

Highlands Historical Society

Summer 2013

To preserve and promote the rich heritage of Highlands

Highlands, N. C.

KELSEY KIDS CAMP

“Kelsey Kids Camp” is an interactive week of learning for children aged 8 through 12. An Eckerd Family Foundation Grant enables the Highlands Historical Society to offer the Kelsey Kids program at no cost. This summer’s camp was held July 15-19, meeting each morning at the Historical Museum. Monday started with a visit to Foxfire in Mountain City, Georgia, and included demonstrations of blacksmithing, woodworking, spinning, and weaving. After lunch the children were treated to a hayride around the Highlands Country Club golf course with Brian Stiehler. After enjoying feeding the fish and swans, they competed in a putting contest. Each child was a winner and came away with prizes plus the knowledge of why this Golf Club is important in our local history.



Jim Whitehurst leads the Kelsey Kids on a hike.

Tuesday morning began with a visit from Samuel Kelsey as portrayed by actor Brian McClellan. Throughout the week the children learned about the history of early Highlands pioneers, including classes on mountain music and dancing. Jim Whitehurst, Bob Trevathan and Amy Cooper hiked the Ranger Falls trail with the campers, giving them nature lessons while on the trail.

On Wednesday the campers visited Jennifer Schmitt’s farm in Scaly. They visited with the farm

animals and then made butter from her fresh milk. After lunch, which HHS provided daily, Gary Wein (Executive Director of the H-C Land Trust) walked them along a portion of the Kelsey Trail, teaching history and GPS tracking while they walked.

Thursday began with mountain music. Les Scott, director of music at the Highlands United Methodist Church, arrived with his dulcimer and guitar. After singing and square dancing, the children were treated to a “pioneer lunch” provided by Sue Potts, Linda David, and Kay Moore. The meal consisted of country ham, biscuits, butter beans, chow chow, “leather britches,” and buttermilk pie. After lunch the children took a tour of the Prince House, the oldest house in Highlands.

On the final day of camp, the children learned clogging and its history, thanks to Pauline Marr. They also took a short “test” on the history they had learned during the camp and then went off on a “walking tour” of town with Jennifer Smathers from the Chamber of Commerce.

Thanks to all the volunteers who helped with this year’s camp, particularly Linda David. We need the support of the community for this program to continue. The children departed with fun memories.

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

The Highlands Historical Society 2013 season is in full swing. We started off the summer with a reception and unveiling of the Dr. Mary Lapham Dress Exhibit. Carolyn and Rhett Tanner, with the help of H.H.S. friends Marylin Johnson and Mary Bess Lundquest, hosted a reception for our honored guests and friends. H.H.S. especially thanks the Cullasaja Women's Outreach and Mountain Findings for their generous support. Their donations made possible the dress restoration. Our special guest was Isabelle Chambers, who has generously shared this dress which is truly a remarkable piece of Highlands's history for all to enjoy.

This year's History Live featured Don Wells and his fascinating talks and photography of the history of the Cherokee Indians and their trail trees. Board member Brian McClellan did a wonderful job coordinating this event. Don's book, *Mystery of the Trees*, can be purchased at the H.H.S.

H.H.S. archivist and author, Ran Shaffner, gave a talk on George Masa in July. Masa was hired in 1929 to photograph the people and places of Highlands. Because of the generous gift of Beverly Quin, H.H.S. is the keeper and protector of the largest collection of Masa photographs in the world.

Kelsey Kids Camp was a fun success this summer with children spending the week having a great time learning about Highlands. Camp was held at H.H.S. and directed by Linda David and Sandie Trevathan

The annual Dahlia Festival is the primary fundraiser for the H.H.S., and we look forward to seeing you all there. Joyce Franklin, Judy Taylor, and their committee members are planning an exciting Patron Party to be held Wednesday, September 11, at the Farm at Old Edwards. The dahlia exhibit and judging will take place Saturday, September 14.

On October 3, Rotary and H.H.S. will come together for a bingo night. This is always fun so please plan to attend and bring your friends.

