

N E W S



THE HIGHLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

L E T T E R

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*"Helping Preserve Highland County's Past
for the Enrichment of Present and Future Generations"*

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THE HIGHLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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2005 Board of Directors:

Diane Klein, Chairman
Sarah Samples, Secretary
Margaret Ralston, Treasurer
Lynette Armstrong,
Larry Bandy
William Crisp
Clay Hamilton
Janet Mullenax
Tate Swecker
Lorraine White
Charles Michael Wilke

CLEANING YOUR ATTIC?

The Museum is looking for donations: please call 396-hist (4478) or stop by!

ANNUAL MEETING NOV.6, 2005

The annual meeting of the Highland Historical Society will be held Sunday, November 6 at 3:00 p.m. at the Blue Grass Ruritan Club, and will coincide with a special chance to visit and tour the New Hampden Mill. The program at the meeting will be "HIGHLAND COUNTY HOMEMAKING IN YEARS PAST." It should be fascinating, delightful, and informative!

All members of the society are urged to attend, and are eligible to vote for the 2005 Board of Directors. Refreshments will be served following the meeting.

PLEASE DON'T FORGET TO RENEW YOUR HIGHLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP TODAY!!! YOUR DUES HELP KEEP THE MUSEUM DOORS OPEN - AND SUPPORT THE SOCIETY'S MANY OTHER PROJECTS, TOO!

HIGHLAND COUNTY'S MUSEUM and HERITAGE CENTER OPENING DAY



At last! After years of hope, and planning - and lots of hard work, the long-awaited dream of a Highland Museum and Heritage Center came true on May 7, 2005!

This exciting event was the centerpiece and showcase event of the 2005 McDowell Battlefield Heritage Days, and attracted folks from all over the country. (See photos from the event on page 3)

NEWS FROM THE HIGHLAND MUSEUM & HERITAGE CENTER:



INTRODUCING THE HIGHLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Highland Historical Society is delighted to announce that it has hired Crysta Stephenson Stanton as its Executive Director for 2005.

A native of Highland County, Crysta comes to the society with a strong educational and professional background in journalism and history. She served as the coordinator for the 2005 McDowell Battlefield Heritage Days event, and since then, has been working on the society's many projects, records and files. She helps oversee the society's grant work and manages much of the new Highland Museum and Heritage Center's day-to-day activities.

A gift from a generous donor to the society has made this position possible this year.

WHAT FUN!

The first "class" of docents has just "graduated" - and are now working at the museum!

DOCENT - \vɪ [fr. L. *docens*, prp. of *docere* to teach] : TEACHER,
LECTURER; *also* : a person who leads a guided tour



In the Highland County Museum, our docents 'take' one day a month - (or more, if they want to) - and come in to open the museum, greet visitors, answer questions, and then close the museum in the afternoon. Interested and interesting people come to visit the museum, and it is a wonderful opportunity to get to know some of our visitors, and to answer any questions they have about the museum, about the exhibits, and about Highland. Docent training time takes only a couple of hours in one evening; the next session is now planned for October. We'd be delighted to have you join us! If you are interested in joining - or just want to find out more information, please call Crysta at 396-4478.

new MUSEUM HOURS

The museum has extended its hours and is now open 5 days a week - through October:

Wednesday through Saturday: 11-4

Sunday: 1-4

Please bring your guests and visitors to enjoy this wonderful glimpse of Highland and its history!

... and the work continues !!!

After the excitement of the opening, we all took a deep breath - and regrouped - and reorganized.

But now, work has started up again in the museum, and the excitement now centers around the drive to complete the Library/Genealogy Room, and the Gift Shop. We look forward to these rooms being completed this fall!

... but THE BIG NEWS WILL BE: THE EDUCATION CENTER!

You will be getting a mailing about this soon. This is a tremendously exciting project! Watch for the mail!



7TH ANNUAL HIGHLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY SCHOLARSHIP AWARDED TO DEIDRE HINER

The Highland Historical Society awarded its seventh annual scholarship to Highland High School graduating senior Deidre Hiner, class of 2005.

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. Hiner 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. Hiner and wish her all success in the future.

Member Thomas Shrader in Henderson NV asked us to inform members that he has a website for expanding the history of the 25th, 31st and 62nd Virginia Infantry Regiments in the Civil War: www.alleghenymountain.org

**PLEASE BE SURE TO CHECK OUT OUR
NEW, REVISED
HIGHLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY
WEBSITE:
www.highlandhistoricalsociety.com**

HAVE YOU SEEN "THE BATTLE OF MCDOWELL?"

The exciting documentary film, "The Battle of McDowell" is now playing in the Battlefield Orientation Center room in the Highland Museum.

Produced by the society, the film was made by WideAwake Films, a professional documentary film company in Kansas City, Missouri. Funded by the society, and from grants from the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities, the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation, the film has been winning universal acclaim.

It can be seen in the museum, and is available for purchase from the society. (What a great gift!)

SOCIETY'S DUES INCREASE

The Highland Historical Society's Board of Directors voted in August to increase the society's dues. This increase is the first time dues have increased since the society first began, and will become effective on January 1, 2006.

The board felt that the increase is vital to the society's ability to continue support for our many projects - most especially the wonderful new Highland Museum and Heritage Center.

What are the advantages to our members?

Well, first of all - and certainly most important - is the knowledge that you are helping to preserve Highland's unique history and heritage! You have the satisfaction of knowing that you are doing something truly wonderful and valuable for the generations who will come after us!

