



THE HIGHLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

L E T T E R

Vol. 7 No. 1
Winter 2003

*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**

Post Office Box 63
McDowell, Virginia 24458
website:

highlandhistoricalsociety.org
email: highlandhistory@email.com

2002 Board of Directors:

- Diane Klein, Chairman*
- Sarah Samples, Secretary*
- Patricia Wilson, Treasurer*
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- Penny Armstrong*
- Tom Atkeson*
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- Donovan Hower*
- Miles Cary Johnston, Jr.*
- Christopher Little*
- Janet Mullenax*
- Lorraine White*

ANNUAL MEETING JAN 18, 2004

The annual meeting of the Highland Historical Society will be held on **Sunday, January 18, at 2:30 p.m.** in the Mountain View Room at the Highland County Public Library.

Come and find out what your society has been doing this year!

All members of the society are invited to attend, and are eligible to vote for the 2004 Board of Directors. Refreshments will be served following the meeting.

(Snow date: Sun., Jan 25)

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

GOODLATTE SECURES GRANT FOR HIGHLAND MUSEUM!!



Congressman Bob Goodlatte, long-time good friend of Highland County, announced that the Highland Historical Society will be receiving a grant of \$200,000 for the Highland Museum and Heritage Center under the Save America's Treasures Act.

"I was extremely pleased to help obtain this vital funding for the Highland Historical Society," he said. "The restoration of the
(con't page 2)

GOODLATTE (con't from page 1)

'Mansion House' will help preserve our local heritage for future generations. It is important for folks to learn more about the important role the Shenandoah Valley played during the Civil War. In so doing we will bolster the local economy and create more jobs."

The grant will be used to bring climate control and security to the building. Since the museum will serve as an archive and repository for historical artifacts and documents from Highland's treasured past, it is vital that it be brought up to accepted museum standards for climate control, security, safety and public access.

The society has already repaired and painted the roof, installed new gutters and a drainage system, and has signed a contract with a local contractor to begin work on repointing the brick and the stone foundation next spring. All of the work has been paid for by donations, and by matching grants from the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation.

Located in McDowell, the historic 1851 George Washington Hull house sits on the old historic Staunton-to-Parkersburg Turnpike. The future museum will house the all-too-rapidly disappearing historical artifacts which document the county's history, and will also serve as a much needed orientation center for the county and for the McDowell Battlefield. It will be a place for visitors to enjoy learning about Highland's past and offer a place to rest, refresh and learn about the rest of the county's businesses and attractions.

What an exciting prospect!
Please join us and contribute as generously as you can to help us open the doors and make this valuable asset to Highland County a reality!

PROTEUS FOUNDATION AWARDS GRANT TO MUSEUM

The society has received a very welcome grant from a private foundation: *The Proteus Foundation*, which will be applied to work on repairing the windows on the museum building. The society will be pursuing another grant from the foundation, which should allow completion of the work on the windows.

Some of the glass will need replacing - with reproduction "antique" glass; painting and sill repair/replacement and re-puttying will all be worked on over the winter.

The Proteus Foundation stressed that the society "serves a vital community role in linking the past with the present, and raises the awareness for the need to preserve the rich history of the area," and expressed the wish that the grant would serve as a stimulus for others to give to the society.

The society is thrilled and grateful to receive this valuable support! We hope that residents and friends of Highland County will work with us to make this dream come to life.

Please send your tax-deductible contributions to:
HIGHLAND MUSEUM AND HERITAGE CENTER
POST OFFICE BOX 63
MCDOWELL, VIRGINIA 24458

"IF YOU DONT KNOW HISTORY, YOU DONT KNOW ANYTHING. YOU ARE A LEAF THAT DOESNT KNOW ITS PART OF A TREE."

Author Michael Crichton

EXTRAORDINARILY SUCCESSFUL: MCDOWELL BATTLEFIELD HERITAGE DAYS - 2003

The fifth McDowell Battlefield Heritage Days, sponsored by the Highland Historical Society and the Highland Chamber of Commerce was held on the weekend of May 3-4, 2003. The biennial event drew universal accolades from reenactors and visitors alike, and was the most successful event to date.



"Yankees" attempt to hold off the "Rebs"

Almost 1,000 Reenactors attended, making it now the largest Authentic 'Campaigner' event in the country. It featured a reenactment of the Battle of McDowell, complete with cavalry and cannon, on Saturday the 3rd. Both days featured 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.

The event brought history to life for visitors and reenactors throughout the weekend and raised almost five thousand dollars for the Highland Museum and Heritage Center. The event is now second only to the Maple Festival in visitor attendance and money raised for the county.

