



THE HIGHLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

LETTER

Vol. 6 No. 1
Winter 2002

*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

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ANNUAL MEETING

PRESENTATION ON THE FUTURE MUSEUM

The annual meeting of the Highland Historical Society will be held on **Sunday, January 19, at 2:30 p.m.** in the Mountain View Room at the Highland County Public Library.

There will be a presentation made about the new Highland Museum and Heritage Center, with a discussion about its history, and its future role as a visitors center and as a much-needed safe repository for Highland County's history.

All members of the society are invited to attend, and are eligible to vote for the 2003 Board of Directors. Refreshments will be served following the meeting.

(Snow date: Sun., Jan 26)

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

HIGHLAND'S NEW MUSEUM!!

HIGHLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY SUCCESS STORY CONTINUES!



OPEN-HOUSE SHOWS OFF HIGHLAND'S MUSEUM- TO-BE

Excitement continues to grow about the successful beginnings of the long-awaited Highland Museum and Heritage Center. Located in the historic 1851 George Washington Hull house on the old historic Staunton-to-Parkersburg Turnpike in McDowell, the future museum will house the all-too-rapidly disappearing historical artifacts which document the county's history. Also planned to serve as a
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HIGHLAND MUSEUM - *con't from page 1)*

much needed orientation center for the county and for the McDowell Battlefield, the building 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.

Much work is needed to bring this dream to full reality, of course

On Sunday, October 13, 2002, almost two hundred people came to visit as the society held an Open House. Exhibits of plans and schematic drawings offered a chance to see what the museum/orientation center will look like, and gave the visitors an idea of how the beautiful and spacious rooms - and the grounds - will be used. Also on exhibit were greatly enlarged photographs showing scenes of Highland County in years long past.

And now the work begins!

The society has mailed out brochures about the museum, and is beginning a major fund-raising effort. If you have not received a brochure, please email us or drop us a line and we will be delighted to mail you a copy.

A grant from the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation funded a Feasibility Study which will guide the society in its work to restore the building and prepare it to house Highland's treasured past. 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.

Major work will need to be done: the first priority is to install the climate control and security arrangements which will be needed to protect the contents of the museum. Stabilization of both exterior and interior is needed. And then the work will begin to showcase and display Highland's history.

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!



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



MCDOWELL BATTLEFIELD HERITAGE DAYS - 2003

The fifth McDowell Battlefield Heritage Days, sponsored by the Highland Historical Society and the Highland Chamber of Commerce will be held on the weekend of **May 3-4, 2003**. The biennial event draws universal accolades from reenactors and visitors alike.

Almost 1,000 Reenactors will be coming, making it now the largest Authentic 'Campaigner' event in the country. It will feature a reenactment of the Battle of McDowell, complete with cavalry and cannon, on Saturday the 3rd. Both days will feature 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 will bring history to life for visitors and reenactors throughout the weekend. Make sure you come - and bring some guests - to enjoy this unique experience!

For more information, visit the special website which has been set up for the event:

www.mcdowell1862.com

and then follow the links to the Visitor Information pages. You can also call the Highland Chamber of Commerce at **540-468-2550** for information.

5TH ANNUAL HIGHLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY SCHOLARSHIP AWARDED TO DREW SULLENBERGER

The Highland Historical Society awarded its fourth annual scholarship to Highland High School graduating senior Drew Sullenberger, class of 2002.

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. Sullenberger 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. Sullenberger and wish him 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 and receive one of these certificates to show your support now!!!!

HHS TO RE-PUBLISH MATHENY HIGHLAND VITAL-RECORDS BOOK

The Highland Historical Society is very pleased to announce that it is in the process of preparing the reprint of the much-sought-after book: *Vital Records of Highland County, Virginia*.

Originally compiled and written by Mrs. Emma Robertson Matheny, the book has long been out of print, and the limited number of copies have been generally unavailable to the public. One copy is presently located in the Highland County Public Library in Monterey, but is not available for loans. The book contains tombstone inscriptions, county death records from 1853-1870 & 1912-1917, and county marriage records from 1847-1853 & 1896-1912.

Mrs. Matheny's family has graciously consented to allow the society to republish this work. In addition, the society has also been given a large number of additions compiled by Richard Armstrong. This information will be included in the new book.

A publication date has not yet been fixed, but those interested in purchasing copies when they become available are urged to check the society's website for the publication announcement.

Publication and purchase announcement will also be made in the Recorder.



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)

Do you want 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.

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!

BONNET WORKSHOP TO BE RESCHEDULED IN SPRING

The society had scheduled an all-day Bonnet Making and First-person-Interpretation Workshop for November 9, 2002. The society was to sponsor the workshop which was to be given by members of the Atlantic Guard Soldiers Aid Society. It was cancelled at the last moment because of a sudden death in the family of the workshop's leader.

