



The Highland Hourglass

A Newsletter Published Quarterly by the Highland Historical Society



Collections Spotlight

1862 Highland County Confederate States War Tax Record Book

In 1861 the Confederate Congress in Richmond implemented a direct tax of one-half percent on real and personal property. The government was forced to rely on individual states to collect the taxes, and the tax was ultimately discontinued in favor of bonds and treasury notes.

In response to the Confederate Congress, in early 1862 Augustus Tyler Stephenson, assessor of real and personal property for the county of Highland, compiled the county's tax record book.

Unfortunately, the book didn't stay in Highland County long after it's completion. It was stolen from Monterey sometime in 1862-1863. Many years later, sometime in the 1990s, it was found in an attic in New Jersey and returned to the Highland Historical Society in 1998.

The book lists county property owners in alphabetical order with the value of their real estate, slaves, merchandise, money at interest, cash on hand or on deposit, livestock, gold watches, silver plate, pianos, and pleasure carriages. As such, it provides valuable information about the county, its residents, and its wealth that is not readily found elsewhere, if at all.

The total property value recorded for the county was \$1,936,973.03, with 212,637 acres of real estate accounting for \$1,299,044.95 of that total. There are 444 land owners listed in the record, giving an average real estate value at \$2,925.69. Among the "average" landowners are William G. Chestnut of Green Hill owner of 242.75 acres valued at \$2,987.44, Adam Folks of the Crabbottom area with 388 acres valued at \$2,901.50, and Furgason L. Malcom of the Bullpasture Valley with 314.75 acres valued at \$2,952.20. The largest real estate value listed is for Felix Hull's estate at \$27,625.35; Felix died of typhoid fever on 31 October 1861. Felix Hull's estate is also the largest aggregate value, listed at \$40,515.35. The second largest overall value is for David V. M. Ruckman of Mill Gap at \$30,807.16.



The Record book, above the word Highland, "Taken off" is written in pencil.

Hook Benjamin	676	1116
Hevener William Esqr	276	5311
Hull Felix Esqr	2568	27625.35
Hiner Joseph Samuel	577	2711.46
Hiner Bennett	715	625.75

Excerpt from page 10, listing five people; Benjamin Hook, William Hevener, Esqr., Felix Hull, Esqr., Joseph Samuel Hiner, and Bennett Hiner—The first column lists acres owned, and the second, the value of said acres.

Collections Spotlight Continued

The book records a total of 387 slaves, with an average value of \$378.73 each. There were 19 slave holders owning 7 or more slaves. The largest slave holder listed is Rebecca G. Hamilton with 24 slaves followed by Edward Steuart with 14. Merchants listed include David Bird, Samuel C. Eagle, William W. Fleming, F.H. & Wilson Hull, John S. Newman, Andrew Rexrode, William M. Simmons, and Strickler & Gilmor. Strickler & Gilmor is listed with the greatest value of merchandise at \$3,000. Money at interest totals \$295,928 with the largest amounts for Adam Fleisher with \$5,000, Thomas Campbell with \$6,873, George W. Hull with \$12,000, Strickler & Gilmor with \$12,000, and Samuel C. Eagle with \$17,525. A total of \$55,955 of cash on hand or on deposit is recorded; amounts less than \$5 are not recorded. The highest amount listed is for Peter H. Kincaid with \$7,200, followed by Samuel C. Eagle with \$5,500, and William M. Simmons and Jacob Hevener with \$2,500 each.

NAMES.	REAL ESTATE.		SLAVES.		INTEREST.	CASH ON HAND OR ON DEPOSIT.
	Amount or Times Lots.	Value.	No.	Value.	Value.	Value.
Strickler & Gilmor		\$3,000				

Stickler & Gilmor's entry

Livestock are recorded in a single category comprised of cattle, horses, and mules; smaller livestock are not counted. There are 6,838 cattle, horses, and mules listed with a total value of \$125,309.08, averaging \$18.32 per head. Twenty-eight owners are listed with 50 or more head, with the largest number for David V. Ruckman of Mill Gap at 253, followed by William McClung of Clover Creek with 248 head, and Frederick K. Hull of Blue Grass/Hightown with 200. Colonel David V. Ruckman was a well known stock dealer locally known as the "Cattle King."

