

VISIT LOCAL 2023 SCAVENGER HUNT

COUNTYWIDE Hidden Gems



[Questions? Contact Sally at 828-883-3700 or info@brevardncchamber.org]

- 1. FIND IT! The Line House in Cedar Mountain.** The Line House, so named because it straddles the line between North Carolina and South Carolina, was built in the 1890s by Wiley Bishop. Bishop was a member of the South Carolina State House of Representatives and the local magistrate. He held marriage services in his home, which allowed happy couples to choose the state in which they wed. There are many interesting and amusing stories about the intended couples. One story tells of a couple who came to the Line House to get married – a moonshiner who had already been divorced twice and a schoolteacher who had never been married. Disharmony ensued when he insisted that they be married in the Carolina that allowed divorce, and she wanted to marry in the state that frowned on divorce. Alas, the couple ended up not getting married. It is said, however, that the moonshiner celebrated the day anyway...the schoolteacher was not invited to the party. **Can you find the Line House? [HINT: The greenish house is tucked back on its lot on Hwy 276 at the state line and can be seen on the left once you turn onto Solomon Jones Road toward Camp Greenville. REMINDER: The house is on private property. Please respect the owners and do not go onto the property. PLEASE BE CAREFUL: A photo of you and the Camp Greenville sign is just fine.]**
- 2. FIND IT! The Walton War Historical Marker.** “The Orphan Strip” was a 12-mile parcel of land with unclear ownership. Starting in the late 1770s, the strip was owned by South Carolina, the federal government, and the Cherokee. In the late 1790s, both North Carolina and Georgia lay claim to the land. In 1802, the land was given to Georgia through the Act of Cession, and the state created Walton County, in which the strip was located. However, folks who had settled the strip were torn between those loyal to North Carolina and those loyal to Georgia, and the dispute, known as the Walton War, continued. The war came to a head in 1804 when during one of the many skirmishes, John Havner, an NC constable was killed. Buncombe County militia was called in and Walton County failed. In 1807, a joint commission determined North Carolina’s ownership of the Orphan Strip. The Walton War officially ended in 1811 when Georgia’s own survey confirmed that, indeed, NC was the owner. The land became part of Transylvania in 1861 when the county was formed. **Can you find the Walton War Historical Marker? [HINT: It is located at 666 Greenville Hwy (Hwy 276) at Hap Simpson Park.]**
- 3. FIND IT! The Hume Hotel and “The Stone House.”** In the mid-nineteenth century, wealthy planters from the South Carolina low country established a summer colony in the Dunns Rock area. For those who could not afford to spend the summer in homes of their own, the Hume Hotel, a large stone structure built by Robert Hume, offered accommodation for shorter stays. Sadly, the hotel was burned by bushwhackers during the Civil War. The story goes that Hume’s wife and children grabbed as many valuables as possible from the house and scrambled up a nearby hill for safety. They watched from their perch as their house was destroyed. Sadly, the structure was never rebuilt. Some of the stones were reclaimed and used to build the Royal and Louise Morrow House (“The Stone House”), a Gustav Stickley design, on East Main Street in Brevard. While nothing remains of the Hume Hotel, **can you find The Stone House at 630 East Main Street? [REMINDER: The house is on private property. Please respect the owners and do not go onto the property.]**

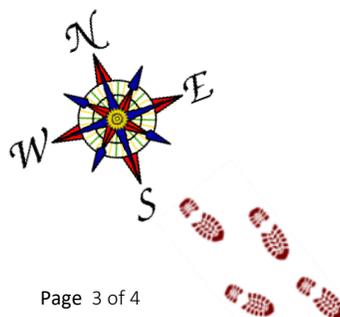
4. **FIND IT! Wall at Brevard College.** Brevard College was created when Rutherford College and Weaver College abandoned their respective campuses and relocated to the 106-acre campus of the Brevard Institute in 1934. All three schools were Methodist-supported colleges that came together to form the co-educational Junior College. A feature of the campus is the stone wall that sits at the corner of Broad and French Broad streets. The wall was built in 1936-37 as a WPA project and marked the college's original athletic field. It is said that the stones were collected from the Davidson River. The wall was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1994. **Can you find the stone wall at Brevard College?**

