

November 01, 2018

Greetings to friends and members of the Laurel Historical Society! First our board members and I want to thank each of you for your enduring support over the many years the society has been in existence. Our board members are very aware that none of what we do would be possible without your continued support both in terms of donations as well as your valuable time and energy! **WE THANK YOU!**

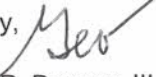
Our primary goal is to ensure that our history and culture is preserved for the enjoyment of many generations to come. Laurel has been a small agricultural town since its early beginnings and has provided a wonderful place to raise our families and to instill in them a great set of life values. The society serves as a repository of all things that our citizens hold dear so that they may be enjoyed from generation to generation.

In this age in which technology and the information explosion seem to be overwhelming our capacity to stay grounded in our core beliefs and values, we need an anchor to our past, our history. Our society strives to provide the critical link between Laurel's past and its future so that the unique personality of the Laurel community is preserved and conveyed to future generations. **You, the friends and members of our society**, have consistently provided our society the wherewithal to accomplish this very important responsibility!

We have truly enjoyed putting together our three annual newsletters in which we have kept you informed of our activities within the Laurel community as well as our internal efforts to continually improve the organization and maintenance of our vast collection of Laurel photographs and memorabilia. I'm sure that you have seen that we have been extremely busy this past year!

Most recently the society has acquired the Hitchens Homestead, a four-acre plot of land on which is located a rare and beautiful rural Gothic Revival cottage from the mid 19th century. The property is a historic site bordered by Rossakatum Run branch and overlooks beautiful Records Pond. The cottage served as the residence of Emanuel Twilley, who owned and operated the Laurel Flour Mill which was formerly located across the street on Records Pond, and, later, the Hitchens family. The goal of the society is to restore the property as a unique and beautiful living history site which will provide a wonderful venue for social, educational, recreational and cultural events! We are also **extremely** excited about the prospect of our new acquisition becoming an integral part of the revitalization of downtown Laurel and look forward to sharing it with you, our friends and members, and Laurel citizens!

Our immediate financial needs include those for operating our headquarters at the Cook House and collection preservation. With the help of each of you, our friends and members, the society will continue to preserve Laurel's fascinating history through our programs and services. Our current board is comprised of many talented and energetic people and is planning a great program of activities and events for the coming year. However, our goals can only be accomplished with your support. Your donation, at whatever level you are able to provide, is extremely important to us as we continue to strive to preserve and celebrate the history of our beautiful town. **WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT!**

Sincerely,

George R. Denney, III
President

TOGETHER WE ARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN LAUREL

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Laurel Historical Society

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*thank
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