David V. Ruckman	253	\$5,570				
William McClung	248	\$4,540				
Frederick K. Hull	200	\$3,664				

"Cattle King" David V. Ruckman's entry (third name down from top) on page 15 of the 1862 C.S. War Tax Record book. The listing of cattle is the second to last column, 253 and the value in next column, \$5,570.

Twenty-eight gold watches are listed, with values ranging from \$20 to \$75. Nineteen owners of silver plate are recorded, with several of those for \$3 to \$5. Just nine pianos are listed, with Adam Stephenson of Jackson's River, William W. Fleming of Monterey, Edgar Campbell of Sunnyside and his brother Benjamin B. Campbell each listed with pianos valued at \$200. A total of 65 pleasure carriages are listed with an overall value of \$4,125.

The original tax record book is maintained in our climate-controlled collections and a full size photocopy is available for public viewing. The information contained in the book is also available in spreadsheet form on CD in our museum store.

Patrons' Party

On August 28, 2016, the Highland Historical Society was delighted to hold our annual Patrons' Party at the newly renovated Highland Center. In 2015, the center was closed temporarily for renovations and reopened in May 2016.

The Center started life in 1922, built as the new Monterey High School. It served this purpose for 75 years before it closed its doors as a school for a final time in 1997. The next year, a group of local citizens came together, purchased the building and formed the Highland Center as a non profit organization. After researching what the county needed, the Center began business incubations, farmer's market, and commercial kitchen programs, available for public use. The Highland Center has grown over the years and now hosts an assortment of tenants, ranging from local artists to youth employment programs.

With renovations complete, the Highland Center enters a new phase of its life and the Highland Historical Society is very happy to have been able to use the space for our event. Many guests had yet to see the new look and were very pleased to have a chance to do so. At the event, an information sheet about the Highland County Museum was available, describing about what has been going on at the Museum in the last year. If you were unable to attend, or missed picking one up, please contact the Museum and we will send one to you.

We would also like to say congratulations to all those who won the door prizes this year! It was a first time for us and went very well. The Highland Historical Society also presented Betty Mitchell, Executive Director of the Highland Center, with our Historic Preservation Award for her vision, perseverance, and endless hours of hard work to get the renovation underway.

Thank you to everyone who came and all those who could not make it but still support us in our mission to preserve Highland County's past for the enrichment of present and future generations.



Betty Mitchell, left, accepting her Historic Preservation Award from Historical Society President, Sarah Samples



Guests lining up to take the tour of the Center given by Bill Rich.



Historical Society board member Clay Hamilton announcing one of the door prize winners.

Thank you to Ludford & Peggy Creef for the pictures!

Treasurer's Update

Thanks to both member and community support this year, The Historical Society has met its financial needs thus far in 2016. Our annual spaghetti dinner during the Mountain Mama bicycle race was our most successful to date, netting over \$1,700. County residents turned out in large numbers and many cyclists used the meal to prepare for the following day's efforts. Our annual Patron's Party at the Highland Center was also very successful and will provide us with sufficient funds to close out 2016. Our operating expenses over the past three years have remained relatively constant, with annual expenses between \$24,000 and \$25,000. A positive response to our annual end of the year fund raising appeal will ensure we enter 2017 on a solid financial footing.

In addition to our general checking account, your society also maintains an Institutional Fund as a contingency fund to be drawn upon only in exceptional circumstances. The Institutional Fund currently has a balance of just under \$3,300. Your society also started an Endowment Fund in 2008, designed to generate a sustainable income stream for the long term. This fund has slowly grown since its inception and now contains a little over \$11,000 in a local interest bearing account. The principal of the Endowment must remain invested and cannot be spent; interest accrued may be used for society expenses with board approval. If you wish to donate to either of these funds, simply note it on your check or in a note accompanying your contribution.

When our research library was established at the museum, the ten library chairs were designated as a way to honor or remember someone. For a donation of \$1,000 or more an engraved brass plaque is affixed to the back of the chair with the text requested by the donor. While a few of the chairs have been claimed, there are still several available.