Board member and Grant Chairman Bill Edwards, with the help of Ran Shaffner and Building Chair Donnie Edwards, have been working hard this year to help secure grant money for the H.H.S. Your membership dues help to meet the day-to-day operation needs of the society but are not sufficient to pay for capital improvements. Grants and donations give us the opportunity to repair, maintain, and restore the oldest home in Highlands and the original Hudson Library building.

The Highlands Historical Society is a nonprofit volunteer organization devoted to the education and preservation of Highlands. Included in this newsletter is your membership renewal and donation envelope. As this season winds down, I ask that you renew your membership and ask a friend or friends to become members too. Your memberships make the Highlands Historical Society possible.

From all of us here, we thank you,
Ann Sullivan

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

Ann Sullivan, President
 Sandie Trevathan, Vice President
 Brian McClellan, Recording Secretary
 Kitty Moore, Corresponding Secretary
 Dennis Leftwich, Treasurer
 Linda Clark, Bill Edwards, Donnie Edwards,
 Joyce Franklin, Carolyn Tanner, Judy Taylor,
 Allen "Buck" Trott
 Archivist and Director Ex Officio, Ran Shaffner
 Associate Archivists, Sue Potts & Carolyn Patton
 Assistant Archivists, Nathalie Sato & Anne Sellers

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Mary Berry, Martha Betz, Isabel Chambers, Jeannie Chambers, Tommy Chambers, Leila Chapman, Geri Crowe, Dennis DeWolf, Lewis Doggett, Jim Green, Ginny Harris, Betty Holt, Ladonna Keener, Tammy Lowe, Alan Marsh, Gladys McDowell, Linda New, Carolyn Patton, Sue Potts, Terry Potts, Tony Potts, Beverly Quin, John Schiffli, Ran Shaffner, Wiley Sloan, Ed Talley, Derek Taylor, Luther Turner, Ronnie Waller, Elaine Whitehurst, Jim Whitehurst, Dennis Wilson, Kathleen Wilson, Wade Wilson, Walter Wingfield, Mary Lou Worley

RENEWED YOUR MEMBERSHIP?

We hope you will do it now.

Individual \$35 • Family \$50 • 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

THE UNVEILING OF DR. MARY LAPHAM'S DRESS

On June 20 a well attended reception was held at the Highlands Historical Museum to celebrate the unveiling of the restored dress of Dr. Mary Lapham. Dr. Lapham was the founder of the TB sanatorium which operated in the early twentieth century at today's site of the Recreation Park adjacent to the Historic Village property.

The TB facility burned in 1918, but one of the original "tents," the open air cubicles that housed the patients, still exists on the Historic Village grounds.

The dress, which dates from ca. 1890, is on extended loan from Isabel Chambers and was restored by Patricia Ewer of Textile Objects Conservation, LLC, Mound, Minnesota. A generous grant from Cullasaja Women's Outreach made the restoration possible.

The presentation was conducted by Ran Shaffner, who delivered an informative talk on the history of the remarkable Mary Lapham. The event was chaired by Carolyn Tanner.



Isabel Chambers provided the dress.

Thanks to All Docents For Their Many Volunteer Hours

We are very fortunate to have so many dedicated supporters willing to serve as docents. The following serve a 4-hour shift every week: Giny Green, Ginny Harris, Nathalie Sato, and Anne Sellers. These supporters really deserve recognition. THANKS TO THESE FOLKS.

And these are docents who serve when called upon: Mary Jo Askew, Laree Benton, Mary Berry, Jeannie Chambers, Leila Chapman, Linda Clark, Gerl Crowe, Lewis Doggett, Bill Edwards, Joyce

Franklin, J. Jay Joannides, Dennis Leftwith, Brian McClellan, Kitty Moore, Edwin and Kaye Poole, Marsha Shmalo, Wiley Sloan, Ann Sullivan, Sue Starr, Carolyn Tanner, Sandie Trevathan, Luther Turner, Jim and Elaine Whitehurst, and Kathleen Wilson. A special THANKS goes to Frieda Duncan for performing all the clerical work each week.

