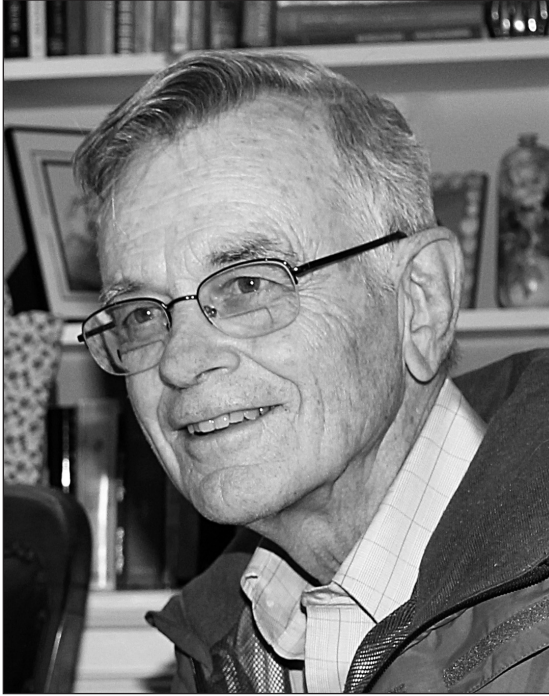

A Tribute to Hugh Campbell



One fine day, about 1996, Hugh Campbell suggested that we talk. He had in mind a journal that would highlight the Scotch-Irish and German history of Southwest Virginia. Why don't you join Lon Savage and Charlie Modlin, he asked, in helping me edit such an endeavor? Well, hey Hugh, you are a good friend and I love history and I like living in Southwest Virginia, but that's a heck of a lot of work. I do have classes to teach and research to do. Hugh was not in the least impressed. He may be mild and mannerly and very well educated, but the concept of "no" apparently has never been among his facilities.

Over the years, I have been glad that it isn't. All of us have thoroughly enjoyed our interactions with Hugh. It's wonderful working with him. We make the suggestions and he does the work. He has a way of putting no pressure on us, and yet we feel compelled to get on with the reviews and the editing.

For some time, members of the Smithfield branch of what was then known as the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities had talked of the need for a journal devoted to our local region. It should provide an interesting and enlightening presentation of the history of the area west of the Blue Ridge in Virginia and adjacent states.

What the conversation needed was Hugh. He gave shape to the ideas and went into action. He set about to find competent and interesting authors. He pursued contributions relevant to the journal's purposes. He sought a variety of foci. He edited material to make submissions fit requirements of content, grammar, syntax, spelling, expression, and sheer logical connection. He engaged a wide variety of writers who could help him produce a coherent and well-composed set of interesting articles and research notes.

For 20 years now, the *Review* has contained the stories of both important personages and people of no particular fame. They have focused upon significant events and everyday activities. Authors have reported upon archaeological discoveries, old letters, speeches, and other documents. Topics have included social, political, economic, artistic, and architectural matters. Maps and pictures have enlivened many presentations.

The vision was Hugh's. He brought others along, but the ideas and the brunt of the work have been his. Truly, he put his heart and soul into *The Smithfield Review* over the past two decades, and it will stand as a monument to him. We thank him for letting us ride along.

Hugh will continue to serve as a member of the editorial board, but he has chosen to leave the *Review* in the hands of two co-editors, Clara B. Cox and Sharon B. Watkins, who will continue—and perhaps expand—Hugh's vision.

Charles L. Taylor
Charter Member
The Smithfield Review Editorial Board