Individual Members receive a membership card, and a full subscription to the society's newsletter. AND a 10% discount in the museum gift shop! (This is new!)

Family Members receive membership cards and a full subscription to the society's newsletter. AND the 10% discount in the museum gift shop!

Business and Organization Members receive membership cards, a full subscription to the society's newsletter, the 10% discount in the museum gift shop and in addition, Business and Organization Members receive a very handsome framed membership certificate with the society's gold seal - demonstrating support for the society's goals to protect the county's heritage!

Life Members receive a Life Membership card, a very handsome framed membership certificate with the society's gold seal, a full subscription to the society's newsletter, the 10% discount in the museum gift shop, free admission tickets to McDowell Battlefield Heritage Days, and special invitations to receptions, Exhibit Opening parties, and all museum events.

Patrons receive a Life Membership card, a full subscription to the society's newsletter, the 10% discount in the museum gift shop, free admission tickets to McDowell Battlefield Heritage Days, and special invitations to receptions, Exhibit Opening parties, and all museum events, and an engraved name plate on the Special Donors Plaque in the front hall of the Highland Museum and Heritage Center.

We urge your support for the society, and for the Highland museum. Funds may be specified for a specific project, for the Endowment Fund, for the museum itself, or as an unrestricted gift. Please join us in our stated mission:

**"HELPING PRESERVE HIGHLAND COUNTY'S
PAST FOR THE ENRICHMENT OF PRESENT
AND FUTURE GENERATIONS."**

PHOTOGRAPHS FROM THE OPENING DAY OF THE HIGHLAND MUSEUM AND HERITAGE CENTER



ON THE PODIUM, DAN STICKLEY, DEL. CHRIS SAXMAN, SEN. EMMETT HANGER, DIANE KLEIN, ROBIN SULLENBERGER WATCH AS BOB GOODLATTE DELIGHTS THE CROWD



SUPERVISOR ROBIN SULLENBERGER TALKS ABOUT THE VALUE OF THE MUSEUM TO HIGHLAND COUNTY



SVBF CHAIRMAN DAN STICKLEY & SEN. EMMETT HANGER



GOODLATTE RECEIVES 2005 CHRISTMAS ORNAMENT PICTURING THE MUSEUM FROM CHAMBER DIRECTOR CAROLYN POHOWSKY



GOODLATTE PRESENTS PLAQUE TO HHS CHAIRMAN DIANE KLEIN



MUSIC BY THE FEDERAL CITY BRASS BAND

McDOWELL BATTLEFIELD HERITAGE DAYS 2005

The sixth McDowell Battlefield Heritage Days was held on the weekend of May 7-8, 2005.

The biennial event, which draws universal accolades from reenactors and visitors alike, is now the largest "campaigner" (meaning: extremely authentic) event in the United States! About 1,000 Reenactors attended the event, which was promoted as a very special Preservation Weekend, with all monies being raised to support the establishment of the Highland Museum and Heritage Center - with its central role as an Orientation and Information center for the Battle of McDowell.



"Stonewall" Jackson



Spectators experience battle 'close-up' at McDowell Battlefield Heritage Days!

A special exhibit in the museum's Orientation Center highlights and explains the complex avocation of the reenactors. It is currently the only museum which recognizes the unique contributions made by the reenactment community to the preservation of our history.

The weekend featured the Grand Opening of the museum, and was deemed a great success by organizers, visitors and participants.



The Mill at New Hampden

THE NEW HAMPDEN MILL: THE HIGHLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S NEWEST CHALLENGE

"HELPING PRESERVE HIGHLAND COUNTY'S PAST FOR THE ENRICHMENT OF PRESENT AND FUTURE GENERATIONS."

The society has taken another bold step in its efforts to save and preserve the county's history. This time, the effort focuses on the beautiful and historic New Hampden mill in Blue Grass.

We have signed a contract which allows us just one year to raise the funds to save the mill, and keep it preserved here in Highland County.

This is a real challenge for the society, and for all of those who love Highland County and its history. It coincides with our attempts to make the Highland Museum & Heritage Center a vital, living asset in the county. What a challenge for a county of 2300+ people, and its friends!

This beautiful piece of our history is at risk of being demolished and moved out of the county - if we don't succeed in raising the funds to purchase and preserve it.

We are starting the fund-raising with this newsletter, and will continue the effort in 2006. If our efforts are not successful, all donations will be returned to the donors upon request, or applied to the Highland Museum Fund.

Will Highland County - and those who love it care enough to preserve this beautiful piece of our history?

We are hoping.....!

Please send your tax-deductible contributions to:
**HIGHLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY
SAVE THE NEW HAMPDEN MILL FUND
POST OFFICE BOX 63
MCDOWELL, VIRGINIA 24458**



THE HIGHLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

attn: Treasurer

Post Office Box 63 - 161 Mansion House Road
McDowell, Virginia 24458

MEMBERSHIP

PLEASE CHECK:

- Annual Individual..... \$15.00
- Family Membership..... \$25.00
- Annual Business or Organization..... \$25.00
- Life Membership..... \$250.00
- Patron - any amount over..... \$500.00

RENEWAL

NEW MEMBERSHIP

My gift for the **HIGHLAND MUSEUM & HERITAGE CENTER**..... _____

My gift for saving **The New Hampden Mill**..... _____

name _____

address _____

city _____ *state* _____ *zip* _____ - _____

All dues and contributions are tax-deductible



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POST OFFICE BOX 63
161 MANSION HOUSE ROAD
MCDOWELL, VIRGINIA 24458

PLEASE RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP TODAY - WE NEED YOUR HELP!