

Highlands Historical Society

Fall 2011

To preserve and promote the rich heritage of Highlands

Highlands, N. C.

MEET THE NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Please join me in welcoming our new Board members for 2014. We know that they come with enthusiasm and energy to help make HHS better than ever before.

Welcome Ann Sullivan, a face well known to us here. Ann has a wealth of knowledge and energy that she has readily shared to help us improve our Museum. She is the wife of Claude Sullivan, whose family ties to Highlands go back almost one hundred years. Claude's grandfather was William W. Sullivan who purchased the Anderson home on Fifth Street in 1926. She is a talented designer who is active throughout the community.

Kitty Moore is a long-time seasonal resident of Highlands and an active volunteer helping Highlands wherever she can. Yes, you know Kitty maybe from the Laurel Garden Club, the Bascom, the Hudson Library Board, the Presbyterian Church, or Bel Canto. Need I say more? Kitty and husband Pat love Highlands and work diligently to share their enthusiasm with everyone. Kitty's energy and organizational skills will be a great benefit to us at HHS.

Brian McClellan is the current chairman of the Macon County Board of Commissioners. He and his wife, Julie, have twin sons, Matthew and Luke, who graduated from Highlands School. Julie is the much-loved Kindergarten teacher at Highlands School. Brian is a financial advisor for Edward Jones Investments. Because of his love of history, Brian has been a frequent volunteer at HHS for several years. As HHS progresses to implement its Long-range Plan, Brian will be an invaluable resource. Tireless energy, a wealth of knowledge, a love of Highlands, these are all great assets for HHS.

Allen "Buck" Trott will be returning to the HHS Board for a second term. A military man (pilot) and

later active in community service, Buck has been actively working to better his environment in every town he lived. Mayor Buck Trott led our town for eight years. He is active with the Boy Scouts, the Highlands Rotary, the Episcopal Church and so much more. Oh yes, he is Santa Claus to all the youngsters around. Buck and wife, Jean, are seen throughout our community welcoming folks to the area and making sure that they feel at home. Buck is a tireless volunteer who loves HHS and serves with vigor.

These four energetic, talented individuals will join the other eight HHS Board members to lead HHS for the coming three years. Please give them your support and offer to volunteer any way that you can to make HHS bigger and better.

THANK YOU TO OUTGOING BOARD MEMBERS

To each member of the HHS Board we offer a heart-felt Thank You for your work and dedication this year. You have laid out the course and set the example of where we needed to go. It was then up to each of us as worker-bees to join you in getting the work done. A special word of gratitude is given to outgoing Board members Jeannie Chambers, Ginny Harris, and Wiley Sloan, whose terms expire 12/31/11. To Buck, you are especially endearing in that you will be serving for another term.

Oh, I almost forgot. Now that you are not on the Board, Jeannie, Ginny, and Wiley, you will be members of the Advisory Board. These are the folks who work so diligently sharing ideas, volunteering, and sharing their love of Highlands history with everyone they meet. Your service to HHS is not over; it is just moving to another level.

President's Letter

Dear HHS Supporters:

Thanksgiving has passed and Christmas is near. Our 2011 year at HHS is nearing the end. First and foremost, I say "Thank You" to everyone who helped us this year. It sounds so trite to say it, but it is true: "We really could not have done it without each one of you."

To Ran Shaffner and his associate and assistant Archivists who have organized and catalogued our artifacts, we owe a huge debt of gratitude. Our Museum Docents have greeted guests and guided tours 3 days per week (Friday, Saturday, and Sunday). Others have manicured the landscape, cleaned the buildings, created and organized the events, and so much more. To retiring Board members Jeannie Chambers and Ginny Harris, a special Thank you for your dedication and hard work.

All of this effort was expended for YOU, the History buff who has supported HHS. You are the reason for our being here. Record numbers of you have visited the Museum this past year. Thank you for your interest in our area's history.

2011 has been an exciting year for HHS. Attendance at "History Live" (Walk in the Park) was up almost 20%, despite rain on Friday night. Our first annual Dazzling Dahlias Festival and Patrons Party was a huge success, thanks to the leadership and creativity of Joyce Franklin and her dedicated committee. Youngsters filled the Museum this fall as Elaine Whitehurst, Sue Potts, and Linda David hosted Kelsey Kids, where they taught about living on the plateau at the turn of the century. Many came to see the two new rotating exhibits: "The Roads that lead to Highlands" and "Golf on the Plateau." We also saw an increased interest in the exhibits that focused on schools, churches, and homes in our area plus family genealogy. We've completed more of our "ancestor interviews for the Oral History Project" and are working diligently to put the Prince House on the National Registry of Historic Houses. We hosted various groups from throughout the region to share our history and learn new ideas.

