

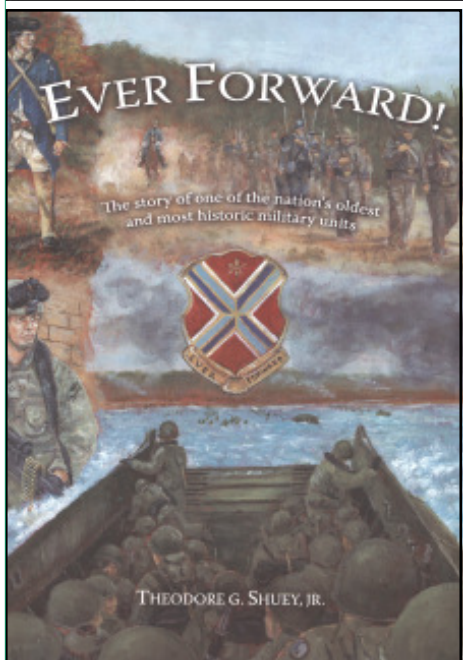
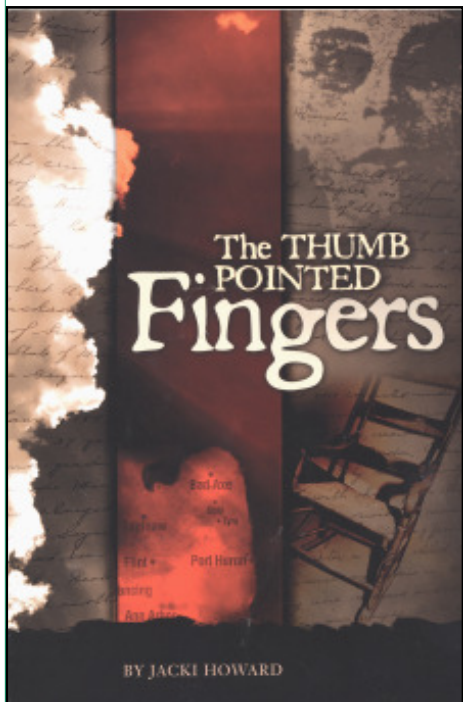


Christmas 2008

Season's Greetings to Our Authors, Clients, Families, and Friends!

The three partners of Lot's Wife Publishing (aka "The Wives") have enjoyed an excellent year in the business and in their own related professional and volunteer pursuits. Sometimes it seems hard to believe that we now have a dozen years behind us in the company. This year saw four new books off the press, bringing our total to forty-something.

A slight departure from our general emphasis on Virginia history was the publication of *The Thumb Pointed Fingers* by Jacki Howard of Churchville. This fascinating book is a historical murder mystery about a peculiar series of deaths that occurred in a branch of Jacki's own family in the Thumb area of Michigan at the turn of the twentieth century. We won't reveal too much of the plot, which Jacki researched very carefully, leaving that for the reader to discover. Gretchen Newman designed the attractive cover, and Alice Gaylor did the layout. The first printing sold out in two months and the second printing is now moving rapidly! (To find out more go to: www.dyingssparlings.com)



October saw a fine work covering an important part of Virginia military history off the press. This was *Ever Forward!* by Brigadier General Theodore G. Shuey, Jr., (Ret.) of the Army National Guard. This history of the 116th Infantry Regiment traces the dramatic story of a unit that saw service as the Augusta Militia in the French and Indian War and the Battle of Point Pleasant, the opening round of the American Revolution, and then went on to fame in the Civil War as the Stonewall Jackson Brigade. The gallant and horrible sacrifice borne by the 116th from Omaha Beach to St. Lô is legendary, and the unit has recently completed service in Iraq. Jennifer Wood Monroe designed the cover and Nancy Sorrells did the layout.