The Museum has welcomed 735 visitors this year.

Sincerely, Buck Trott

THE PRINCE HOUSE AND THE OLD LIBRARY BUILDING

For anyone who has owned a historic structure, you know that it is in constant need of care. This is true of the oldest existing house in Highlands, the Arthur T. House, also called the House-Boynton-Trapier-Wright House but commonly known as the Prince House. For many years, nothing had been done to the house, and time and the elements took their toll. Since locating the old Hudson Library building to the Historic Village, H.H.S. has worked hard to maintain the buildings.

This year with the guidance of Donnie Edwards, Dennis De Wolf, and Bill Edwards, the

Prince House has new gutters and a new drainage system installed. The dampness was affecting the home, and this installation will help keep the house drier and preserve it in good shape. The Library has had two of its outside walls painted. More painting will be needed on both buildings, and a new roof for the library will need to be installed in time.

We invite you to come by and say hello and take a look at work that has been done. The museum is opened every Friday and Saturday from 10:00 until 4:00. All times and events are listed on our website at www.highlandshistory.com.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S 3RD ANNUAL DAZZLING DAHLIAS FESTIVAL

Join the Highlands Historical Society to celebrate the beauty of dahlias on the Plateau. This year's Festival will be held Saturday, September 14th, from 1:00 P.M. to 5:00 P.M. at the Highlands Recreation Center on the Cashiers Highway, just a few short blocks from Main Street.

Enter your dahlias in the Show. Pick up registration forms for floral entries at stores throughout the Highlands-Cashiers area, the Old Edwards Inn, the *Highlander* office, the *Highlands Newspaper* office, and the Highlands Historical Society. Flowers to be judged can be brought to the Civic Center from 5:00 P.M. to 7:00 P.M. on Friday, September 13th, and on Saturday, September 14th, from 9:00 A.M. to 11:00 A.M.

View the dahlias. Tour the Dahlia exhibit from 1:00 P.M. to 5:00 P.M. Admission is only \$5.00. You'll be amazed at the many varieties of dahlias on display.

See flowers of all colors and sizes, from the smaller anemone dahlia to the large dinner-plate

dahlia. Interestingly there are no blue dahlias. No one has been able to perfect that color. Plan to learn tips from local gardener, Barry Jones, as he presents "How to grow dahlias." Barry's presentation will be Saturday afternoon during the exhibit.

Enjoy refreshments and entertainment during your visit to the Highlands Historic Village adjacent to the Civic Center. There you can tour the Highlands Historical Museum and the Prince House, the oldest home remaining within the Town. Proceeds from the Festival benefit the many programs of the Highlands Historical Society.

This year's Festival Patron Party will be held on Wednesday, September 11th, at the Old Edwards Farm beginning at 6:30 P.M. Enjoy a sumptuous meal as you gather with neighbors and friends in this beautiful setting.

To make reservations for the Patron Party or for more information about exhibiting your dahlias, please email highlandshistory@nctv.com or contact Joyce Franklin at (828) 526-9418.



Last year's Dazzling Dahlias Festival

THE N. C. HIGHWAY HISTORICAL MARKER FOR MICHAUX

On June 15th the explorer-botanist André Michaux was honored with a North Carolina Highway Historical Marker in Highlands for his first foray into the North Carolina wilderness in 1787. In that year Michaux camped on June 15th near modern Highlands, having just discovered one of the world's rarest plants, later known as *Shortia galacifolia* or Oconee Bells. The plant was so rare that botanists didn't find it again for 100



years. The unveiling of the marker on Main Street across from Reeves Hardware was hosted by the Highlands Historical Society. There are now two historical highway markers in Highlands, the other one honoring Thomas Harbison in front of Town Hall. Both of them celebrate botanists who appreciated the diversity of plant life that makes Highlands unique on the crest of the Blue Ridge Mountains.