



THE HIGHLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

LETTER

Vol. 2 No. 1
Fall 1998

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

contents

ANNUAL MEETING - SOCIETY GRANT	page 1
1998 HIGHLAND HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR AWARD	page 2
MCDOWELL BATTLEFIELD DAYS - 1999	page 2
CIVIL WAR RECORD BOOK	page 2
HS ON THE INTERNET	page 3
1998 GIFTS TO HHS	page 3
1847 CAMPBELL MAP	page 4
STAUNTON-PARKERSBURG PIKE AND THE VALLEY CONSERVATION COUNCIL	page 5

HIGHLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY AWARDED GRANT FOR MANUSCRIPT GUIDE

The Highland Historical Society has been awarded a nine thousand dollar grant by the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities and Public Policy.

The grant - which was a joint effort with Bath County Historical Society and the Allegheny Highlands Genealogical Society - will be used in the preparation of a Highlands Region Manuscript Guide. The three societies have contracted with Dr. Charles A. Bodie of Lexington to assemble the reference work. It will be designed for both casual and scholarly researchers and will have extensive references to a variety of manuscript material on local history.

Dr. Bodie is presently beginning the anticipated year's research, and will prepare a draft copy for publication. He will also be holding several workshops on the importance of family, business and organizational papers in the writing of local history. The society will host a presentation for the general public by Dr. Bodie explaining the guide next spring.

ANNUAL MEETING JOHN HUTCHINSON OF VCC TO ADDRESS SOCIETY

The annual meeting Of the Highland Historical Society will be held on Sunday, December 13 at 3:00 o'clock in the Mountain View Room at the Highland Public Library in Monterey.

John Hutchinson, formerly Director of Communications of the Valley Conservation Council, will give a slide show and lecture on the Staunton-to-Petersburg Pike: its past and its future. (See associated article on the Pike project on Page 3.)

All members are invited to attend, and are eligible to vote for the 1999 Board of Directors.

Refreshments will be served following the meeting.

Have you remembered to renew your Highland Historical Society Membership? If not - please do - We need your help and support!



THE HIGHLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Post Office Box 63
McDowell, Virginia 24458

1997-98 Board of Directors:

*Diane Klein, Chairman
Sarah Samples, Secretary
Hazel Corbett, Treasurer
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John Field
Elizabeth Hefner
Jacob Hevener
Janet Mullenax
Norma Varner
Lorraine White
Kathryn Wright*

MCDOWELL BATTLEFIELD DAYS 1999



The third McDowell Battlefield Days, sponsored by the Highland Historical Society and the Highland Chamber of Commerce, will be held on the weekend of April 30-May 2, 1998.

The event, which draws visitors and reenactors from the entire East Coast, is expected to be a much larger one than in previous years, and will feature about 500 reenactors, as well as a Medical Reenactment. There will be horse-drawn wagon tours of the area, various lectures on the period, crafts, a fife and drum brigade, and living histories.

A period dance and entertainment is planned for Saturday night, May 1, and there will be a period church service on Sunday May 2.

The Highland Historical Society will once again present an authentic costuming workshop in January to allow interested persons a chance to begin to prepare costuming in time for the event.

(Please see the associated article on the Staunton-Parkersburg Pike on page 5)

For information on McDowell Days, please contact the Highland Chamber of Commerce at 540-468-2550, or write to the Highland Historical Society.

JOANNA WILSON AWARDED FIRST HIGHLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY SCHOLARSHIP

The Highland Historical Society awarded its first annual scholarship to Highland High School graduating senior Joanna Wilson, class of 1998. The society made the award based on recommendations made by the History Department at the school. Ms. Wilson was given a cash award and a certificate which reads "Award for Excellence for Outstanding Interest and Achievement in History by a graduating senior." The Highland Historical Society award to a graduating senior will be a yearly event.



Photo by Becky Stump
John and Regina Milliken present the 1862 Highland Confederate States War Tax Book to HHS chairman, Diane Klein

HIGHLAND CIVIL WAR TAX RECORD BOOK GIVEN TO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

John and Regina Milliken of Bloomfield, New Jersey made a special trip on September 25 to Highland County specifically to present some very special historical records to the Highland Historical Society. Society chairman Diane Klein expressed gratitude for the gift, which includes a book of the tax records for Highland during the year 1862. On its cover is written, "Highland CS War Tax 1862."