You've purchased an amazing number of books and commemorative items focusing on Highlands history. If you need a Christmas or birthday gift, go to our website (www.highlandshistory.com) and choose a book by a local author or post cards and photographs of our area. Let us ship the item for you; it's so easy and the recipient will love you for it.

The HHS Board of Directors has exciting plans for 2012. These plans include expanded Museum exhibits, exciting events (both tried and new) including the 2nd annual Dazzling Dahlias Festival and so much more. 2012 is going to really be a winner. Please plan to come and bring your friends.

December is a time when many folks decide on their Year-end giving. Please remember HHS as you think about those non-profit organizations that you wish to donate to. Yes, it is membership renewal time also. Please send your checks to HHS, P. O. Box 670, Highlands, NC 28741 or go to www.highlandshistory.com. See you next year at the Museum.

Wiley Sloan

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

- Wiley Sloan, President
- Allen "Buck" Trott, Vice President
- Jeannie Chambers, Recording Secretary
- Betty Holt, Corresponding Secretary
- Beverly Quin, Treasurer
- Joyce Franklin, Ginny Harris, Dennis Leftwich, Eric NeSmith, Linda New, Sandie Trevathan, and Wade Wilson,
- Archivist and Ex Officio Director, Ran Shaffner
- Associate Archivists, Sue Potts & Carolyn Patton
- Assistant Archivists, Nathalie Sato & Anne Sellers
- Wiley Sloan, Newsletter Editor
- Brian Stiehler, Grounds Superintendent

ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS

- Mary Berry, Martha Betz, Isabel Chambers, Tommy Chambers, Leila Chapman, Geri Crowe, Dennis DeWolf, Lewis Doggett, Jim Green, Ginny Harris, LaDonna Keener, Tammy Lowe, Alan Marsh, Gladys McDowell, Carolyn Patton, Sue Potts, Terry Potts, Tony Potts, John Schiffl, Ran Shaffner, Ed Talley, Derek Taylor, Luther Turner, Ronnie Waller, Elaine Whitehurst, Jim Whitehurst, Dennis Wilson, Kathleen Wilson, Walter Wingfield, Mary Lou Worley

Officers Elected to Begin Serving in 2012

- Allen "Buck" Trott, President
- Sandie Trevathan, Vice President
- Eric NeSmith, Recording Secretary
- Betty Holt, Corresponding Secretary
- Beverly Quin, Treasurer

RENEWED YOUR MEMBERSHIP?

- We hope you will do it now.
- Family \$50 • Individual \$35 • Sustainer \$100
- Business \$250 • Promoter \$500 • Preserver \$1,000
- Protector \$2,500 • Highlander \$5,000
- And we hope you will add a donation, as many of you have done so generously in the past.
- Highlands Historical Society
- Post Office Box 670
- Highlands, NC 28741-0670

Book Review

Remembering Highlands: From Pioneer Village to Mountain Retreat

Authors: Isabel and Tony Chambers

Tony Chambers tells me, “This book came about through a circuitous fashion. Isabel came naturally to storytelling through her father and grandparents. She enjoyed listening to older folks and their tales. She has entertained various groups over the years in addition to recording the lives of many of our pioneers. Overton “Tony” has been writing fiction for a number of years and was first published several years ago. Perhaps our Publishers, The History Press, said it best, he continues,

“Highlands, North Carolina, is not just home to cool mountain breezes, breath taking views and world class shopping and restaurants—it also boasts a rich and vibrant history. What started as a dream of two developers in 1875 has grown from a tiny hamlet into a beloved home and home-away-from-home for many. Join sixth generation Highlands native Isabel Hall Chambers and her husband,

Overton (Tony) Chambers, as they share charming tales of old Highlands from lazy summer days playing ‘town ball’ to ice-skating and celebrating Christmas. Woven into this collection of articles from the Laurel are true stories of some of the area’s grand old homes, its traditions and an array of interesting residents and visitors through the years, as told by fathers and grandfathers, old post cards, letters, deeds and even tomb stones. Everyone who loves this unique mountain community will delight in *Remembering Highlands.*”

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This book is available from the Historical Society via its website at www.highlandshistory.com, by leaving a message at 828-787-1050, or at local bookstore, Shakespeare and Company. It is also available via Barnes and Noble and Amazon (print or e-book).

