



Dear Rugby Friends and Supporters,

As winter approaches, so does Historic Rugby's slowest season. While winter can be a beautiful time to visit Rugby, it has traditionally been a time when HRI operates at a significant deficit. However, it also a time that allows staff to focus on making 2015 an even bigger year. Please consider a special gift to support our plans for improved operations and programming.

2014 has been a year of achievements and challenges for Historic Rugby. *Please see reverse for a list of some of our achievements so far this year.* As for challenges, we need to increase our membership and visitor numbers and address increased operating costs and ongoing maintenance.

Here are some of our major goals for 2015:

- **Preservation** – The expense of building maintenance and preservation continues to rise. Our outstanding needs include:
 - **Board of Aid Building** -- Exterior siding repair, fire suppression system replacement, shutter repair, and painting
 - **Kingston Lisle** -- A new wood shake roof
 - **Thomas Hughes Library Archives** -- Fire suppression system maintenance
 - **Harrow Road Café** – New Roof

- **Special Programming** – Plans are afoot for a new Appalachian and British performing arts festival in Spring, plus different opportunities for crafters. We'll need at least \$2000 to match arts grant funds for which we have applied for 2015.

- **Harrow Road HVAC (est. \$20K)** --This system has reached the end of its lifespan and must be completely replaced.

Please look for a link to a Rugby survey in December asking about Historic Rugby's plans and programs for 2015. We look forward to your input and help in our decisions about the near and long term future.

Please consider sharing Historic Rugby as a gift this holiday. There is no better way to introduce your friends to the benefits of being part of Historic Rugby than by giving them a membership of their own.

We appreciate your commitment to Historic Rugby and our shared mission. Many thanks in advance for your consideration and generosity.

Happy Holidays!

John Hicks
Chairman, Historic Rugby Board of Directors

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Historic Rugby Highlights for 2014

2014 Has Been Another Successful Year for Historic Rugby!

For the first time in living memory, we can now experience Rugby's natural setting to an extent that has not been possible for decades. The opening of the new Highway 52 rerouting eliminated much of the heavy traffic and high speeds through the village and increased Rugby's wonderful peace and quiet. If you thought Historic Rugby was idyllic before, you'll be amazed at what a difference it makes to be off the route for trucks and high speed travelers.

A Growing Focus on the Outdoors

We also benefited from the opening of a National Park Service Big South Fork Ranger Station during summer weekends in our Board of Aid Building and its regular offering of guided hikes for residents and visitors. This has been a significant complement to the efforts of volunteers who have worked hard at maintaining and improving the hiking trails within the historic district. These seven trails will be featured in our spring opening "Hike Rugby!" event. We have also just secured a \$1,000 grant from the TN Parks and Greenways Foundation to support our endeavors!

Young Scholars Program in Rugby

There is also much happening to renew our partnerships with the local schools through the Rugby Junior Scholars Program. The goal is for every 5th grade class in our three county areas to come to Rugby for a day of historical and environmental education. The enthusiasm for this program has been exciting. After the first teacher training there were soon dozens of students from Sunbright and Oakdale Schools in Rugby learning and writing about this treasure in their backyard.

A Marketing Partnership

A focus of the Board has also been increasing the marketing efforts of the organization. Our partnership with our public relations friends at Seigenthaler and Associates has increased our statewide visibility. Volunteers have developed materials for day trip planners, our rack cards have been updated and distributed, new directional signage is up on Highway 52 and our website is continually updated and daily/monthly updates go out through Facebook and our Constant Contact emails. We even have a TV spot airing on Cookeville's regional public station!

Group Visits

Groups continue to find a trip to Historic Rugby a rewarding experience. In addition to the groups of area school children mentioned above, we have seen senior groups, church groups, and multiple hiking groups. Historic Rugby works with groups interested in making a reservation to reduce admission fees and arrange special luncheon options in the cafe.

Tennessee State Museum Exhibit: Intentional Communities in Tennessee

The Tennessee State Museum's just-closed "Intentional Communities" exhibit looked at utopian-style settlements in Tennessee, including Rugby. We had 26 artifacts on display, including our London Tabard Inn baluster and the guest register from our own twice-burned Tabard Inn. 36 people joined The State Museum-sponsored tour of Historic Rugby on Nov. 22.