

NEWS



THE HIGHLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

LETTER

Vol. 5 No. 1
Winter 2001

*Helping to Preserve the Past, to Enrich the Present,
for the Benefit and the Education of the Future*

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THE HIGHLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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McDowell, Virginia 24458

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2000-2001 Board of Directors:

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ANNUAL MEETING

BODIE PRESENTATION: "PRESERVING FAMILY DOCUMENTS"

The annual meeting of the Highland Historical Society will be held on **Sunday, December 9, at 3:00 p.m.** in the Mountain View Room at the Highland Public Library.

Researcher and author Charles Bodie will present a program on the care and preservation of family documents and letters. Bodie is the author of the book *"Alleghany Highlands, Virginia Manuscripts: a Guide to Collections in the United States,"* which was co-produced by the society in 2000.

All members of the society are invited to attend, and are eligible to vote for the 2002 Board of Directors. Refreshments will be served following the meeting.

**PLEASE DON'T FORGET TO
RENEW YOUR HIGHLAND
HISTORICAL SOCIETY
MEMBERSHIP!!!
WE NEED YOUR HELP!**

HIGHLAND'S NEW MUSEUM!! THE MANSION HOUSE: HIGHLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY SUCCESS STORY

The society is proud and excited to announce that it has purchased the Mansion House in McDowell for use as both a Highland museum and as an orientation/welcome center for the McDowell Battlefield.

The society purchased the house from James and Judy Ralston. Mrs. Ralston expressed pleasure that the house will become a museum: "It's nice that it's going to be used to preserve history."

The Mansion House was built in 1851 by George Washington Hull, and is situated on the old Staunton to Parkersburg Turnpike. It served as both headquarters and hospital during the Battle of McDowell, and is featured in several accounts of that battle.

"The house retains a great deal of its architectural integrity," says Lorraine White, who serves as the society's museum committee *con't* page 2

HIGHLAND MUSEUM - *con't from page 1*

chairman. Mrs. White will be spearheading the society's plans for the renovation and furnishing of the museum.

Called the Mansion House because it was the first large brick house in McDowell, it was built by slave labor, from bricks made on the plantation. The Hulls were prominent landowners in Highland County, descended from Peter Hull, a pioneer German settler in the early 1700's. G.W Hull served as Highland's delegate to the 1861 State Convention, where he initially opposed Virginia's secession. He reluctantly supported the measure after President Lincoln called for Virginians to help put down the revolution.

Purchase of the house was made possible by a grant from the Virginia Department of Transportation which had been awarded to the Highland Chamber of Commerce for use on a Staunton to Parkersburg Turnpike project. The remainder of the purchase price - as well as the costs of settlement - was paid for by the Highland Historical Society.

Shenandoah Valley Battlefield Foundation project manager John Hutchinson, who helped work on details of the grant transfer, stated, "The Mansion House is very appropriate for a history and transportation-related museum because of its role in the battle, and its later use as a hotel." Highland Chamber of Commerce executive director Caroline Powhowsky agrees: "The Mansion House will serve as a destination center, both for the Staunton to Parkersburg Turnpike Project, and for the general tourist."

Also instrumental in the work to obtain the house were Don Hower and Jim White. Mr. Hower served as a trustee of the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation and as its representative from Highland County. Mr. White now serves in that capacity. The society has received an initial grant from the Foundation to help pay for a feasibility study of the house. Since the museum will serve as an archive and repository for historical artifacts and documents, it is vital that it be brought up to accepted museum standards for climate control, security, safety and public access.

Shenandoah Valley Battlefield Foundation's executive director Howard Kittell complimented the society and the county: "Highland once again is the leader! You are the first one of the cluster groups to designate an orientation center, and we constantly point to the work you are doing as an example to other localities, and say to them: 'See what Highland County is doing? You can do it, too!'"

"All of this will take a great deal of work and money," pointed out society treasurer Hazel Corbett. "We will, of course, have to be doing some major fund raising in the next few years. But what a worthwhile project we have taken on!"

For more information and a history of the Mansion House, visit the society's webpage:
highlandhistoricalsociety.org



MCDOWELL BATTLEFIELD HERITAGE DAYS - 2001

The fourth McDowell Battlefield Heritage Days, sponsored by the Highland Historical Society and the Highland Chamber of Commerce was held on the weekend of May 5-6, 2001.

The event, which draws visitors and reenactors from across the country, was extremely successful and proved to be a much larger one than in previous years. Almost 800 reenactors came, making it now the largest Authentic 'Campaigner' event in the country. Drawing almost completely universal accolades from reenactors and visitors alike, it featured a reenactment of the Battle of McDowell, complete with cannon, on Saturday the 5th, and a thrilling fight through the village of McDowell on the 6th, depicting Jackson's Pursuit of the Federal troops toward West Virginia. Horse-drawn wagon tours of the area, various lectures on the period, crafts, demonstrations, and living history presentations all set in the pristine McDowell area brought history to life for visitors and reenactors throughout the weekend.

