



## Library Recognizes HHS Community Involvement

For the month of May, the Hudson Library offered HHS the opportunity to be its featured non-profit for the month of May. The large display cabinet at the library's entrance was the location, which involved 20 individual cubicles in which to showcase HHS's involvement in the community as well as inform the public as to who we are.

The extensive display featured the Elizabeth Wright Prince House, the Museum, the Old Jail, new Lapham Highway Marker, Lapham/Bug Hill Tent House, Kelsey Kids Camp, Proposed Uniform Exhibit, Big Hats & Bow Ties (fundraiser), Dazzling Dahlia Festival, Legends and Lore Marker commemorating the Moccasin War in Highlands, and the Masa Exhibit at the Bascom.

Upon viewing the display, you realize the extent of the involvement of the Highlands Historical Society in the fabric of this community.



The team working on this endeavor was President Obie Oakley, Artistic Director Chad Lucas, Photographic Editor Claude Sullivan, and Fran Leftwich. Thank you to the Library and the town for your support.

### Gunfight on Highlands Main Street

#### One Man Killed In 1885 Shootout



A Legends & Lore® Marker now commemorates the historic Moccasin War that was fought in 1885 on Main Street in Highlands and stands at the corner of 4th and Main Streets between the Highlands Inn and Old Edwards Inn, where the war was actually fought.

The Moccasin War legend tells of a revenuer who arrested two moonshiners from the Moccasin

Township. He confined them in the Highlands Inn to await trial. Eighteen Moccasin volunteers declared war on Highlands. During the battle a Moccasin youth was killed. The Georgians returned home but shut off the only road to Highlands and threatened to kill anyone who tested the blockade.

When a Confederate veteran volunteered to make the run, he faced four Georgia brothers marching toward him with Winchester rifles. The veteran offered three prayers for his own protection. To this day it remains a mystery why the two adversaries passed each other without firing a shot, which promptly ended the war. The veteran never knew what saved him: the prayers or the threat.

Historically this notorious war made the front page of the *New York Times* on March 16, 1885, and was reported in newspapers across North Carolina and as far away as California.



**Presidents Letter  
June 2019**



Good morning, Class,

Please turn to the year 1979, for today we are going to celebrate the 40th Birthday of the Highlands Historical Society. That was the year sixteen civic-minded citizens met to form a non-profit with the mission to Preserve the Rich Heritage of Highlands for Present and Future Generations.

Fast forward to 1999 when the opportunity arose too good to pass up became available. In 1999 a group of nine raised funds to buy the oldest remaining residence in the town, circa 1877, which is now known on the National Register as the Elizabeth Wright Prince House.

This purchase set off a remarkable period of expansion. In 2002, they acquired the old Library for one-dollar and moved it through town to take its place alongside the Prince House. In 2006, the Society accepted a gift of the last remaining Bug Hill Tent Cabin used by Dr. Mary Lapham for her renowned treatment of tuberculosis. This gave birth to the current "branding": Highlands Historic Village!

Marking our 40th year, the Historic Village is composed of the Prince House, fully furnished in various styles since 1877; a 3,000-square-foot museum staffed three days a week during the season; the Bug Hill Tent Cabin, circa 1908; and the Old Jail, circa 1918. There are over 4,000 cataloged artifacts in the Archives and Museum. Finally, through archivist Dr. Ran Shaffner, HHS offers research assistance for ancestry and local historical lore.

To recognize the remarkable growth and accomplishments of the Highlands Historical Society, it has been honored by the North Carolina Society of Historians.

Today, helped by the generosity of the donors in the Town of Highlands, HHS is a vibrant, well-funded group that takes its place in partnership with the many other non-profits in the town.

A pretty remarkable story, wouldn't you say?

In closing, as a reminder, there will be an exam tomorrow. Class dismissed.

**OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS**

- Osborne "Obie" Oakley, President
- Bob Trevathan, Vice President
- Sally Caffery, Hillary Cone, Linda David
- Kim Daugherty, Dennis DeWolf, Christy Kelly
- Fran Leftwich, Erik Nielsen, Tommy Thompson and Martha Sutherland-Wright
- Ran Shaffner, Archivist and Ex Officio Director
- Carolyn Patton, Associate Archivist
- Tammy Lowe, Docent
- Fran Leftwich, Newsletter Editor
- Sandra Carlton, Corresponding Secretary
- Bill Lands, Art Director

**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 [www.highlandshistory.com](http://www.highlandshistory.com).

Highlands Historical Society

P.O. Box 670, Highlands, NC 28741

**WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT!**

**Prince House  
De-humidification Project**

As the Highlands Historical Society made a significant decision in 2000 to purchase the oldest remaining residence in Highlands, it has been diligent in maintaining the structural and materials integrity of this wonderful old historical building. In the process of monitoring the interior humidity levels that tend to migrate through the exterior walls causing exterior paint to peel and foster mold in the interior wall coverings and furnishings, it was decided to mitigate the problem. The solution now in place is sealing of the crawl space walls and ground with mechanical de-humidification and non-mechanical helical roof venting.

## George Masa Photographs Featured at the Bascom March 9, 2019 – June 2, 2019

In a joint collaboration with The Bascom, a Center for the Visual Arts, the Highlands Historical Society shared fifteen iconic images from its permanent collection of George Masa's photographs, taken when Masa visited the Highlands plateau in 1929. Complementing the exhibit, which ran from March 9th through June 2nd, were Claude Sullivan's current photographs showing a "Then-and-Now" comparison of Masa's scenes. Claude is a current Bascom board member. (See examples below).

