



# Highlands Historical Society

Winter 2018

To preserve and promote the rich heritage of Highlands

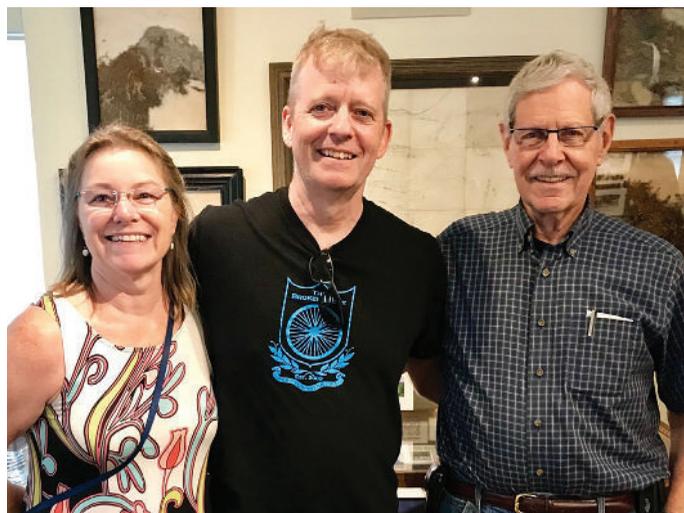
Highlands, N.C.

## Samuel Kelsey, Meet Your Great, Great Grandson



On August 17th Jeff Kelsey with his wife Pam Snider paid a visit to the Highlands Historical Museum. The great-great-grandson of town cofounder Samuel Kelsey, Jeff is also great-grandson of horticulturalist Harlan Kelsey, who at thirteen became “the youngest nurseryman in America” when in 1885 he laid out 100 acres of plants below Sunset Rock.

Traveling from his home in Seattle, Washington, it was Jeff’s first visit to Highlands as he brought his son, Matthew, to enter as a freshman at Georgia Tech. Describing their visit as “fantastic,” Jeff and Pam plan



Pam Snider and Jeff Kelsey are welcomed to Highlands by Archivist Ran Shaffner. Photo by Linda David

to return next summer with Jeff’s two siblings, Diana and Seth; Seth’s children, Stephen and Ana; and other Kelsey descendants to learn more about their illustrious ancestors and the town they helped found.



## 8th Annual Dahlia Show Dazzling Success

In September, 43 exhibitors entered 277 flowers into the 8th Dahlia Festival. This amazing display of colors and shapes drew over 200 visitors who marveled at the quality of blooms this year. For the occasion, Mayor Pat Taylor declared the week of September 3-9 Dahlia Week.

In spite of heavy rains early in the growing season, many were late blooming but quite prolific. Judges were challenged to make their choices but, in the end, awarded Best of Show to Clyde Howell and the blue ribbon for best arrangement to Diane Warren.

The Dazzling Dahlia Festival benefits The Highlands Historical Society’s Prince House upkeep and the Kelsey Kids Summer Camp.

Thanks to Jodie Zahner who gave an informative demonstration and talk on using native plants in arrangements. Thanks also to event Chairman Kim Daugherty and the many volunteers who worked hard all weekend setting up, arranging flowers, judging and donating their time and talents to making this year’s festival one of the most successful ever.



## Presidents Letter December 2018

As we entered into 2018, we identified three areas to concentrate our efforts for the year. They were to broaden our presence in the community, continue refurbishing and maintaining our priceless property and look for possible new and creative ways to preserve and promote the rich history of Highlands.

Some of the highlights in accomplishing these goals were: opening new relationships to expand partnerships with other non-profits such as the Bascom, the Biological Station, Land Trust and Library, thoroughly renovating the Old Jail and Bug Hill Tent-house, taking the initial steps to install a dehumidifying system in the Prince House, exploring a software which will permit visitors to take self-guided tours of our exhibits, and taking the initial steps to create a new *Highlands Answered the Call* military uniform exhibit.

All of our efforts would be for naught if we didn't have visitors. This year we topped 500 for the season which was accomplished through more well-placed advertising, guided tours, effective docenting, and growing interest in the town's history.

Finally, the two great assets of the Highlands Historical Society are our incredible board of directors and the generous support we get from the community. So, it is with mixed feelings that we thank Bill Edwards, Judy Taylor and Linda Clark who rotate off and welcome new members Hillary Cone, Martha Sutherland-Wright, Christy Kelly and Kim Daugherty. We are also pleased to thank the Cullasaja Women's Outreach, Laurel Garden Club, Wild Azalea Garden Club, Mountain Findings, Alice and Kent Nelson and Tricia and Inman Allen.

On behalf of the board of directors, we wish each of you a Happy & Joyous New Year.



## OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

Osborne "Obie" Oakley, President

Bill Edwards, Vice President

Linda Clark, Treasurer

Sally Caffery, Tommy Chambers, Linda David,

Dennis DeWolf, Fran Leftwich, Erik Nielsen,

Tommy Thompson, Bob Trevathan,

and Judy Taylor.

