

## **The Dora Herron Roland Story**

(Written by Aileen McCoy in memory of my mother, Dora Herron Roland)



My mother was born on the North Shore in 1929 at Dorsey, NC. She was the daughter of Avery Harrison and Hester Early Herron. Her father was postmaster at Dorsey and also ran the local General store.

Before the waters of the dam came, he sold this home and bought a home high on a mountain from the Mitchell family. My mother called this “the Mitchell Place.” I heard stories about this place all the years of my childhood. It seemed as though I was hearing a fairy tale, since I couldn’t see it or go there. She told stories about walking to church, riding down a steep hill with her brother in a wooden wagon. She also told about going to school at Proctor. She was 15 years old when the family had to leave their “Mitchell place” home on Feb. 2, 1944. I also heard about the 1943 agreement of how a road would be built back to the North Shore. They left with hope but as the years went by: hope dwindled, as the promise was not kept.

I have driven my mother to Fontana and she would stare across the lake looking for her home place. I will never forget how she looked standing at an overlook, staring at the shapes of the mountains and ridges, hoping to see something she would recognize.

Cancer took my mother in the year 2001. The last 2 months she lived all she wanted to talk about was her life on the North Shore. From age 15 to 72 she never saw her home place again. 6000 people have similar stories. We have our own “trail of tears” because of neglect of the United States Government to keep the promise. We’re still waiting and asking, please build the road! We want to go home!!