SEE PHOTOS FROM THE EVENT ON PAGES 5-7

There was an unusual fund raising event: the raffle of a "Civil War" doll complete with sets of exquisite clothing and accessories which had been made by women from all over the United States. Named "Sarah Ellen MacDowell," the doll was conceived of as a fundraiser by Elizabeth Stewart Clark, an heirloom seamstress in Idaho, as a way to raise money for the preservation of Civil War sites. One hundred percent of the ticket money was generously donated by Ms. Clark to the society to help support its ultimately successful efforts to preserve the McDowell Battlefield. The winning ticket was purchased by Ms. Janet Wragge, of Casper Wyoming. Ms. Wragge is a history teacher, and plans to use the doll in her history club for middle-school aged youngsters.



"SARAH ELLEN MACDOWELL"
fund raiser for The McDowell Battlefield

4TH ANNUAL HIGHLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY SCHOLARSHIP AWARDED TO APRIL HOGSETT

The Highland Historical Society awarded its fourth annual scholarship to Highland High School graduating senior April May Hogsett, class of 2001.

The Highland Historical Society award to a graduating Highland High School senior is a yearly event. The society makes the award based on recommendations made by the History Department at the school.

Ms. Hogsett was given a cash award and a certificate which reads "Award for Excellence for Outstanding Interest and Achievement in History by a graduating senior." We congratulate Ms. Hogsett and wish her all success in the future.

Did you know that the society gives handsomely framed 8x11 membership certificates with the society's gold seal to all Business Members and Life Members? **Join us now!!!!**

For genealogists:

*** NOTE OF INTEREST:** On the society's website, you will find ordering information about an interesting book published by Hollyhock Press:

*Highland County, Virginia 1860
Census and Marriages 1853-1860*

This is compiled by Holly Wanless Cochran, a member of the society, a computer scientist turned technical writer who "fell into the genealogical publishing business a few years ago" and who has published three books, and who is of great assistance in publishing and maintaining our website. The book provides a unique glimpse of Highland county before its population was greatly reduced by the Civil War and disease epidemics of the early 1860's. Especially valuable to genealogists because the census taker noted many family relationships; though not a fully annotated census, the compiler has added many footnotes which explain some of the family relationships. Visit Holly's website for sample pages and free online searchable index to the census. Link via the society's website:
www.highlandhistoricalsociety.org

Do you want some information About Historic Preservation?

The Department of Historic Resources has a great new website:
www.dhr.state.va.us

It contains information about the benefits of preservation, funding opportunities, easy access to forms and guidelines, FAQs (Frequently asked questions,) Incentive and Grant opportunities, educational tools for teachers, archaeology sections, videos, publications, outside links and more - all on a one-stop information site. Try it out!



THE HIGHLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S OWN WEBSITE:

highlandhistoricalsociety.org

And you may email the society at:
highlandhistory@email.com

Interested in **Highland history?** Doing **genealogical research?** Make sure you check:

www.rootsweb.com/~vahighla/index.htm

Just a few of the things you'll find there:

- ▶ *On-line records of early Highland families - including 6,450 individuals*
- ▶ *Indexed queries and surname registry*
- ▶ *Genealogies of Highland Pioneer families*
- ▶ *Highland soldiers in the Revolutionary War*
- ▶ *Highland soldiers in the War of 1812*
- ▶ *Population per census year*

and for

RESEARCHING THE CIVIL WAR ON THE INTERNET:

www.civilwardata.com

www.harpersweekly.com

www.moc.org (*Museum of the Confederacy website*)

www.nara.gov/genealogy/civilwar.html (*National Archives and Records Administration*)

Did you know that you can support historic preservation by checking a box on your state income tax return? With a simple check of a box, Virginians can designate all or part of their tax refund to the Historic Preservation Fund. The fund is administered by the Va. Dept of Historic Resources, and the donations are fully tax deductible and can be claimed the following year!

QUERY COLUMN

A new feature debuts in this issue: all members of the society are invited and permitted to insert queries. If you can help answer any of the queries, please do!

1. I am particularly interested in information concerning an Indian maiden..would be on the Javins/Huffman side of the family. These 2 families are the parents of my mother (Welma Lillian Huffman-Whetzel). The Huffman side is the side of the family I am most interested in pursuing at this time. There was an Indian maiden who married into the family and this is the person I am trying to trace- find out which tribe she was related to - Most people tell me Cherokee - but so far, I have not found any record. Her Indian name was Starr Baby. Starr was the family/last name - Baby her first name. Her Christian name: Maggie Carroll - she married James Madison Shaver - or Shaffer or Shaffier. They had 3 children - Michael Shaffer/Shaffier/Shaver and 2 daughters: one was Lucy who married Charles Stewart Javins; Charles and Lucy had 3 children: George, Ned and Annie Margaret Javins, born Oct 6, 1903 in Rockingham County. Annie Margaret Javins married George Clifton Huffman, and after his death, married Lossie Lonnie Whetzel (or Wetzel) from Nokesville VA.

