

Harrison County
WEST VIRGINIA
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

POST OFFICE BOX 2064
CLARKSBURG, WEST VIRGINIA 26301

NEWSLETTER

Spring

APRIL 1972

In 1967 the sons of Amy Roberts Vance offered the Harrison County Historical Society a chance to purchase a house built in 1807. Twenty-four thousand dollars was a large sum for a membership of eighty to raise. One person pointed out the way to borrow the money, then encouraged the Society to venture. He supplied the spark that lit the flame for members to solicit the community for funds that paid for the house within a year. The Society names Clinton Israel the first Honorary Member of the Harrison County Historical Society.

The annual dinner meeting of the Harrison County Historical Society will be held at 6:30 p.m. on April 19, 1972, at the Uptowner Inn, 151 West Main Street, Clarksburg, W. Va.

Planned to honor Mr. Clinton Israel, the dinner meeting will have as speaker Dr. Carolyn Zinn, Director of the West Virginia State Department of Archives and History.

Members of the Society and their guests are invited to a reception at the Amy Roberts Vance House between 5:15 and 6:30 P.M. to meet Dr. Zinn. The Board of Directors of the Society will host the reception.

Since April 19th is the anniversary of the date of the first battle of the American Revolution, the Museum Committee will display at the Vance House artifacts used by Harrison County soldiers of the American Revolution and items now owned by county citizens but used by soldiers from areas other than Harrison County.

Members may bring guests to the dinner which will be served at a cost of \$4.00 per person. The fee for the dinner will be payable at the Uptowner on April 19th. For reservations to the dinner telephone Elizabeth Sloan, 622-0443, by April 15th or mail the form printed below to Post Office Box 2064 by April 13th.

Harrison County West Virginia Historical Society
Post Office Box 2064
Clarksburg
West Virginia 26301

Please make reservations for a total of _____ persons
at \$4.00 each for dinner April 19, 1972, at 6:30 p.m.
at the Uptowner Inn, 151 West Main Street, Clarksburg.

Signed _____

DR. HESS TO SPEAK

FRIENDS OF THE (Clarksburg Public) LIBRARY will hold the annual Spring Reception on Sunday, April 16, 1972, at 2:00 p.m., at the Clarksburg Public Library. Dr. James William Hess, Associate Professor of History at West Virginia University and curator of the West Virginia Collection in the West Virginia University Library, will be the speaker. Dr. Hess will discuss Rare Books - What Are They? Members of the Harrison County Historical Society are invited to attend the reception.

THE GARDEN

As soon as the weather permits, the Goff Plaza Garden Club will begin work on restoring the garden on museum property. The Board of Directors voted to donate to the project money paid for admission to the Amy Roberts Vance House. A letter from the garden club, dated October 29, 1971, thanked the Society for a thirty dollar check. The Society will assist the garden club with publicity in which memorial gifts of plants, trees, etc. will be solicited. The Society agreed to be responsible for mowing the grass.

AIMS FOR 1972 AND BEYOND

The Society will continue to sponsor ten program meetings during the year and an annual tour of historic sites in the county.

The Board of Directors has fostered the first two "objects and purposes" of the Society: "To promote interest in West Virginia history; to preserve, maintain and support historical sites." While continuing to pursue these two "objects", a third will receive added attention: "studying, assembling, preserving and perpetuating whatever may relate to...matters of historical interest to the present generation."

Mrs. O. D. Linder has started an index to the archives, manuscripts and genealogical material owned by the Society with a view to making it available to scholars.

Currently the Society averages each month two or three inquiries for historical information, and gives any help it can. In November 1971, Karla Linn Merrifield, a student in Keuka College, Keuka Park, New York, came to the area to study Indian culture in the Monongahela River Valley. The Society supplied a bibliography of secondary sources and a member of the Society, Lucille McDonald Walls, drove Miss Merrifield to Two Lick to view the Indian Cave which is located on the farm of the family of Mrs. Walls.

Newsletters in the future may contain articles on some facet of local history.

A long-time aim of the Society is the construction of a fireproof vault in the basement of the Vance House for storage of historic papers and manuscripts.

THANK YOU

The following members have served as host and hostesses since September 1971: Jack Sandy Anderson, Lucille Stryker, Mrs. Ann Kyle, Mrs. Ralph Martin, Mrs. James Wilson, Margaret Hayman, Mrs. Margaret Criswell, Mrs. Bertha S. Brown, Mrs. Margaret Early.

In October, Mrs. William Bever staged a splendid exhibit of kitchenware.

The Christmas Open-House: Mrs. G. L. Pettrey, Jr., and Mrs. Paul A. Hornor were responsible for table decorations, refreshments and service. Edgar Matthey donated the Christmas tree. Mrs. Mabel Leonard, Mrs. Hattie DeBerry, and Mrs. Lucille Walls made cookies to decorate the tree; Jack Sandy Anderson created dozens of old-fashioned trimmings; Mrs. Catherine Osborn Goff and the Misses Candace and Leah Davis gave antique ornaments. Jack Sandy Anderson trimmed the tree.

AMY ROBERTS VANCE HOUSE LISTINGS

Mobile Gas Company will include the House in their Travel Guide for 1972.

Application has been made for inclusion in the American Association for State and Local History Directory...for 1972-73.

West Virginia History, October 1971, contains an announcement of the opening of the Amy Roberts Vance House as a museum. A brief history of the house and an account of its purchase by the Harrison County Historical Society are included.

West Virginia History, January 1972, reported an article from the Clarksburg Exponent, October 5, 1971: "Utensils of the kitchen hearth will be assembled around the fireplace in the museum building of the Harrison County Historical Society for the special exhibit scheduled for October 14-17. Visitors can see the implements of the pioneer kitchen in early 19th Century Harrison County home."

SOCIETY BUSINESS

Something like two hundred boxes of note paper with a view of the Vance House remain to be sold.

Since the dues of members is the means whereby the museum operates, the goal of the Society is a membership of 500. The number of members December 31, 1971 was 247. The number of memberships renewed (or "new") by March 15, 1972, was 190.

The museum collection at the Vance House has been insured.

On March 15, 1972 the Society passed several amendments to the Constitution. These included changes in membership fees, an increase in the size of the Board of Directors, and the designation of April as the date of the annual meeting.

Election of officers and directors for 1972-1973 will be held at the dinner meeting, April 19, 1972.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT 1971

Account Union National Bank January 1, 1971		\$1,820.55
Deposits 1971		<u>2,929.15</u>
Total assets 1971		\$4,749.70
Expenditures 1971		
Insurance	\$ 295.00	
Utilities and telephone	676.98	
Postage	130.20	
Printing and supplies	432.38	
Maintenance of Vance House	1,314.52	
Petty Cash Fund	200.00	
Tour and entertainment	180.55	
Note paper	417.38	
Donation	5.00	
Hauling	<u>52.00</u>	
Total Expenditures		<u>\$3,704.01</u>
Account Union National Bank December 31, 1971		\$1,045.69