It is the last stop for the package of documents, which were found by the Millikens as they did some housecleaning in their attic.

After discovering exactly where the documents were from, Mrs. Milliken contacted the Highland Chamber of Commerce, where Executive Director Carolyn Pohowsky directed her to the Historical Society, and the subsequent meeting was arranged
con't page 3

The Millikens expressed bemusement at their trip, which included "crossing over all those mountains - and at night!" and planned to enjoy the trip home, with a chance to see some of Highland County - by daylight.

Mr. Milliken explained that his ancestors participated in every one of this country's wars, and surmised that one of those ancestors had been a part of the Union forces which briefly occupied parts of Highland County before being sent North by "Stonewall" Jackson after the battle of McDowell in 1862. Among items returning north with the soldier was the tax record book.

Mrs. Klein describes the book as "an absolutely fascinating piece of the county's history." Listing all of the residents of the county alphabetically, from George Armstrong to Jacob Yeager, one can find many present-day county names there. The entries list not only how many acres each person had, but how much money they had invested, how much cash they had on hand, and how many slaves they owned - and their values. It tells how many head of cattle, horses and mules, how many "pleasure carriages", how much silver plate and jewelry, how many pianos and even how many gold watches each person had. Each item is given a monetary value, and the total tax is then given.

On the last page of the book is a long paragraph written in elegant copperplate, which reads: "I, A. T. Stephenson Assessor of Real and personal property for the County of Highland, do swear That in making out the foregoing Book, I have to the best of my knowledge and ability, pursued the Laws of the Congress of the Confederate States, prescribing the duties of an Assessor, and that I have faithfully discharged the duties required of me by the acts of Congress aforesaid." It is signed "A. T. Stephenson Assessor", and below it reads "sworn to before me F. McNulty - a Justice of the County of Highland in the 6th day of February 1862." It is then signed "F. McNulty - J.P."

The society plans to have each page copied and made available for researchers in the Highland Public Library. The book itself is in quite excellent and readable condition; it will be stored in an archival container to protect it from damage and further

con't column 2

deterioration. In addition, the Millikens presented the society with a \$1000 Confederate bond with coupons attached, and a piece of newspaper from Vicksburg, dated July 4, 1863, detailing the siege and battle there. These items will be on display at the annual meeting on December 6.

OTHER GIFTS TO THE HIGHLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY IN 1998:

Donated by Bernice Alred - *Photographs of Highland County Churches by Ben Alred*

Donated by The Personal Touch, Monterey - *Percentage of the proceeds from the sale of prints of Monterey.*

Donated by Mr. Robert Walters - *The Lockridge Family History*

Donated by Ms. Nancy Peterson - *Video of the 1947 Highland Centennial Parade and Celebration*



HAVE YOU CHECKED OUT THE TERRIFIC SITE FOR HIGHLAND GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH ON THE INTERNET?

If you are interested in Highland history, and if you are doing genealogical research, make sure you check:

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

Just a few of the things you'll find:

- ▶ *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*

A special thanks to Coordinator Pat Sheild of the Highland Public Library.



photo by Becky Stump

Tom Atkeson, Judge Duncan Byrd, Jr. Hazel Corbett,
Sue Dudley Bobbi Hefner, Sarah Samples, Lorraine White

HIGHLAND'S FIRST MAP RETURNS TO THE COURTHOUSE

NUMBERED, LIMITED EDITION PRINTS AVAILABLE

In 1997, The Highland Historical Society had the 1847 Campbell Map of the county professionally restored. This year, the society had the map archivally mounted and reframed, and on November 12th, the map was formally presented for rehanging to Judge Duncan Byrd, Jr., at the Courthouse in Monterey. Highland Historical Society Board members Sarah Samples, Tom Atkeson, Bobbi Hefner, Lorraine White and Hazel Corbett also presented prints of the map to Sue Dudley and Judge Byrd.

The fragile map, which contains the names and locations of residents and places in the county - all written in the meticulous handwriting of the county's first surveyor and map-maker, Thomas Campbell - has been duplicated, and the society is selling extremely handsome full-sized numbered, limited edition prints of the map.

The prints each contain a brief biography of Campbell, and an attractive border has been added to further enhance the map. They sell for \$15.00 - plus \$3.00 for shipping and handling, and may be purchased by sending in the coupon below.

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

Please send me _____ copies of the print of the 1847 Campbell Map of Highland County.

