

In My Home Town

Ashland Museum Members Bulletin
Spring 2014



The Museum's exhibits, "Antebellum Resort to Civil War Town" and "Ashland Reborn" document Ashland, Virginia's growth, challenges, and changes from 1836 to 1900. Visit the Ashland Museum in person or via our website to learn more about how Ashland grew from a resort along the tracks called Slash Cottage to the town we know today.



The origin of many street names in Ashland seems obvious. Henry Clay Road, Cox Lane and Stebbins Street are a few whose origins can be easily guessed. But assume that Henry Street was named for Patrick Henry, you'd be wrong. Henry and Caroline Streets commemorate two respected and

well-known Ashland residents of the post-Civil War era. Henry C. Scott was a physician in Ashland for over 30 years. His wife, Caroline A. "Mimi" Baird Scott was known as a generous person who had such a reputation for helping hobos and vagrants that a secret sign was made on the Scott house or gate post to guide travelers in need to her door [1]. In this issue of *In My Home Town*, we learn more about these two notable Ashlanders from the past.

Dr. Henry C. Scott: "A Gallant Confederate"

Described in his 1899 obituary [2] as "a gallant Confederate" who had for decades been "identified with the interests of his adopted town" of Ashland, Dr. Henry Scott's tombstone and that of his wife, Caroline Scott, are two of the older and more august monuments in Woodland Cemetery. Though both were natives of Maryland, a common devotion to the Confederacy led them to Ashland, where they would become two of the town's most highly esteemed residents.

Born in Baltimore in 1828, Henry Scott first pursued law studies and later at the age of twenty-nine earned a degree in medicine from the University of Maryland. His new profession would bring him face-to-face with history, for in July of 1859 he would be one of the surgeons who dressed John Brown's wounds after his failed insurrection at Harper's Ferry. Months later he would examine Brown's body again after it had been taken down from the hanging scaffold in Charles



In My Home Town is a Bulletin for Members of the Ashland Museum. Our focus is interesting or notable people, places, events or things, and memories related to Ashland, Virginia.

We hope you will enjoy receiving this Bulletin, but if not, please call, write or send us an email to unsubscribe.

Editors: Nancy Kackley and Susan Tucker. This issue's article was written by Dr. Ritchie Watson, A.G. Ingram Professor of English, Randolph-Macon College, Ashland, VA.

Town. Though Maryland was a border state in the Civil War, Dr. Scott's loyalties and those of his wife lay firmly with the Confederate side. He fought initially with the First Maryland Regiment, and in 1862 joined the First Virginia Cavalry. Having been badly injured by a horse being shot under him and falling on him, Scott spent the later years of the War in Richmond. Here he served as surgeon at various army hospitals until the fall of the Capital.



According to his obituary, Dr. Scott moved with his wife to Ashland in June of 1865 "at the solicitation of the numerous residents of this village." Here for over three decades he would serve as a physician, honored for both his service to the town and to the Confederacy. He was one of Ashland's first mayors and also a member of the town school board. In addition to these public trusts, he was an office-holding member of the

Royal Arcanum, a fraternal benefit society, and of the W. B. Newton Camp, the Ashland Lodge of the United Confederate Veterans. He died at age seventy after a final year of illness at his home, which was located near the present site of Randolph-Macon College's Blackwell Auditorium at the southeast corner of Henry and Caroline Streets.

Dr. Scott's widow, Caroline, would survive her husband for more than 20 years. She obviously shared her late husband's Confederate loyalties, for she was lauded in her obituary [3] as a lady who—though "born in the North"—had been "a warm Southern sympathizer." She died at age 89 as Ashland's "oldest inhabitant." Her "largely attended" funeral included delegations from both the United Daughters of the Confederacy and the Confederate Memorial Society. Her burial at Woodland Cemetery can be viewed as marking the end of an era of Ashland's history.

1. Rosanne Groat Shaff, *Ashland, Ashland: the story of a turn-of-the-century railroad town*, (Lawrenceville: Brunswick Publishing, 1994), p. 188.
2. "Dr. H. C. Scott of Ashland Dead", *The Times* [Richmond, VA] 5 March 1899:
5. Retrieved from: chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn85034438/1899-03-05/ed-1/seq-5/
3. "Death of Mrs. Scott.", *The Herald-Progress* [Ashland, VA] 22 July 1921: 1.

Upcoming Events

Woodland Cemetery Tours

Sat., April 12, 4:30 pm &
Sat., May 10, 4:30 pm

Walking Tours of Ashland

Sat., May 3, 11 am &
Sat., June 14, 11 am

History Camp – Summer Sat.

Scavenger Hunt, kids 7-12

Sat., May 24, 10 -11:30 am

Food in the Civil War, kids 7-12

Sat., June 28, 10-11:30 am

Docent Training

Sat., April 26, 2-4 pm

Your continued support keeps the doors open and the lights on at the Ashland Museum and the Red Caboose. Please donate at our website or by US mail.

We always need volunteers to staff the Museum and for special projects. Contact us if you are interested in getting involved.

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Museum Hours:

Saturdays: 10:00 am to 2:00 pm
Sundays: 12:30 to 2:30 pm