

MUSEUM MUSES

PLEASE SUPPORT THE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN!

In the grand scheme of life, sixty years is but a drop, but for those who were alive during the mid-1950s, few will forget the events of July through October of 1954. In fact, I would wager that many remember it as though it was just yesterday.

As introduction to our lead story for this issue, I endeavored to research a bit and not rely solely on my own, often-wonky memory. I turned first to Elsie Ayres' book, HILLS OF HIGHLAND © 1971, page 208, where we read that Lincoln School, in 1875, was a "commodious brick schoolhouse situated on the southeast corner of East and Academy Sts, (now Collins Ave.).", and, "In 1878, one hundred



*Honoring
Black
History
Month*

and one student enrolled in the colored (or Lincoln) school."

She speaks highly of the teachers who worked at Lincoln School, and then, in the final few sentences, we are told, "When the Washington and Webster schools were rebuilt in the 1950's, (sic) the Lincoln school was abandoned."

So, over 16 years after the fact, Mrs. Ayres declined to present all of the facts surrounding

the turbulent times experienced by Hillsboro Schools when she reported on the history of Lincoln School.

I recall that, while at Ohio University, I looked up the Time magazine of the period and found the article reporting on the troubles of Hillsboro. I wish I had made a copy of the article.

In writing TIME TRAVEL, ©2007, Charlotte Pack commented that she found little written information surrounding the

events, but was able to interview many local residents for first hand information.

This brings us to today, when, in remembering the time which has passed since 1954, as well as Black History Month, I asked three individuals who were directly or indirectly involved, to recount not just the facts, but how the burning of Lincoln affected each of them personally.

Tom Partridge was a twelve year old when his father's act changed the course of local history. Unfortunately, Tom has been out of town and has not been able to spend the time to get his thoughts down. Hopefully we can get his thoughts in a future issue. Susan Banyas helped out in his place.

Elsie Steward (now Young) was the mother of eight children, one of whom, Carolyn (now Goins), was placed in my second grade class after the Washington School remodeling was completed.

These are their remembrances—their memories of feelings at the time.

John M. Glaze, Editor

FROM "THE HILLSBORO STORY" by Susan Banyas

These quotes are from a work written by Susan Banyas, and is reprinted with her kind permission.

THE BROWN PROMISE

"If Phillip Partidge was the spark that ignited the school fight, Imogene Curtis carried the torch. Imogene was educated in the nearby village of Samantha in an integrated Quaker school and saw no reason for complacency on the issue of equal education. Her cousin Junior Burns said, 'Imogene had the brain power.'"

TAKE CHARGE

"Elsie Steward Young: 'I didn't have sense enough to be afraid. The women were the ones to take

charge. We'd all march down together, snow or blow, and the children would go up to the door to try to get in, and they wouldn't let them in. The principal would turn us away.'"

THE COUNTY ENGINEER

"Phillip Partridge, poised and particular, was short on patience when it came to people trying to fold the same old attitudes into whole new possibilities. America was in motion. The country had developed the Bomb and fantastic ad campaigns for Lucky Strikes. Why not apply all that intelligence and persuasive energy to developing the heart?"

Carolyn Steward Goins

I was one of many African-American children who walked with our parents to the Webster School carrying signs, marching up and down the sidewalk in an attempt to get the principal to open the doors. That didn't happen, so we continued to march in all kinds of weather.

The white children would stand in the windows and wave
(continued on page 2)

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The following are your Board of Trustees for 2015:

2 Year Term:
Michael Shanahan
Justin Harsha
Pamela Nickell
Steve Holland

3 Year Term:
Katie Burwinkel
John Kellis
Tim Koehl
Jim Rooney
Rose Ryan
Jean Wallis
Lana Daniels
Avery Applegate

Society Officers
Arlene Huffman- President
Mary Jo Copeland-V. President
DIRECTOR: VICKI KNAUFF

THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS!

HCHS would like to extend sincere thanks to the volunteers who served as greeters to the 1632 visitors during 2014. We appreciate your time and commitment. These were the greeters for November and December:

Larry & Peggy Addington, Leone Bihl, Sue Boatman, Jane Cameron, Pauline Cameron, Mary Jo Copeland, Connie Cummings, Larry & Gale Dukes, Jennie Harner, Lynn Neal, Caroyl Reid, Mike & Cathy Shanahan, Karin Smith and Jean Wallis.