I enclose my check for _____

(Please print clearly)

name _____

address _____

city _____ state _____ zip _____

(IF ORDER IS A GIFT) please send map to:

name _____ address _____ city _____ state _____ zip _____

PLEASE ENCLOSE GIFT CARD SIGNED _____

THE STAUNTON- PARKERSBURG PIKE

Valley Conservation Council: What is its role in the Pike's future in Highland County?

The Staunton-Parkersburg Pike (U.S. 250 and Va. 254) is the byway that Confederates used to march from Staunton to the May 8, 1862 Battle of McDowell.

They were tired, dirty and footsore, and their eyes burned with the bright intensity of hunger. Loping along a dusty, meandering country road, they more closely resembled a pack of wolves than the last hope of a desperate Confederacy.

But these Southerners were destined for greatness, and the road they marched on would carry them to the first victory in what was to become the legendary 1862 Shenandoah Valley Campaign. Their leader, Gen. Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson, would emerge as one of the fiercest, most talented warriors this country has ever produced.

The story of these hard-bitten country boys who out-marched and outfought four Union armies in 30 days is inextricably woven with the roads they used, for wherever these soldiers traveled, they affected everyone and everything around them. The roads carried them to battles, to campsites, to homes and farms and graveyards.

On Dec. 13, at the Annual Meeting of the Highland Historical Society, John Hutchinson, formerly with the Valley Conservation Council, will address the importance of the Staunton-Parkersburg Pike and its future. He stresses that: "the importance of the corridor should not be underestimated. This unspoiled byway tells an important part of the story of the Valley's rich cultural and historic heritage, and has remained relatively untouched by development - largely because the lands associated with it have remained in farm and forestry uses for many generations." Participants in McDowell Battlefield Days have repeatedly expressed their appreciation of the unexploited nature of the area which allows an
con't column 2

unusually authentic experience for reenactors and visitors alike.

The Valley Conservation Council is committed to helping private landowners and communities implement conservation tools that will guarantee the preservation of the unique rural qualities found in Highland County. It seeks to help the community plan for a future that may include population growth with an increased demand for resources, yet which will allow for the conservation of the rural character and agricultural way of life that has defined the area since the mid 1700's.

Faye Cooper, Executive Director of VCC, says that because major development along the corridor has not been widespread, preservation and conservation efforts are much more likely to bear fruit. Also, she says, the lack of incompatible development gives the public greater access to natural, cultural or historic sites. The actual site of Jackson's first victory at McDowell is regarded by experts as one of the most pristine battlegrounds in the country.

"There are few intrusions at McDowell to mar the historic character of the place," Ms. Cooper declares. "The road that led to the site of the battle also retains much of its original character. For those who are interested in tracing and reliving a part of their American heritage, these factors are invaluable."

The Staunton-Parkersburg Pike was first used by Confederates in 1861 to reach the western portions of the state (now West Virginia) in an effort to stem a Federal advance from that direction. Jackson's use of what is now portions of U.S. 250 to get his men to McDowell marked the beginning of the end of a Federal drive to capture the Shenandoah Valley. Once he defeated Union Gen. Robert Milroy at McDowell, Jackson swept back into the Valley to bedevil and then outright whip Federal armies at Front Royal, Port Republic and Cross Keys.

But the Staunton-Parkersburg Pike continued to serve Confederates manning defenses on Shenandoah Mountain. Control of these mountain areas allowed the Confederacy to keep fighting in the Valley as late as 1864.

At December's meeting, Mr. Hutchinson will discuss the Pike's future, and exactly what the role of the Valley Conservation Council will be in its future.

partially reprinted from The Staunton Daily News Leader

THE HIGHLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY



attn: Hazel Corbett, Treasurer
HCR 4 - Box 135 - Mustoe, Virginia 24465

MEMBERSHIP

Annual Individual..... \$5.00
 Annual Business or Organization..... \$25.00
 1998 1999 RENEWAL NEW
 Life Membership..... \$150.00
 Patron - any amount over..... \$250.00
Gift to the Endowment Fund for future 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

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please note:(If you have not paid your dues for 1998, you will notice a RED MARK beside your name on the mailing label. To keep your membership current, and to receive future mailings - and to have a vote at the annual meeting, your dues need to be paid no later than November 23, 1998.)

WE ARE NOW COLLECTING DUES FOR 1999.

Please help keep YOUR Historical Society active by continuing your support.