5TH ANNUAL HIGHLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY SCHOLARSHIP AWARDED TO ROBERT LOHR

The Highland Historical Society awarded its fifth annual scholarship to Highland High School graduating senior Robert Lohr, class of 2003.



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.

Mr. Lohr 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 Mr. Lohr and wish him all success in the future.

GIFT IDEAS!!!

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?** What a great gift to give to someone special!!!! For other gift ideas, see our order form page -page 6 (Join us and receive one of these certificates to show your support now!!!!)

DO YOU "OWN" A GRAVEYARD?

CEMETERY FAQs

Quite a few of us have old - and sometimes abandoned - graveyards on our properties. Often when unmarked or unknown burial places are unearthed, property owners, developers, and residents do not know how the graves should be handled.

(Of course, if you unexpectedly find human bones/remains the correct and legal thing to do is to leave them in place and contact the state police.)

But then what? The Department of Historic Resources has put together a list of answers to the most frequently asked questions regarding cemetery preservation, local regulations regarding human burials, and permits for conducting archaeology. Go to www.dhr.state.va.us and click on "Frequently Asked Questions."

BONNET and INTERPRETATION WORKSHOP

The society scheduled an all-day Bonnet Making and First-person-Interpretation Workshop last winter.

Held in the Highland Center, the workshop drew a large crowd of ladies, who enjoyed a full day of sewing and discussion in preparation for McDowell Battlefield Heritage Days '03.

Some fascinating tips and instruction were given by members of the Atlantic Guard Soldiers Aid Society.

QUERY COLUMN

Members may post queries

1. Query: GRAY FAMILY

Many of my relatives lived and died in Highland County from the late 1840's through the 1870's. I am trying to find more detailed information on them and any guidance would be deeply appreciated. The facts that I do know are that they lived in District 25 in 1850 and ultimately in Blue Grass in 1870. During that period, six family members passed and I'm quite certain were buried in Highland County. The head of the household was my great(x3) grandfather. His name was Joseph E. Gray and was 62 yrs old in 1860. His wife was Sarah and she was 63 yrs old in the same year. The children that died were Mary Susan (b.May 1862), Mary Elizabeth (b.May 1866), William Cyrus (b.Dec 1872), and Joseph Benjamin (b.Dec 1873). The surviving members of the family were James W. Gray (son of Joseph and Sarah), his wife Nancy, a son named Jonus and a daughter named Amelia. James also was a resident of Highland County before and after his service in the Civil War. They relocated to Kansas in 1878 leaving behind four buried children. I plan to visit Highland County and see if I can find my past family and any records that may remain. Any guidance that anyone could provide to help me on my search would be most appreciated.

Regards,

Steven W. Gray

Malvern, PA

e-mail: ev2603@msn.com

2. Query: CORBETT FAMILY

I am doing the family history on the Corbetts - Sharps - McLaughlin - Wilson. Looking for McDowell cemetery listings, too.

Margaret A. Corbett

HC 82 - Box 248-A

Marlinton WV 24954-9530

304-799-6285

3. Query: CURRY FAMILY

I am looking for information on James Curry b.1767 (?) Died 20 Feb 1832 in Pendleton Co WV - wife: Margaret "Jean"

QUERY COLUMN *cont from page 3*

Frances. Son of Dr. Robt Curry of Augusta Co. - Information is spread across many counties because of the dates they were formed. I know that James was an Elder in the Highland Co Presbyterian Church. I am trying to find out if my James Curry marched with others to Point Pleasant Battlefield. Did James provide any other service to the Revolution?

Cathy Little

550 SW Scherer Rd

Lee's Summit, MO 64082-1913

littlecathy@prodigy.net

4. Query: **ALEXANDER**

Researching for book on Spanish-Amer. War - One of the men was from Highland: Howard F. Alexander, son of John W. Alexander of Stonewall ((1835-1908.) He enlisted in 1893, birthplace: McDowell. Discharged in 1900, returned home. m: Elizabeth T. Sperry. Family: Minnie B. Alexander (b: 1858, m: John Stephenson); Cora (m: Emerson A. Johnson); Andrew A. Alexander (m: Mattie P. Whitmore); Sue S. Alexander (m: Hiner Hansel); Charles G. Alexander (m: Mary E. Hidy); Howard F. Alexander (m: Elizabeth T. Sperry). Info in 1880 census: John W. Alexander was a widower; his wife was Nancy S. Sitlington Sterret. Does anyone know of any descendants of Howard F. Alexander or his siblings?