5. **FIND IT! Bracken Mountain Preserve.** Nestled just a few miles west of downtown Brevard, near the Brevard Music Center, the Bracken Mountain Preserve is a 395-acre woodland expanse that is now used for public recreation. This parcel of land, which holds the headwaters of both Brushy Creek and Bracken's Creek, was purchased by the City of Brevard between 1910 and 1915. The property was the main water source for the public until 1979. In the late 1980s, the City talked about selling this land for development but decided instead to keep it as a preserve and open it to the public for recreational activities. HURRAY! Opening to the public in 2012, Bracken Mountain Preserve has undergone trail construction, maintenance and expansion. Starting in 2022, the City coordinated with Conserving Carolina to purchase an additional 34 acres close to the main trailhead area to provide additional and more moderate trails. **Can you find Bracken Mountain Preserve Trail Head?**

6. **FIND IT! Cows on the site of the Original Railroad Depot.** Located where French Broad Street meets King Street at Railroad Avenue and owned by Southern Railway, the original depot was situated on the narrow strip of land between the rails and the road. The stockyard was located there, as was Henderson Oil, owned by Frank Bridges. When train transportation died down, Southern Railway offered the depot building to the City of Brevard, which turned down the offer. The structure was purchased by Frank Bridges in the 1970s. Per the purchase agreement, Bridges dismantled the building and removed it from the site, using some of the materials in other structures, including the homes of his son and his daughter. The new railroad depot is found just north of the original site. Today, cow sculptures by Aaron Alderman graze on the depot's original site, which is across the street from the original location of the stockyard, where cattle were loaded on and off the trains. **Can you find the cow sculptures?**

7. **FIND IT! Oak Grove Church.** Originally Oak Grove Methodist Church, the church is known as the Mother of the Methodists in Brevard. The congregation originated in 1847 when a Methodist Campground was established nearby. It was at this site that the first county meeting was held in 1861. The date of the church building is unknown, but it resembles countless other country churches built in North Carolina in the latter half of the nineteenth century. The accompanying cemetery has been the final resting place of many of Brevard's founding fathers and community leaders, including Braxton Caldwell Langford, for whom Caldwell Street is named, Alexander England, Fitch Taylor, who started the Epworth School for Girls and members of the Pickelsimer family who built Cascade Lake and later Citizen's Telephone Company (Comporium). **Can you find Oak Grove Church? [HINT: It's located on Asheville Highway.]**

8. **FIND IT! The English Chapel.** Located in Pisgah National Forest near the banks of the Davidson River, English Chapel was founded in 1860 by Rev. A. F. English who had been a Methodist circuit rider before the Civil War and had also founded the Oak Grove Methodist Church in the new City of Brevard. The chapel was built on land owned by Strawbridge Young, father of the wife of Rev. English. Both English and Young placed high value on education, so the building also served as a school at different times during the 1800s and the 1900s. In 1905, Carl Schenck encouraged Vanderbilt, who owned the land that is now Pisgah National Forest, to claim the English Chapel as his own. But the chapel held onto its independence. When the original wooden building had to be replaced in the 1940s, the congregation collected rocks from the Davidson River to build the current structure. You can find the words “English Chapel” spelled out in stone over the door. Visitors and hikers are welcome at the services that are still held in the church. **Can you find the English Chapel? [HINT: You can park at the Davidson River Campground and walk or there is a pull off just a bit further up 276. PLEASE BE CAREFUL.]**
9. **FIND IT! Site of the Ecusta Paper Mill.** The vast 225-acre landscape was home to the Ecusta Mill, which was started in 1939 by Harry Straus. The mill made specialty papers such as bible and cigarette paper from flax. By 1968, the plant was producing other products like cellophane and film. Ecusta was a major employer for the county for many years, employing about 3,000 people, with a payroll of \$20 million. In the early 2000s, the Ecusta Mill (along with two other major employers) shut down, striking a huge blow to Transylvania County’s economy. The only building left standing on the Ecusta campus is the original 1951 medical infirmary for workers at the mill. This medical center was ahead of its time, focusing on prevention, counseling, and routine examinations for the Ecusta Mill employees. Nowadays, the infirmary is home to Ecusta Brewing Company, one of five local breweries. **Can you find the site of the Ecusta Mill?**
10. **FIND IT! History of Rosman Exhibit.** The town of Rosman is rich with the history of Transylvania County, starting long before the county existed. The Cherokee traveled the Eastatoe path, which crossed the French Broad River at what is now Rosman. European settlers purchased land there as early as the 1700s, and an actual town anchored by a church and a school started taking shape around the 1850s. The town underwent several name changes – from Calvert to Jeptha to Toxaway to Eastatoe back to Toxaway. Joseph Silversteen who started several businesses in the town in the early 1900s, gave Rosman its current (and final) name, which is created from the names of two of his business associates – Joseph Rosenthal and Morris Osmansky. There is a wonderful History of Rosman Exhibit located behind the Rosman Town Hall. **Can you find the Rosman Exhibit?**