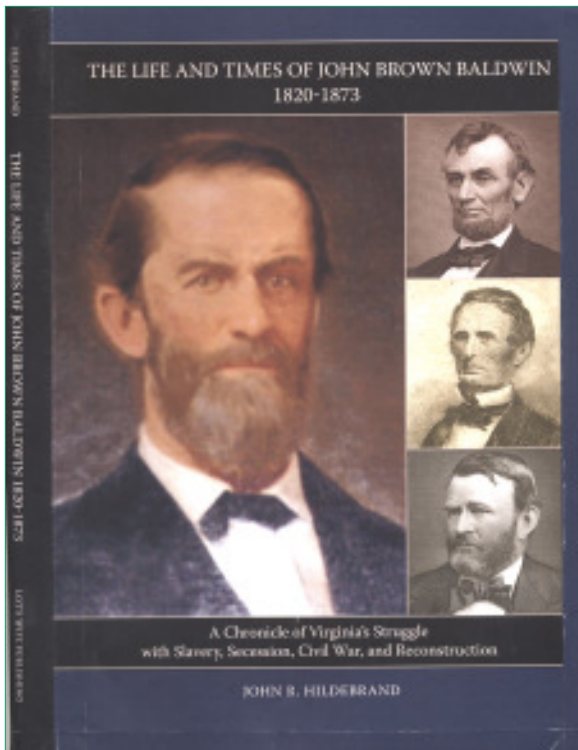
November's new book brought attention to a Staunton man whom retired Virginia Supreme Court Justice George M. Cochran has called "possibly the most important lawyer in nineteenth century Virginia." John R. Hildebrand of Salem, who published two previous works on Virginia history, is the author of *The Life and Times of John Brown Baldwin, 1820-1873: A Chronicle of Virginia's Struggle with Slavery, Secession, Civil War and Reconstruction*. Katharine Brown served as editor, Jennifer Wood Monroe provided the attractive cover for this hardcover book, and Alice Gaylor did the layout.

By New Year's Day we hope to see our fourth book off the press for the year, *Nielsen, Celebrating a Century of Excellence: The Legacy Continues* by Dorothy A. Boyd-Bragg.

This is a history of Nielsen Builders, Inc., a Harrisonburg construction company founded by a Danish immigrant. This firm that has built most of the James Madison University campus is one of the largest in western Virginia. Dorothy did the research and writing, Nielsen's own Patty May compiled the very extensive illustrations, Crystal Graham put everything together in a very creative layout, and Jennifer Wood Monroe designed the cover.

We have three other projects in the works that we are researching and





writing already and that will be published in 2010 and 2011. These are: 1. A history of beef and dairy cattle in North Carolina, following on the award-winning book that Nancy and Katharine did for the bovines of Virginia, 2. A history of Shenandoah Presbytery from 1970-2000, bringing up-to-date the story of a historic Valley denomination, and 3. The centennial history of St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in Richmond, one of the largest parishes of that denomination in the United States.

Nancy and Katharine have been working with the director and board of the Wilderness Road Museum in Newbern, Virginia, to create a new interpretive exhibit about transportation in southwestern Virginia, to be accompanied by an illustrated guidebook. This project should be completed early in 2009.

Dorothy has edited and indexed a transcription of Works Progress Administration material from Rockingham County in the 1930s for the Harrisonburg-Rockingham Historical Society, has published articles on the Great Wagon Road and on free

blacks of Cumberland County, Virginia, for genealogical journals, and has spoken about free black registers to the Ohio Genealogical Society.

Katharine and her husband led their sixth annual tour for the Germanna Foundation to ancestral villages in Germany and, as chair of the publications committee for the foundation, saw an important volume about the 1717 Second Colony settlers off the press. Work as president of the growing Augusta County Historical Society has kept her busy as well. In June, she and Nancy presented a paper on whiskey distilling in Augusta County at the Ulster American Heritage Symposium in Northern Ireland.

Nancy is a historical society board member involved in editing its journal and developing a new website, and represents ACHS on the governing board of the R.R. Smith Center. Her continuing work on the Augusta County Board of Supervisors is time consuming, challenging, and important in

shaping the future of this booming area. She is also a new trustee on the Shenandoah Valley

Battlefields Foundation, while continuing to serve on that foundation's committee that has produced several Civil War booklets.

In these dramatic and occasionally worrisome times, we wish you all a year of good health and prosperity in 2009.

*Sincerely,
Dorothy A. Boyd-Bragg
Katharine L. Brown
Nancy T. Sorrells*

