by marriage in the late 1700s or early 1800s. The Baptiste McNabb family is also intertwined in this family genealogy.

Members of the Bowman family are buried in the family and community cemeteries nearby. Relatives of these families are active in the Town of Unicoi History Committee and frequent the Bogart-Bowman Cabin.

Buffalo Creek Park

The surrounding land around the Bogart-Bowman Cabin is Buffalo Creek Park. The land runs along the Buffalo Creek and creates a tranquil environment.

Buffalo Creek Park has a large field complete with soccer goals for the community to use. A volleyball/badmitten net is also available to use at different times throughout the year. The park also has a nice walking trail that borders the recreational field. This park has something for the whole family.

The Buffalo Creek Park also boasts an Arboretum. In September of 2014, the arboretum received a certification from the Tennessee Urban Forestry Council. A variety of species of trees are planted around the walking path and in the park, in fact, 31 different species of trees can be found here.

In order to make the arboretum a reality, different species of trees had to be planted at Buffalo Creek Park. The Town of Unicoi received help from a Tennessee Agriculture Enhancement Program tree planting grant. Additionally, the town hosted a "tree planting day" where the local boy scouts and members of the community helped plant trees. The arboretum is truly a community project.