Judy Carol (Whetzel) Reeves

10705 St. Margaret's Way -Silver Spring MD 20902-4716

301-933-2173

jcr99@starpower.net

2. Would like any info on the Hidy, Carr, Baughn or Baughan, and/or Draper families. Of interest is a grave in the Hidy cemetery near Blue Grass - Marker reads: *Johann Henrich Heyde/ John Hidy - 1715-1823 - Assistant Drill Master - Valley Forge - American Revolution.* Marker looks relatively new. Who or what group placed marker? Any info? He might be my Rev. War ancestor.

Dorothy Wilkins

6111 Roseland Dr

Rockville MD 20852-3648

3. Would like to place query about the early Lightner's of Highland - specifically William Lightner and his son Adam Lightner (DOD 1843). I am interested in any info that might be available specifically any documents relating to them. Thanks.

Steve Bast

3315 Kenwick Trail

Roanoke VA 24018

SBAST3315@aol.com

4. I have *The New History of Highland County*, and would like to contact some of the contributor of the Armstrong and Steuart family histories. These are the individuals I would like to contact for the Armstrongs: Dorothy H. Lamb, Joy Anne Smith or Mare Meade Campbell. Individual for the Steuarts: William L. Stuart. Info I am seeking is for the wife of James Steuart (listed as Sarah Wilson) and Robert Armstrong (listed as father of John.) James Steuart is my 3 gr grandfather, John

see next column

Armstrong is my 3 gr grandfather. Thank you.

Joyce Patteson Abe

6932 Mary B Place

Roanoke VA 24018

5. I am descended from Paschal Davis, one of the original pioneer settlers of Highland. I also trace my line to Loftus Pullin, another pioneer settler. My father, William R. Davis, son of Willie Davis Sr and Gracie Moats was born in McDowell. I recently tracked down a copy of a "Request for Pension for a Widow of a Civil War Veteran" filled out by my great grandmother - in which I found info about what regiment my g grandfather was in. Does anyone have info that would elaborate on the people in my family tree - i.e. diaries, documents, etc - I would really like to know more about who my ancestors were rather than just names and dates in boxes on a family tree...

Christina Davis Roberts

27310 Grandview Ave

Hayward CA 94542

christinaroberts@yahoo.com

Ordering from

The Highland Historical Society

Available items:

(please indicate number)

- ___ 1847 Campbell Map of Highland County - \$15.00 plus \$3.00 shipping and handling
- ___ Mapsets of the Battle of McDowell \$8.00 plus \$1.00 s/h
- ___ T-Shirts - McDowell Battlefield Heritage Days - with Bradley Schmehl art (sizes sm and med only) \$15.00 plus \$2.00 s/h
- ___ Book: *Gollodays in America* \$15.00 plus \$4.50 s/h
- ___ Book: *Coler/Colaw Family in America* \$15.00 plus \$4.50 s/h
- ___ "RECONNAISSANCE AT MCDOWELL" by Bradley Schmehl - Numbered, signed \$225. Plus shipping (billed separately)

Send to:

THE HIGHLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

BOX 63

MCDOWELL, VA 24458

(Please indicate T-Shirt sizes and number of shirts)

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I enclose my check for _____
(Please print clearly)

name _____

address _____

city _____ state _____ zip _____





**The Battle of McDowell
May 5 and 6, 2001**



Special thanks to photographer **ROBIN BROWN**
of McDowell who took these photographs and arranged them as an "album"
for The Highland Historical Society



**The Battle of McDowell
May 5 and 6, 2001**





**The Battle of McDowell
May 5 and 6, 2001**



THE HIGHLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY



attn: Treasurer
Post Office Box 63 - McDowell, Virginia 24458

MEMBERSHIP

<input type="checkbox"/> Annual Individual.....	\$5.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Family Membership.....	\$15.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Annual Business or Organization.....	\$25.00
__ 2002 __ RENEWAL __ NEW	
<input type="checkbox"/> Life Membership.....	\$150.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Patron - any amount over.....	\$250.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Gift for Highland Museum.....	_____

name _____

address _____

city _____ state _____ zip _____ - _____

All dues and contributions are tax-deductible

THE HIGHLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY
POST OFFICE BOX 63
MCDOWELL, VIRGINIA 24458



PLEASE NOTE: If your name has a red dot beside it, it is a reminder that your dues are not up-to-date. Please help us and renew your membership today!