KELSEY KIDS

HHS took advantage of fall break in the Macon County school calendar to offer “Kelsey Kids” a constructive way to enhance their local history education. A visit to Foxfire in Mountain City, Georgia, included demonstrations of blacksmithing, woodworking, spinning and weaving and other crafts. Each child cranked the bellows in the blacksmith shop, ran a draw-knife on a piece of wood, and used a paddle to beat dirt from clothes the way pioneers did. At Highlands Country Club they enjoyed a hayride around the golf course with Brian Stiehler and took a try at golf. “The Kids saw Jennifer Schmitt milk a cow by hand, and they “helped” Rick Havron gather eggs from his 400 laying hens.”

Samuel Kelsey as portrayed by actor Dean Zuch greeted the youngsters at the chimney behind The Falls on Main, which is all that remains of the Kelsey Home. In classes at the Historical Museum, they learned about playing a dulcimer, clogging, quilting and crocheting, all interwoven with lessons about

early Highlands pioneers. Lunch was served free each day, including one “mountain meal,” consisting of country ham and biscuits, butterbeans, “leather britches” (green beans that were dried when fresh and then reconstituted), and sugar cookies. To culminate the class, they hiked the Ranger Falls Trail with Jim Whitehurst and Bill Rethorst who gave them a lesson on nature.

“Kelsey Kids” is an interactive week of learning for children aged 8, 9 and 10. Volunteers Elaine Whitehurst and Sue Potts were joined by Linda David for the 2011 year. An Eckerd Family Foundation grant enables HHS to offer the Kelsey Kids program at no cost to youngsters.

The 2012 Kelsey Kids camp is planned for the second week after school finishes for the summer. If you know youngsters who are full-time students in the area that would enjoy this program, please contact the Historical Society at 828-787-1050 or via the website at www.highlandshistory.com.

2011 DAZZLING DAHLIAS-WOW! AN EVENT TO REMEMBER

2011 was our inaugural year for the exciting Dazzling Dahlias Patrons Party and Flower Show. Chairperson Joyce Franklin and her dedicated volunteers created a premier event that drew hundreds of people to the Historic Village to see the beautiful flowers that everyone had grown. Photographer Kay Deckman created a most memorable poster. Artist Diane McPhail generously donated a beautiful original painting of dahlias to be auctioned. Guests swarmed the grounds of the historic

Bascom home on Horse Cove Road to enjoy dinner under the stars. Thank you Joyce and Ernie Franklin for opening your home for this stellar event. And yes, you did read about this event in the *Seasons Magazine*. Editor Gloria Lane celebrated with us. Plans are underway for the 2012 Dazzling Dahlias Festival. Won't you enter your dahlias and come join us as we celebrate the beauty of the plateau?

GREAT CHRISTMAS GIFTS AVAILABLE AT HHS

Lovers of Highlands history shop the HHS "Retail Store" regularly for interesting items about our area. Select from more than 13 books plus wonderful picture post cards, photographs, and even a pewter-style plate commemorating the founding of Highlands. Each and every book will warm your heart and give you hours of joy as you learn tidbits of times long ago.

Researchers or those looking for specific detail love Shaffner's *Heart of the Blue Ridge*. Folks who enjoy stories of long ago may want to explore Shaffner's *Highlands* or

Lombard's *From the Hills of Home*. Bill Marret's *Courage at Fool's Rock* chronicles the bravery that saved a man who had slipped over Whiteside Mountain. Jim Green's *Satulah* records the history of the homes on Satulah Mountain. These are just a few of the many books that history lovers cherish. To purchase your books and to get more information on the many gift items available, go to www.highlandshistory.com or call Wiley Sloan at 828-200-0361 to make an appointment to come to the Historic Village and see the items.

HHS SOLICITATION REMINDER 2011

Dear HHS Supporter,

We are all watching our pennies as the economy goes through its roller coaster ride, up one day and down another. Here at HHS we pride ourselves on being good stewards of your money. Everyone is a volunteer, donating their hours of work with no monetary reward.

For anyone who has owned a historic structure, you know that it is in constant need of maintenance. This is especially true of our beloved Prince House, which is more than 130 years old. For a number of years nothing was done to this structure and the elements have taken their toll. We painted the exterior in 2010.

In 2012 our plans call for replacing the wiring in the Prince House and adding insulation so that we can better control the humidity and protect the many artifacts that are stored there. Architect Dennis DeWolf is leading the team of professionals who will outline the most cost effective way for this to be accomplished. Our best guess-timates are that we will need between \$20,000-\$35,000 for this project.

While we have received many compliments on the exhibits of the HHS Museum, it has also been recommended that we upgrade our exhibit cases and lighting to better protect the many historic items from excessive moisture (mold, mildew, and dust) and the corrosive damage of excess light. We estimate that we will need between \$5,000-\$10,000 for this project.

Please consider a gift to HHS to help us underwrite these two projects for 2012.

Thank you for your support of HHS.

The Board of Directors