Museum Shop

The Museum Shop has seen tremendous success this past year. A huge thanks goes to the many consigners who shared their talents and skills in creating beautiful and unique products. During the holiday season there were 27 consigners and 13 local authors who featured their books on

Honoring Black History (continued from page 1)

to us and we would wave back until the teachers pulled the blinds so they couldn't see out and we couldn't see in.

Then, one day after a couple of years of marching, the doors opened and we were finally inside and to be put in classrooms only to be angry and hurt all over again. We were told that we would be put back two years and this was the only way we could enter the white school system. Life went on.

To this day, I still have brief contact with a lot of those students and their families. We give a hug and as we part, wish each other a "Blessed Day."

ELSIE STEWARD YOUNG

(mother of Carolyn Goins)
"SEGREGATION STORY"

It started back before my children were around. We had some good teachers, but the problem was that the children did not have the help, book-wise, that they needed.

Their books were hand-me-downs from Washington School. Some of the pages were gone and so the children did not have a chance. When they entered high school, some didn't have a fifth grade education.

Supplies were given from Washington School. Some of us had joined the NAACP to see if we could get help.

area history. We truly appreciate all the visitors who supported the shop. All proceeds help with the maintenance of Highland House. These people served as sales associates during

A man by the name of Philip Partridge had been talking to the Superintendent and School Board to try to convince them to accept the children in the Washington and Webster Schools, but to no avail.

On Sunday, Mr. Partridge went to church and he said he prayed that if he woke up at 2:00 am on Monday, he would set the Lincoln School on fire and he did. Someone saw smoke coming out of the school and called the Fire Department.

It was a two story building—two rooms up and two rooms down. The fire damaged one upstairs room so that it could not be used, but the rest was remodeled and used. This was in July and by September, they had remodeled it for use.

A few of us parents had gotten together to see what we could do. We contacted two lawyers in Dayton to get information as to what we could or could not do.

When school started, we met in the center of town and went to Webster School as most would have to attend there. Five mothers were appointed and went each day. We went Monday through Friday, each morning, but they had the doors locked and would not let the children in.

A Special Thank-You to Mrs. Goins, Mrs. Young and Susan Banyas for sharing!

November and December: Avery Applegate, Kati Burwinkel, Arlene Huffman, Pamela Nickell, Marilyn Matthews, Charlotte Pack, Jim Rooney, Joan Winner and Nancy Wisecup.

THE HILLSBORO STORY
Susan Banyas

The Hillsboro Story is my book in progress that opens in 1954. The book is a weaving of the historical events--the African American mothers who took on the white school board in Hillsboro in the mid-50s, the NAACP attorneys who out-maneuvered their opponents in the courts, the radical act, imprisonment, and point of view of the Highland County Engineer who acted to change the social landscape of Hillsboro.

I am in the story as a child witness and adult Nancy Drew following the clues in this story to uncover a system that drives much of what is perceived as "normal" but is a shadow aspect of American society. My memory as a school child was basically simple: "They" were outside the window, and "I" was inside.

My intention as an artist has been to go through the window and personally connect with the truth as it is spoken through various voices in the narrative. In the process I have made beautiful new friends, learned an immense amount of American history and Black history and Indigenous history of this country, most of which is suppressed in the textbooks.

Through this journey, I have found a bigger, more colorful, deeply spiritual and wildly dimensional Highland County than the one I knew as a kid. I am being healed through the process.

Hopefully, The Museum Shop of Highland House will be able to stock this book when available.—Editor

THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD IN HIGHLAND COUNTY

Jim Rooney

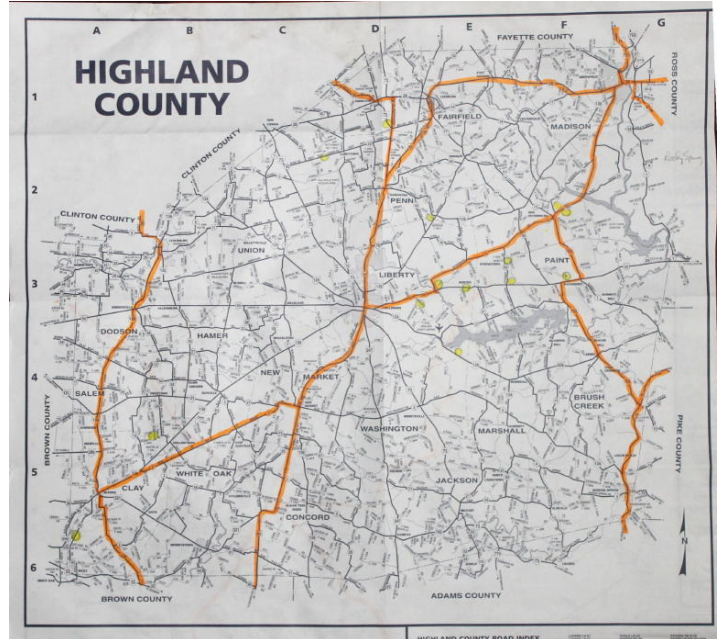
From 1830 to 1860 Highland County played a significant role in the Underground Railroad, which was neither underground nor a railroad, but rather a loose organization of safe houses and conductors aiding fugitive slaves to freedom in Canada. Nearly a hundred individuals and families from Highland County had been identified as aiding in this effort. The National Park Service and others are commemorating the 150th anniversary of the Underground Railroad.

A working group including representatives of the Greenfield Historical Society, Lynchburg Historical Society, the Highland County Historical Society and others are gathering information from various sources to provide a consoli-

dated look at Highland County's role in this important movement. The group is requesting from members and the public any additional information in the form of documentation, oral histories, photograph or artifacts that may be held in family archives.

A presentation of the Underground Railroad in Highland County, a round table discussion, and a presentation of the Gist Settlement is planned for this summer.

If members or friends have information that may help in this endeavor or wish to join this group, please contact Vicki Knauff at 937-393-3392 or me, Jim Rooney at 937-365-1774; or contact me by email: rooney2300@sbcglobal.net.



GINGERBREAD HOUSE CONTEST!

We are pleased to announce that we will be sponsoring a **Gingerbread House Contest** during the 2015 holiday season. The contest will be open to adults and children, with competition categories such as Adult, Child, and Groups, including groups



such as Scouts or 4-H clubs. Details are still being worked out and rules written. "Stay tuned" for further details and begin now educating yourself on techniques of building structures using gingerbread. Be thinking about what type of structure

you might like to enter into the competition. There will be a category of structures of Highland County, such as a church, government building or historic house.

If you are interested, but not sure

what all goes into making a gingerbread structure, or would like a start in educating yourself, visit our website for links to help you. The official rules, when completed, will be posted, along with an entry form.

Kati Burwinkel is chairing this event.



WHAT'S COMING THIS YEAR?

It's always exciting when the new HCHS year rolls around with many wonderful programs and events. Many of the items listed here are tentative and just in the talking/planning stages. If you read a date, however, you know this event is beyond the talking stage! First off, after our winter hibernation, HCHS will awaken with a BANG as we celebrate St. Patrick's Day with our traditional **ST. PATRICK'S DAY BRUNCH**, to be held Sunday, 15 March.

Coming up April 18 will be a visit by Adams County Historical Society who will be visiting several places in the area. We are also talking about a **Children's Tea** in April.

In May, we think it might be nice to have a planned walking tour of Hillsboro. June 28 will bring our biennial **TOUR OF HOMES AND HISTORIC BUILDINGS**.

The **FESTIVAL OF THE BELLS**, always in July, will involve HCHS. Also in July, we are planning to take a tour out to Casper, Wyoming for the big celebration of Caspar Collins, our home town boy!

THE AMAZING RACE, held in August, will find HCHS involved as one of the stops! We are considering moving the **GHOST WALK** to August to assure good daylight for walking the often-uneven cemetery grounds.

In September we plan another event featuring our **LOG CABIN**. Right now, October is still open, but there are some ideas brewing!

Coming up in November? Our **FIRST GINGER-BREAD HOUSE Competition!** (Look for more information elsewhere in this newsletter!) Our **Christmas Open House** as well as participation in the **Veterans' Appreciation** event are scheduled.

Our December will continue the **Christmas Celebration** and the theme for decoration this year will involve nativity scenes.

Still to be worked into the year's events are programs and speakers. We are hoping to bring back the **Heritage Music Series**.