Although the Historical Society does not accept credit cards, we have initiated a PayPal account which allows PayPal customers to send donations or gift shop payments directly to the society. The account is designated by an alternate e-mail address: highlandhistpp@mgwnet.com Society members who have PayPal accounts can also use this account to renew their memberships.

Your society continues to operate in a fiscally conservative manner while maintaining public access to the museum and safeguarding the items we are entrusted with. If you would like more detailed financial information, feel free to contact us by mail, e-mail, or phone.

James Blagg

Spaghetti Dinner

The Mountain Mama Road Bike Challenge was held on August 6, 2016 and the night before, the Highland Historical Society hosted our annual Spaghetti Dinner at the Monterey Fire House. Not only was this our most successful dinner to date, but we also recorded the highest attendance yet! Thank you all for coming out and sharing spaghetti with us! We hope this event will keep growing and be something everyone can look forward to in years to come.



Left: Guests enjoying some dinner and conversation.

Right: HHS board members Lorraine White and Wes Maupin cooking spaghetti!



Please Note

Please be aware, if you wish to see either of the temporary exhibits, *Highlanders in War* or *Here Comes the Bride*, they will only be open until October 31, 2016! After that, they will be taken down and new exhibits will be put up. Thank you to everyone who contributed items and/or research to either of those exhibits;

- Jeanne Whitecotton
- Allie Hull
- Donna Hooke
- Joe & Phyllis Brock
- Kevin Wagner
- Bobbie Hefner
- Nancy Ballie
- Kathryn Morikawa
- Jim & Judy Ralston
- Robin & Nancy Vance
- Sarah Samples
- Richard Waybright
- Wendy Henwood
- Gloria McConnell
- Carolyn Pohowsky
- Myrtle K. Hoover
- Georgianne Maloy Hull
- Austin & Dot Shepherd
- Julie Mullenax Van Meter
- Eugene & Ellen Ratcliffe
- Cappie Hull
- Kent Botkin
- Wilson Smith
- Lacy Malcolm
- Judy Waybright
- Jim Hutchison
- Terry Arbogast
- Butch Tidd

Check your Renewal Date!

Annual memberships run from January 1 to December 31 each year. If you receive a mailed copy of the *Highland Hourglass*, please renew by the date shown below your address.

If you receive an email copy, please renew by the first of each year. Life Members will find a 9999 in the year portion of the date under your address. No annual renewal is required.

**SEND US YOUR EMAIL ADDRESSES!
WE WILL GLADLY EMAIL NEWSLETTERS**

Items Available by Mail

- Campbell's 1847 Map of Highland County
- *The Battle of McDowell* DVD
- *Tol' Able David* DVD
- *Images of America: Highland County* by Chris Scott
- *Parallel Lines: Stories from the Battle of McDowell* CD
- Battle of McDowell Map Set
- 1926 Highland County Advertising Map
- Highland County History Coloring Book
- *Highland Is Their Home* Booklet
- Highland County's 150th Anniversary Program

Highland Historical Society Membership

Membership rates:	Annual:	One Time:
	Individual ... \$15	Life \$250
	Family \$25	Patron \$500
	Business \$25	

All members receive copies of "The Highland Hourglass," the society's newsletter by mail or email and a 10 % discount in The Highland County Museum Store. Business and life members receive a framed membership certificate to display. Patron members receive a life membership plus their names engraved on the "Friends of the Museum" plaque.

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

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Please Note

Highland Historical Society

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Website: www.highlandcountyhistory.com

Board of Directors

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Wes Maupin, Vice President
James Blagg, Treasurer
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Volunteers

*Peggy Creel
Ludford Creel
Will Crisp
Roger Orndorff*

Staff

*Cathleen Evans,
Executive Director*

Museum Hours:

Nov.1 to March: By Appointment Only

March to Oct. 31

Thursday, Friday & Saturday 11AM to 4PM

Sunday 1PM to 4PM



*Preserving Highland County's Past
for the
Enrichment of Present and Future Generations*



**Highland Historical Society
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