



Christmas 2005

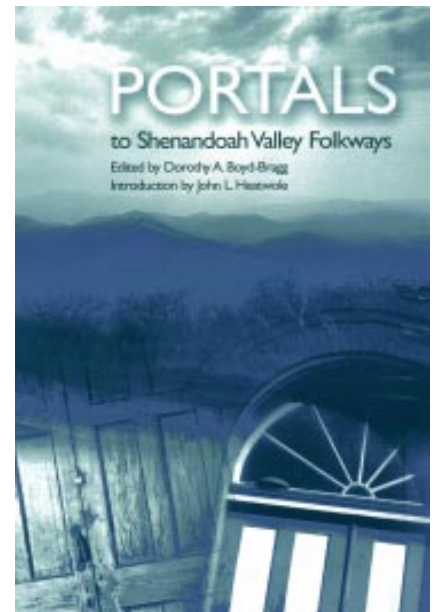
Dear Clients and Friends,



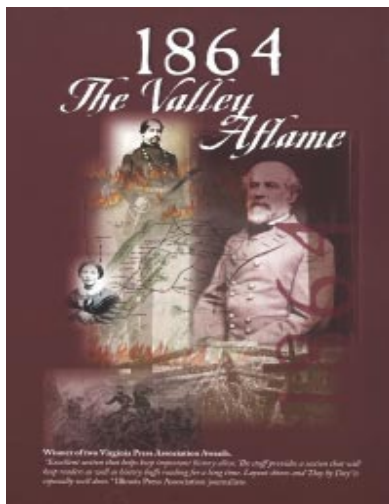
Our calendars record the passing of another busy and successful year. We have now completed our first decade as a publishing firm providing a range of services in local history. We can look with pleasure and pride at a bookshelf full of the 29 volumes we have published to tell the story of Virginia, its institutions, its people, and its animals.

Interest in the handsome history of cattle in Virginia that we researched for two years, wrote, and then published in late 2004 for the Virginia Cattlemen's Foundation and the Dairy Foundation of Virginia continued brisk throughout 2005. A few copies remain and may be ordered through the VCA office in Daleville, Virginia, or through Lot's Wife.

In the spring we published the first joint book venture between the Augusta County Historical Society and the Harrisonburg-Rockingham Historical Society. *Portals to Shenandoah Valley Folklife* is a collection of four essays edited by Lot's Wife partner Dorothy A. Boyd-Bragg, with an introduction by Valley folklorist and Civil War historian, John L. Heatwole. Authors of the essays are Heatwole, Danielle Toriskey of the James Madison University faculty, Nancy Sorrells of Lot's Wife, and Scott Hamilton Suter of the Bridgewater College faculty. Gretchen Newman designed the attractive cover and Barbara Wimble did the layout.



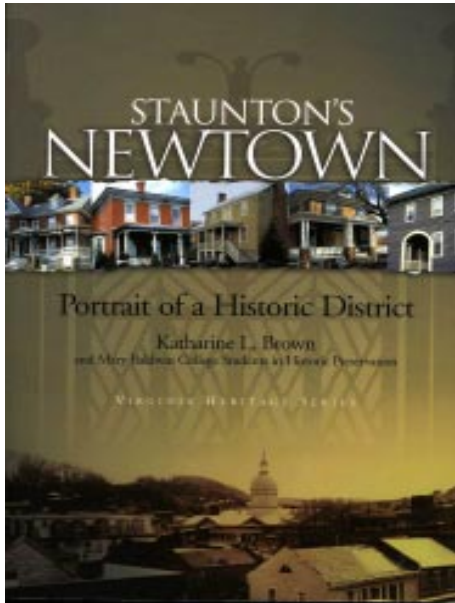
Over the past two years, Nancy and Katharine have worked with Staunton's Stonewall Brigade Band, America's oldest continuous community band, to preserve the history of this remarkable institution. The band has archival material, a wonderful photograph collection, historic instruments, and a great music collection. We surveyed their collections and provided them training workshops in the processing of archival and photograph collections, and recommended archival materials to obtain. Band volunteers carried out the actual work and we followed up with conservation recommendations for some of their specialized portraits and artifacts. It has been a privilege to be involved in preserving the story of this organization.