So much going on! We hope you will want to be a part of each event that "rings your bell"! Perhaps you will feel so enthused about a couple of the events that you will volunteer to help with running the event—perhaps even expressing your desire to serve on a committee!

How do you volunteer? Call Highland House any time, day or night, and leave a message on our answering machine. Our Director will route your call to the proper person who will respond to you! Remember, we have limited office hours during the winter, so it may be a few days before you hear back, but you WILL hear from us! Our number is 393-3392.

WE ARE HAVING A HOME TOUR!

Yes, that's right folks...mark your calendars now...because we are having a home tour this year! The event will be held Sunday, June 28th. We are still in the planning stages but hope to have our list of homes and structures in place very soon. Here is a little hint for one confirmed home....one of our Board members has said yes! Volunteers are always needed the day of the event. If you are interested in helping, please call the museum any time at 393-3392. Leave your contact information and be sure to mention the home tour. Someone will be back in touch soon! Chair for this event is Avery Applegate.

Highland County Historical Society
Home & Historic Building Tour
Admission Ticket



HIGHLAND HOUSE MUSEUM
151 E. Main St.

Built by Peter Leake Ayres, an iron merchant, c. 1842-44, the home is known as "four over four," meaning a two-story house with two rooms on either side of a central hall on each floor. Originally a private residence and later an inn, the property was made the permanent home of Highland County Historical Society in 1965. It now houses a fine collection of local artifacts and is furnished with antiques of the period.



Your local Kroger store is part of Kroger Community Rewards. What does this mean? The Kroger organization donates to local charities wherever Kroger stores are located. HCHS is registered as a qualifying non-profit organization. HCHS Members who wish to put their support toward HCHS, must link their Kroger Plus Card with Highland County Historical Society. Please note that doing this does not change your Kroger Rewards points in any way—you still earn and redeem the same points as you always have.

Please consider listing HCHS as the Community Rewards beneficiary on your Kroger Plus Card. If you need help in registering your Plus Card, you can contact Kroger, or leave a message at Highland House and someone will contact you.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO US!

The Highland County Historical Society was chartered in 1965. This year marks the 50th anniversary of the Society, which will be celebrated with yearlong events.

Bob Hodson, the only remaining original board member, reports that the board was looking for a suitable home for the newly formed Society when Virginia Bell Thompson offered the Highland House. It was acquired in 1966. (There will be more about that in a future article.)

The original far-sighted founding members included Fred Keeler, Mr. and Mrs. Ervin Evans, Robert A. Hodson, Elsie Ayres, Edith DeCavenso, Virginia Bell, Stanley Kibler, Charles Blackburn, Harold McKenzie, T.J. Belleson, Maurice Jodry, Charles Harsha, George Waddell, Ruth Carlisle, Violet Morgan, Art Milner, Judge Darrel Hottle, Mrs. Granville Barrere, John Thompson, J. Harold McKenzie and Worth Faust.

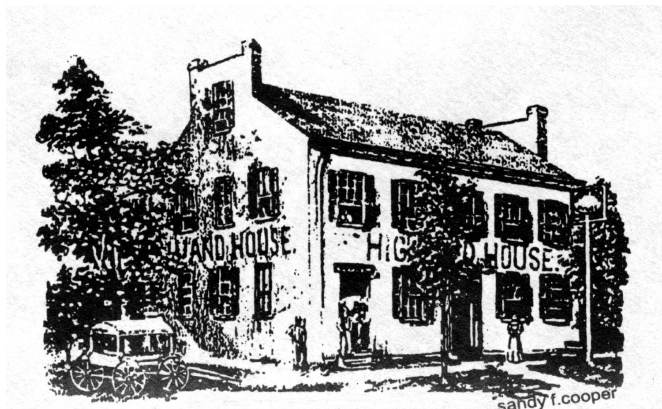
As he conducted a 2013 Membership Meeting, Mr. Hodson stated that "I keep thinking that I represent

them as well. Some wonderful names, some wonderful people in our community that helped put this organization together. They did it with a dream, knowing that it was important to preserve the past, to preserve the present, for the future people."

Throughout the intervening 50 years, many individuals and organizations have worked hard to create the vibrant and active Historical Society we enjoy today. The over 325 individual, family and organization memberships represent countless folks involved in the Society.