The workshop will be rescheduled in the spring of 2003, in time for participants to prepare for McDowell Battlefield Heritage Days; an announcement will be made in The Recorder, and posters will be put up with location and price information.

QUERY COLUMN

Members may post queries

1. On page 115 of *Vital Records of Highland County* there is a list of grave stones in the Campbell Family Cemetery. I have a special use permit from USFS to spruce it up; I am descended from the Lightners. On page 115 there is reference to the Old Thomas Campbell Cemetery one mile off 600 on 603. I have not been able to find this cemetery. Does anyone know where it is?
Steve Bast - email: Sbast3315@aol.com

2. Does anyone know who I can contact for information about the Callihans, Birds, Lockridges, Kincaids and Steuarts?
Martie Callihan - email: mcallihan2@mindspring.com

3. I am searching for information on Robert McGlaughlin listed as death about 1840. Am researching McGlaughlin, John - 1794c-Jackson's River Valley, n. Pinckney - same locality.
Gerald McLaughlin - email: webatoz@pachell.net

4. Hope to build in Highland in next few years: family history near Bolar dating back to 1700's. Can anyone tell me about Gulf Mountain in Highland County? It is listed with other summits in the county at the website:

<http://216.176.192.172/peaklists/summits/va/highland.htm>

Thanks.
Steve McFarlane - email: swmyem@juno.com

5. Does anyone know where the Curry-Doyle Cemetery is located? I have also seen this cemetery listed as "Doyle" cemetery. I have heard it is near the Highland-Bath county line in Little Egypt. Would appreciate any information.
Craig Schultz - email: Craigwhiz@aol.com

6. Does anyone have information on my ancestor James Smiley - head brickmason on the McClung house?
Lena Smiley - email: rale4456@hotmail.com

7. I have been working on the Jared Morgan Fox family c Highland - he is my G-G-grandfather. I have located the Jared Fox family gravesite on Rt 609. I am searching for Jared's father, who I think is Isaac Fox of Bath Co. Morton's book states that Jared M and William H. Fox are brothers. Does anyone have knowledge of the Fox's of Highland Co.? Any remaining descendants? Anyone researching the Wm. H. Fox family? Also, does anyone know where the (I believe it was German Baptist) Tunker Church is or was located?

Myrtle Smith - email: MSmith2313@aol.com

REXRODE TO AMERICA

by William D. Rexroad - Hutchinson, Kansas

On a recent trip to WV and Virginia for genealogical research I had the opportunity to visit with several Rexrode/Rexroad people and to read family history books. I was disappointed to learn that there is widespread misbelief about when our pioneering ancestor, Johannes Zacharias Rexroth came to America. He did not come on the ship Harle in 1736 at age 11; researchers agree that, born in 1725 in Erbach, Odenwald, Germany, he was indeed first of the line to come here, but nothing shows that he came on the Harle in 1736.

The notion that he did appears to have been taken from Walter Eye's book *A History of the Descendants of Zacharie Rexroad of Pendleton County, Virginia (West Virginia)*. Eye wrote: "I am of the opinion that he was the eleven-year-old la who landed in Philadelphia on September 1, 1736 from the ship Harle..." But the name Johannes Zacharias Rexroth does not appear on either the A or B passenger list. There is a Johannes Zacharias listed, who was shown to be 26 years of age. Our J.Z Rexroth was only 11 years old in 1736. And finally, passengers younger than 16 were not named on these lists, so there is no way to conclude that Johannes Zacharias Rexroth was on that ship.

When did he come? Most likely he was on the ship Albany that came to Philadelphia in 1749. His is so listed in Ella Gieg's book *Asuswanderungen aus dem Odenwaldkries, Band IV*. Also, Vol. 1 of Strassburger & Hinke's *Pennsylvania German Pioneers* contains a list of those from the ship Albany who took the Oath to the Government (C list) on 2 Sept., 1749. Included is the name Johann(es) Zacharias ---roth. His actual signature is shown, but the first three letters of the surname are difficult to decipher. A sample of early German handwriting show a match with R as the first letter. The second letter could well be an e. The third letter could be anything. This would give the name Re-roth.

Although we cannot be absolutely certain that Johannes Zacharias Rexroth came to America on the Albany in 1749, this seems the most likely possibility. We see his name of records in Pennsylvania after that date, but not before. His name has not been found on any other ship. So this may be as close as we can come to a conclusion about his arrival in America.



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 (Please indicate T-Shirt sizes and number of shirts) _____ sm _____ med
_____ Book: *Golldays 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)

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

<input type="checkbox"/> Annual Individual.....	\$5.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Family Membership.....	\$15.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Annual Business or Organization.....	\$25.00
__2003__ RENEWAL __NEW	
<input type="checkbox"/> Life Membership.....	\$150.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Patron - any amount over.....	\$250.00
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

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!