Two of our books miraculously appeared in local bookstores as fall sales geared up and Christmas book-giving is on the minds of many. We published a Civil War book, *Valley Aflame*, for the Harrisonburg-Rockingham Historical Society. The text and illustrations had appeared in the *Daily News-Record* as a special tabloid insert. The historical society was interested in a more permanent form for the information, minus the advertisements, as a book with a four-color cover and full color map insert. Jennifer Wood, a talented Staunton graphic designer, re-formatted the materials made available by the newspaper into an extremely attractive book. Dorothy indexed the volume. This is available from the HRHS and in local bookstores.

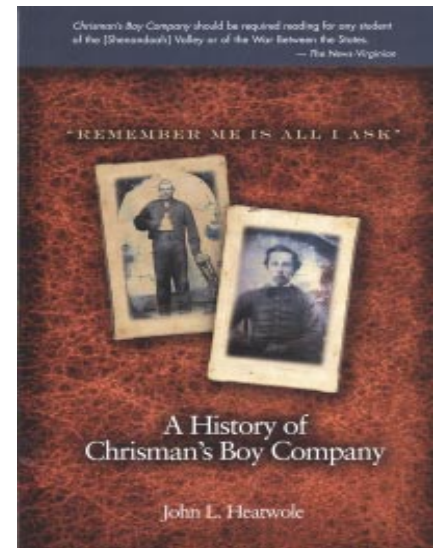
Valley historian and folklorist John L. Heatwole wanted a new four-color cover for an earlier work he published called *A History of Chrisman's Boy Company*, an important contribution to Shenandoah Valley Civil War history. We worked with Gretchen Newman to design this and got it printed.

Staunton's Newtown: Portrait of a Historic District by Lot's Wife partner Katharine L. Brown is a collaborative effort with more than two dozen of her students in the historic preservation course she teaches at Mary Baldwin College. The students had each researched a house in the historic district, so their



term papers provided a basis for the book and each student received credit for the section on her (or his) house. Katharine expanded on those papers with extensive research on the seven

churches and seven schools in this one historic district, on architects and contractors who built in Newtown, including Staunton's renowned T.J. Collins & Son firm, and on many of the interesting residents of the neighborhood in the nineteenth century. The 330-page book is illustrated with some 250 photographs and is indexed. It has received favorable attention in the *Daily News Leader* and the *Augusta Free Press*, an online newspaper, and was the subject of the fall meeting of the Augusta County Historical Society. Dorothy and Nancy edited and indexed this complex volume. Gretchen Newman, Director of Design at Mary Baldwin College, designed the handsome cover and Barbara Wimble did the layout. Historic Staunton Foundation, the local preservation organization, awarded Katharine its 2005 Heritage Preservation Award for this book and for her years of preservation teaching and activities.



In the midst of celebrating these publishing successes, we have the sad news to report that one of our founding partners, Susanne Simmons, has decided to leave the firm to pursue other career interests. It was Sue who came up with the name, Lot's Wife Publishing. It never fails to bring questions and we always enjoy telling inquirers that Mrs. Lot, who just had to look back, must be the first recorded example of a female historian. Just right for a firm comprised of women who are historians. We've always thought that was more fun than something sedate like "Heritage Publishers." Sue is a good friend and a good historian. We will miss her and we wish her the greatest success in her new career ventures that include library work.

As the year winds down, we have a list of projects in the works for 2006 that will keep us busy until our next Christmas letter. One is the publication of the journals of John Wayland, professor at Madison College and pioneering Valley historian. This project is sponsored by Bridgewater College. Another is the production of a volume about historic markers in Augusta County and the sites they commemorate. This grew from a series of articles that Nancy published in the Staunton *Daily News-Leader*.

We value the ties we have had with all of our clients and associates. We wish all of you a joyful holiday season and a prosperous, interesting, and successful year ahead. Don't forget to check our website, www.lotswifepublishing.com

With warm holiday wishes,

Dorothy A. Boyd-Bragg

Katharine L. Brown

Nancy T. Sorrells