Current board members are Avery Applegate, Katherine Burwinkel, Lana Daniels, Justin Harsha (grandson of original board member Charles Harsha), Steve Holland, John Kellis, Timothy Koehl, Pamela Nickell, James Rooney, Rosemary Ryan, Michael Shanahan, and Jean Wallis.

Submitted by Pamela Nickell with information from Jean Wallis and The Highland County Press. Reprinted with permission from The Highland County Press.



MUSEUM SHOP NEWS

The great news is that we finished 2014 with a significant amount of funds to support museum operations. Our gross income from Museum Shop sales was \$11,319.20. We paid out \$4975.34 to our crafters and consigners.

Crafters this year were outstanding and public appreciation of their work was amazing. Some of our crafters had been set up as year-round consigners and many

will continue, with the addition of a few more. Our goal is to support our own area first and provide an outlet for locally made wares, books by local authors and local histories. We want to provide items that cannot be purchased from many other local sources.

Our initial "signature" candle offerings, *made locally*, were very popular. The LOG CABIN MEMORIES scent outsold HIGHLAND HOUSE DAYS GONE BY scent about three to one! Thank-you for supporting this endeavor!

Our Greeting Cards and Note Card offerings were not as popular—perhaps because so many people don't bother to send personal notes through the mail as much as they used to. Let's revive that practice!

We are considering the addition of a locally made pottery HCHS mug for sale next season. We are investigating gaining permission to reprint a History

of Hillsboro booklet which was originally produced in 1957. We have just placed an order for a book about the history of the Patterson Car which was located in Greenfield.

Did your church or club produce a cook book and you

have several leftovers? We have been adding these great local cook books to the MUSEUM SHOP. Call the office at Highland House if you would like to sell

some of your group's cook books.

Similarly, if you have a published history of your church or group, we can accept these on consignment also.

As I write this, we have just taken an inventory and packed up every item of the MUSEUM SHOP, in preparation for the work on the building which will soon commence. Even though most crafters have picked up their wares, we still have nearly 240 different items in our shop.

We now must wait and plan for that time when we can again "set up shop" and invite our visitors to help HCHS by making a purchase in our fine MUSEUM SHOP!

Remember that HCHS Members always save 10% on purchases, AND every purchase helps YOUR historical society!

John Glaze



THOUGHTS FROM OUR DIRECTOR

2014 was an extremely busy and exciting year. I had the opportunity to meet visitors from all over the country. Some had been just passing through while others had come home to visit and stopped at the museum to see what is new. I enjoy hearing the stories of people who lived here many years ago and have such fond memories of visiting their grandparents' farm, going to the fair or cruising downtown Hillsboro. Our lives are made up of those special moments that are never forgotten.

I'm still amazed though at the number of people who live in the county and come to visit Highland House for the first time. We have hundreds of artifacts at the museum which be-

longed to YOUR families and your friends' families, so come in and see how you fit into the puzzle of local history, then invite your friends to do the same!

I took care of more than 100 requests from visitors during last season - in person, via letters, e-mails or phone calls; all requesting information on people, cemeteries, events, identifying photos or questions on genealogy. I heard from people all over the country and even from a classmate living in Germany. Jean Wallis is my mentor and "go-to" person for answering many of these requests. No answer from Jean is ever simple. She knows the history of four generations and every good and bad detail of an entire family. Her

memory is absolutely amazing and we are so fortunate to have her.

As you know, we are about to start a major restoration project at Highland House. If the project begins this spring or summer, some events may need to be moved to another location. Watch our website, Facebook and the local papers for the most current updates on events.

As we prepare to open for a new season, we need your help in greeting visitors, working in the museum and helping out at events. Call me at 393-3392.

Thank YOU for a memorable 2014 and the promise of a thrilling 2015.

Vicki

A NICKELL'S WORTH

It is difficult for me to give up the beautiful decorations of Christmas. Yesterday, January 25th, we had brunch with family in a lovely Glendale restaurant and I was delighted to be surrounded by their elegantly decorated trees and mantles reinforcing my theory that holiday décor of wreaths, trees, bears, Santas and nativities should ideally be kept in place all winter is shared by at least some others.