Ran Shaffner, Archivist and Ex Officio Director

Carolyn Patton, Associate Archivist

Tammy Lowe, Docent

Fran Leftwich, Newsletter Editor

Sandra Carlton, Corresponding Secretary

### RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

We hope you will renew 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. To join or renew membership by check or credit card, visit [highlandshistory@nctv.com](mailto:highlandshistory@nctv.com).

Highlands Historical Society

P.O. Box 670, Highlands, NC 28741

**WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT!**

### 2018 Attendance at the Historic Village

Visitors to the Highlands Historic Village topped 500 during the 2018 season due to advertising, guided tours, effective docenting, and growing interest in the town's history. Featured was the Museum, including displays of George Masa's photographs, the botanical history of the Highlands plateau, the Moccasin War, Joe Webb's rustic architectural style, genealogical histories, etc. Also featured were the Prince House, recently placed on the National Register of Historic Places.



## Kelsey Kids Camp Experience

Kelsey Kids Camp is a free one-week camp sponsored by the Highlands Historical Society each summer. Its goal is to teach young children, ages 8 to 12, the wonderful history of Highlands in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Some of the experiences included an introduction to Highlands history by historian Ran Shaffner at The Historic Village, a hike to the Bascom and the old jail, trips to the Foxfire Museum in Clayton, the Jackson Hole Gem Mine, the Biological Station, and to Carpe Diem Horse Farm, ending with a pioneer lunch at a Horse Cove homestead. Applications can be found online at [www.highlandshistory.com](http://www.highlandshistory.com).



## New Highway Historical Marker for Highlands



Members of HHS and the public attended the Dedication as the sun broke the chill of the morning. **Back Row, L to R:** Bob and Sandie Trevathan, Tom Shaffner, Fran Leftwich, Brian Egler, Linda Clark, Linda David, Margaret Shaffner, Luther Turner, Ran Shaffner, Glenda Bell. **Front Row:** Canty Worley, Dennis Leftwich

A new North Carolina Highway Historical Marker for Dr. Mary Lapham was installed on U.S. 64 at the Recreation Park and dedicated on November 20th. It honors Dr. Mary Lapham, who established a tuberculosis sanatorium in Highlands from 1908-18. Through her innovative method of lung collapse, she saved countless lives from early death by the virulent disease that killed thousands in the United States during the first half of the 20th century. Speaking at the dedication, Ran Shaffner gave a short introduction to Dr. Lapham's life and work. Jeff Futch, Supervisor of the Western Office of the North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources, could not attend but sent his remarks, describing the Lapham Marker as the 12th in Macon County. It was approved by a committee of experts in the state's history who looked primarily for subjects of statewide, as opposed to only local, significance. "It is the Department's hope," he remarked, "that this marker will play a part in ensuring that Mary Lapham is recognized and remembered for many generations to come."



1st row (kneeling L/R) Josh Cantrell, Fred Gehrish and Davis Wilson  
 2nd row (L/R) Bob Trevathan, Linda David, Fran Leftwich and Sally Caffery  
 3rd row (L/R) Ran Shaffner, Erik Nielsen, Bill Edwards, Obie Oakley (President of Highlands Historical Society), Dennis DeWolf and Judy Taylor

## Landscape Project Completed

Bob Trevathan of the Highlands Historical Society (in charge of the Grounds and Landscaping for the Historic Village) has been working with Fred Gehrish, the Greens and Grounds Superintendent of the Highlands Falls Country Club (HFCC). As a result of discussions, the HFCC donated and installed an automated sprinkler system on the front embankment of the Village Complex. The Laurel Garden Club provided us with a grant to complete the landscaping. The plantings were installed by Cattails Landscaping.

The Historical Society would like to acknowledge our gratitude and “thank you” to all who have contributed to this hillside/bank landscaping project in order to maintain the longevity and health of our plantings. We acknowledge Cattails Landscaping, Laurel Garden Club, Highlands Falls Country Club, Mr. Fred Gehrish and Kevin Johnson of Hunter Industries who donated materials for the sprinkler system. Please stop by and enjoy the beauty of the Village Complex!

## Highlands Answered The Call

The Exhibits Committee of HHS has been busy developing a new exhibit to honor the men and women in the Highlands community who have served in our nation’s military.

The goal is to have uniforms representing the various wars from WWI up to the Gulf Wars worn by Highlands Veterans. In addition, we hope to have all branches on display.



One caveat is that there must be a Highlands connection. The title of the exhibit will be *Highlands Answered the Call* and is being funded by a gift from the Cullasaja Women’s Outreach. The exhibit will open in May 2019.

Finally, HHS maintains a Directory of all veterans in the Highlands area from all wars, including Iraq and Afghanistan. If you would like to have your name or the name of a plateau veteran listed, please contact us at 828-787-1050.



## HISTORIC PROPERTIES GET FACELIFT

Thanks to Mountain Findings and Wild Azalea Garden Club, the Old Jail and Bug Hill Tent-house were refurbished and landscaped during the year. This was a part of our ongoing policy to maintain our properties to the highest standards possible.