Variouly known as the "Greatest Photographer of the Great Smoky Mountains" and "The Ansel Adams of the East," it was the astonishing photographs of George Masa that helped save the Smokies from obliteration by logging companies with

their commercial slashing of the land during the 1920s and 30s.

At the invitation of Frank Cook, owner of the Highlands Inn, he extended his work onto the Highlands plateau. In 2006 Cook's daughter Beverly Cook Quin donated nearly 100 of Masa's prints, distinguished by their deep shadows and penetrating light, to the Highlands Historical Society. The digitally restored photographs in the Bascom exhibit were a small selection of Masa's works and part of what is possibly the largest collection of Masa prints in existence.

A special thank you to the staff of The Bascom for providing the Highlands community with such a creative and educational exhibit.



Beverly Cook Quin



George Masa



Old Walhalla Road Then



Old Walhalla Road Now

We mourn the loss of HHS board member, Tommy Chambers. As a native Highlander, he was devoted to the preservation of his hometown and all that was of historic value in it. Serving on the HHS board during the early years of the reactivated Society's founding, he with his construction firm helped restore the Elizabeth Wright Prince house from its deteriorating chimney and crumbling foundations to its current status on the National Register of Historic Places. As a skilled builder and restorer of well-

crafted log cabins, he saved and moved other historic structures on the Highlands plateau. He was as generous with his time and talents as he was with his sagacious advice, and his untimely departure was a shock to all those who loved and respected him. We lament his absence from our lives.

Memorials in Tommy's name may be made on line at [www.highlandshistory.com](http://www.highlandshistory.com) or using the enclosed envelope.



IN MEMORIAM

Thomas (Tommy) Tudor Chambers  
May 13, 1955 – February 9, 2019

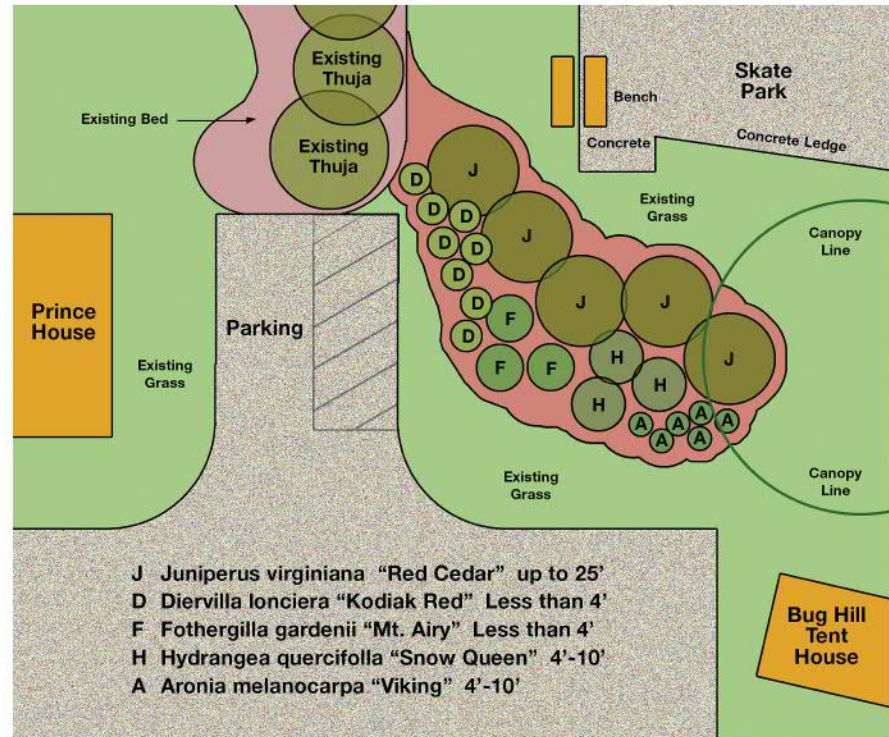
## New Landscape Feature Planned

Highlands Historical Society landscape committee has developed a plan to provide a visual Landscape feature between the Prince House parking area and the Town's skateboard park.

When the Laurel Garden Club was approached for funding, their stipulation was that it consist entirely of native plants. The final design involves over 42 plants ranging in size, upon maturity, from 4'-25'.

The feature will be a win-win for both the Historic Village to soften the view of the park and also to provide the skateboarders with a sense of privacy.

Town Recreation Director, Lester Norris, has enthusiastically endorsed the plan and hopefully ground breaking will take place by the end of June 2019.



**Design and Plants**  
 Courtesy of Jeff Zahner – Chattooga Gardens



### 3RD BIG HATS BOW TIES & FLAPJACKS

**SOCIAL EVENT  
 OF THE SEASON**  
 Sunday, August 18th  
 12:30 - 3:00 pm



On Kettle Rock Mountain where Annie Linn Armor held Highland's acclaimed Flapjack Brunches.

This is our only 2019 fund raiser. Visit [www.highlandshistory.com](http://www.highlandshistory.com) to learn more and purchase tickets.



## Dazzling Dahlias



The Ninth Annual Dahlia Festival is Saturday, September 7th at the Highlands Civic Center. Mark your calendars to bring flowers or come enjoy the flowers. There will be beautiful arrangements for sale. Funds raised by the Dahlia Festival support the Historical Society, the Prince House and the Kelsey Kids Camp.

**Show Date: Saturday, September 7th  
 Highlands Rec Park**

For entry and admission information visit [www.highlandshistory.com](http://www.highlandshistory.com)