We are currently off-season at the Highland House having closed on December 23rd. What a spectacular finale



we enjoyed, though. Arlene Huffman constructed a Holiday Paradise in every room and hall of our beautiful building. And John Glaze

created a wonderful Museum Shop. Putting it together was work, taking it down was more... And, now, it looks really, really bare with glitter still here and there.

However, Vicki Knauff is scheduling and participating in lots and lots of meetings for the planning of our 2015 season to begin in mid-March. I

cannot even list here everything that is in the works. Keep your eyes and ears open and don't miss a chance to participate by helping and/or just enjoying.

My personal contribution is to support and cheer all efforts during



our 50th year anniversary. In addition, I will contribute a short article about the Society's history and holdings each week to the Highland County Press. We certainly thank Rory Ryan for the space. These articles will heavily rely on or actually quote information previously put together in

other forms, such as brochures available at the Highland House. It is reinvention more than research, but gives us a new format to share our Treasure and the work that has gone before us in the previous 50 years of our history.

Keep on.....seeing, helping and enjoying!

Pamela Nickell

CD Player still needed! Highland House's CD Player has become unreliable. If you have a player you can donate, or would like to purchase one, please call the museum! Thanks!

CAN YOU IDENTIFY ANY OF THESE FOLKS?

The following photographs are apparently local folks, but their identification is a mystery. Can you help? If so, contact Vicki at Highland House.



Nothing written on any of these.

Studio: Phil. Weyrich, W Main St, Hillsboro

This photo was taken by J. Z. Foulk, W. Main St., Hillsboro. Written on the back: "Blanche sent 5-4-48"

The following photographs were found behind a mantel in a house on W. Walnut St and previously owned by Bob & Lynn Lowell (nothing written on photographs)



Studio: Bergstresser, Danville Ills



Nothing written on back and no studio name on photo.



Studio: Weyrich's in Hillsboro



HIGHLAND COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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 Phone: 937-393-3392

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**Our 2015 season begins
 with the St. Patrick's
 Brunch on 15 March!
 Highland House will open
 for visits on 21 March.**

**HIGHLAND HOUSE
 MUSEUM**

BOARD AND OTHER CONTACT INFO

Avery Applegate	763-2333	aaa@cinci.rr.com
Kati Burwinkel	763-2802	burwinkel@att.net
Justin Harsha	393-9123	a4q@att.net
Steve Holland	763-8550	sjholland1@frontier.com
John Kellis	393-1332	john.kellis@sbcglobal.net
Tim Koehl	403-6051	t_koehl@yahoo.com
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Jim Rooney	365-1774	rooney2300@sbcglobal.net
Rosemary Ryan	393-2033	roseryanhchs@gmail.com
Mike Shanahan	393-0655	mshananhan@cinci.rr.com
Jean Wallis	393-2759	no e-mail
Pres - Arlene Huffman	393-3934	arleneah@aol.com
VP - Mary Jo Copeland	581-4619	mjcopeland_2000@yahoo.com
Secy - Paulette Donley	393-2770	rdonley@cinci.rr.com
Newslet - John Glaze	708-0470	jglaze@hcf.com
HH Dir. - Vicki Knauft	403-5817	knauftvicki@yahoo.com
Highland House	393-3392	hhistoricalsociety@gmail.com

**CAPITAL CAMPAIGN
 UNDERWAY!**



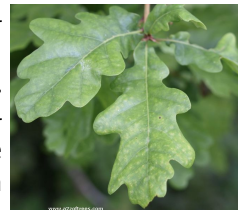
After months of meetings to plan, prepare and train, the Capital Campaign is underway. Rather than the knee-jerk reaction of raising money simply to cover the massive work needed on the south wall of Highland House, we are planning for future needs by raising

funds which will, in part, be endowed to work for us and provide a relatively steady source of income. In the words of Charles F. Kettering, "The greatest thing this generation can do is lay a few stepping stones for the next generation."



part, be endowed to provide a relatively steady source of income. In the words of Charles F. Kettering, this generation can do is lay a few stepping stones for the next generation."

If you haven't been contacted yet regarding the campaign, feel free to call Highland House and leave a message. Someone will return your call and schedule a time to meet with you to explain the program and opportunities for you to join in.



**TOMORROW IS TOO IMPORTANT TO IGNORE!
 Be a part of the CAPITAL CAMPAIGN!**