11. **FIND IT! The Albert Schweitzer Hospital.** This building has a fairytale-like history that is rich with compassion and care. Dr. Edward Gaine Cannon, who was a Transylvania native, retired from his busy practice in Pickens, SC, and moved to Balsam Grove. His plan was to rest and relax in this rural mountain community. However, he found that the area needed medical care, and being the only doctor for miles, he became busier caring for the residents than he had been in his whole career. His inspiration was Dr. Albert Schweitzer, a Nobel Prize winner, with whom Cannon had formed a close relationship while traveling around Africa. Cannon named the rural hospital the Albert Schweitzer Hospital and adopted Schweitzer's "Reverence for Life" philosophy of medicine. This meant that Cannon treated anyone regardless of their ability to pay. The only thing patients had to provide were two large river rocks each time they visited. The river rocks were used to build the exterior of the hospital. Sadly, Cannon died in 1966 before his dream hospital was completed. But the community didn't give up his dream and opened the Balsam Grove Medical Clinic in 1980. Unfortunately, the clinic lasted only three years because of the difficulty of finding staffing in such a rural location. While the building is now in disuse at the end of Clinic Road (#350) in Balsam Grove, the structure, with its facade built from the river rocks collected by Dr. Cannon's patient, still evokes the care and compassion that built it. **Can you find the Albert Schweitzer Hospital? [REMINDER: This is private property. Please respect the owners and do not go onto the property.]**
12. **FIND IT! Lake Toxaway Dam.** In the late 1800s, because of its beautiful views, healthy climate, and fresh air, Western North Carolina became a prime vacation destination for wealthy families. In Transylvania County, the Toxaway Company was formed in 1895 by investors from Pittsburg with the intention to mine the land and build lavish resorts. In 1903, the Toxaway Inn opened. It was the most modern inn of its time with elevators, central heating, private indoor plumbing, and long distance telephones. In July of that same year, the dam on the Toxaway River was completed; thus was born Lake Toxaway, the largest manmade lake of its time. The earthen dam was a staggering 60 feet tall, 500 feet wide and had a shoreline of 14 miles. Visitors to this world-class resort area included Henry Ford, Harvey Firestone, R.J. Reynolds, the Vanderbilts and many other prominent individuals. In 1916 things changed drastically. The area was impacted by three back-to-back hurricanes and received over 20 inches of rain in 24 hours. On August 13th at 7:10 the dam burst, and 5.3 billion gallons of water exploded downstream destroying the landscape for 4 miles. The lake was gone, and the number of tourists dwindled. For more than 45 years, not much happened in the area. In 1960, a group of investors set out to revitalize the area. The dam was rebuilt, and Lake Toxaway was once again a thriving community and attractive vacation destination. **Can you find the Lake Toxaway Dam? [NOTE: You can park in the pull off on the right before you get to the dam coming from Brevard. Or, more safely, park in the lot for Lake Toxaway Realty immediately on the right when you pass the dam. PLEASE BE CAREFUL: A photo of you and the McNeely Bridge (which spans the spillway and top of the Lake Toxaway Falls) in the background will be just fine.]**