David P. Perrine

Annandale, VA

703-284-7793

David.Perrine@wg.srs.com

5. Query: **PERRY**

Looking for info on great-uncle who is listed in the 1860 census as living in the household of one George Vanef (?) - His name was John O. Perry who served with the CSA from 1861-1865. Any local genealogist interested in doing some research?

Dlrose59@cs.com

6. Query: **KINCAID**

Are there any researchers available to do research on Kincaid, Benson and Bennett families?

Sue Stewart

suestewart@insight.rr.com

7. Query: **PETERSON'S STORE**

My grandfather, William Henry Davis Peterson lived in Monterey in the early 1900's and late 1890's. His son, my father, Charles Hanson Peterson, was very fond of Monterey and returned often to visit "Peterson's Store" which my grandfather owned and operated as a drygoods store on Main St. When I visited Monterey with my dad, we toured the town and went to the cemetery to the grave of his dad and his mother, Patty Slaven Peterson - they lived in McDowell and later moved to Pennsylvania. As I recall, Peterson's Store was next to an ESSO station on Main Street. Does anyone have photos and info - would like to visit and get photos for my children and grandchildren.

Thank You.

William B. Peterson

PO Box 5264

310 East Main St

Martinsville VA

wbp1000@yahoo.com

8. **LOCKRIDGE**

My ggg-grandparents settled in the lower Bullpasture River Valley in 1776 and raised a large family. Andrew Lockridge m. Jane Graham; I have many of their descendants in book which I am donating to the Highland Historical Society.

J. Harry Lockridge

jharrylou@cs.com

(NOTE: MR. LOCKRIDGE DONATED THIS BOOK TO HHS; IT IS NOW AVAILABLE FOR GENEALOGICAL RESEARCHERS. OUR THANKS TO MR. LOCKRIDGE.)

9. Query: **MCCLOUD**

Am working on Colonial Dames (War of 1812) and need death certificate for line from Jerome Bonaparte McCloud - b: 01 June 1815 (most likely in Highland Co.) And d: 20 Jan 1890 in Highland Co.

Is there anyone who could look for info for me; would like to get copy of the death certificate. Thank you.

paulajune@earthlink.net

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!

HIGHLAND COUNTY on THE INTERNET

DON'T FORGET:

**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 over 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)



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
- _____ **WHITE - MCDOWELL HERITAGE DAYS T-SHIRT** -with Bradley Schmehl art (sizes sm and med only)
\$15.00 plus \$2.00 s/h (Please indicate T-Shirt sizes and number of shirts) _____sm _____med
- _____ **BLACK - BATTLE OF MCDOWELL T-SHIRT**- featuring "Stonewall" Jackson
\$15.00 plus \$2.00 s/h (Please indicate T-Shirt sizes and number of shirts) _____sm _____med _____lg _____x-lg
- _____ Book: *Golldays in America* - \$15.00 plus \$3.00 s/h
- _____ Book: *Coler/Colaw Family in America* - \$15.00 plus \$3.00 s/h
- _____ **"RECONNAISSANCE AT MCDOWELL"**
CIVIL WAR PRINT -- by Bradley Schmehl -LIMITED EDITION: Numbered, signed by artist
\$225. Plus shipping (billed separately)

AND

YES! I WANT TO HELP MAKE THE DREAM OF THE HIGHLAND MUSEUM A REALITY!
Here is my tax-deductible donation of:

- \$25 \$50 \$100 \$250 * \$500** \$1,000*** \$2,500***
- \$5,000**** \$10,000 other

* For a gift of \$250.+, you will receive a Mapset of The Battle of McDowell.

**For a gift of \$500.+, your name will be inscribed on the special Donors plaque in the Museum, and you will receive a print of the first map done of Highland County: The 1847 Campbell Map.

***For a gift of \$1,000.+, your name will be inscribed on the special Donors plaque in the Museum, and you will receive a copy of Richard Armstrong's book: *The Battle of McDowell*

****For a gift of \$5,000.+, your name will be inscribed on the special Donors plaque in the Museum, and you will receive a print of Bradley Schmehl's painting: "Reconnaissance at McDowell"

Send to:
THE HIGHLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY.
BOX 63
MCDOWELL, VA 24458

Enclosed is my check for _____

(Please print clearly)

name _____

address _____

city _____ state _____ zip _____

THE HIGHLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY



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

MEMBERSHIP

PLEASE CHECK:

- Annual Individual..... \$5.00
- Family Membership..... \$15.00
- Annual Business or Organization..... \$25.00
- Life Membership..... \$150.00
- Patron - any amount over..... \$250.00

 2004 RENEWAL NEW

My gift for THE EXCITING NEW 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

JAMES BLAGG
3816 CANDLELIGHT CT
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22310

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!

