

Highland County Historical Society celebrates 50th anniversary Part II

**By Pamela Nickell
H.C. Historical Society**

What a joy it is for the present Board of Trustees and membership of the Highland County Historical Society to be present in the time and place to participate in the 50th Anniversary Commemoration of the Society.

In addition to the weekly gift of space in *The Highland County Press* to “remember and acknowledge” the past and present, the Society is planning yearlong events and celebrations.

Fortunately, the history and writings about the Society have been kept and will feed this weekly article.

Last week, we listed many individuals who founded the Highland County Historical Society in 1965.

Bob Hodson remembers “those special people who served on the board. Great memories go back to the evening that no more than five or six of us met at the home (now Fifth Third Bank on North High Street) of Mr. and Mrs. Ervin Evans. That was the beginning.

Your (first) article reminds me how we made sure the entire county – including Hillsboro, Greenfield, Leesburg, Lynchburg, Sinking Spring, Marshall and Mowrystown – was represented in the first board. What wonderful memories!”

Each of the original communities has grown and many have museums or other historic preservation efforts of their own (perhaps some pre-date 1965), even though the membership of HCHS includes folks across the county, state and even out of state.

The present board is committed to the entire county and is excited about new collaborations among county societies and preservationists regarding the Underground Railroad, the 150th anniversary commemoration of Caspar Collins’ (Hillsboro native) heroic death, and ghost walks with more to come.

Mr. Hodson, as was well documented by this newspaper and public record, provided the leadership and dedication to the intent and vision of 1965 to enable the restructuring and revitalization of the present Society in 2013.

With the aid of Dwight Crum, bylaws were revisited, revised and adopted by the membership to create a two-tier governing structure with membership officers as well as a Board of Trustees, thus providing checks and balances to protect the Society.

To the founding members so ably represented by Mr. Hodson, we pledge our commitment to your vision.