

# *Volunteer Spotlight*



## **JANETTE FOSTER GUINN**

Janette began volunteering at the archives in January 2017. Her interest in this reflects her interests in genealogy and local history. She was raised in the Washington College/Limestone area, the daughter of Orval Foster and Alta Snapp Foster. Her family has lived in the county at least since the early 1800s.

She graduated from Washington College and obtained a bachelor's degree from East Tennessee State University, a master's degree from Tusculum College, and a doctoral degree in education from Lincoln Memorial University. Janette taught at Jonesborough High School and Jonesborough Middle School, retiring in 2009. By the time she retired, she had taught many of the children and grandchildren of her former students.

Janette has a wide range of interests, especially in the fields of astronomy, geology, archaeology, weather, music, and space exploration. She is a member of the Friends of the Archives, Watauga Association of Genealogists, Heritage Alliance, Boones Creek Historic Trust, and the National Genealogical Society.

Something she enjoys most about working in the archives is “seeing the very old handwritten records and figuring out what the documents say.” This is no easy thing with the archaic cursive writing. She finds such records very interesting,

especially when she knows the family involved. She feels that as she organizes these records, she is helping researchers in future years.

One of the most interesting documents she found in her archive work was while working in the old wills. She found a little piece of paper about the size of an index card with information on some of her kin. As Janette notes about working in the archives, “we can usually find something to laugh about every day.”

Janette has two sons: Eric, who lives in Newport, Rhode Island, and Nathan, who lives in Raleigh, North Carolina.