

Harrison County
WEST VIRGINIA
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

POST OFFICE BOX ~~2074~~ 2074
CLARKSBURG, WEST VIRGINIA 26301

NEWSLETTER

S P R I N G 1 9 7 3

MARCH MEETING

Amy Roberts Vance House
7:30 o'clock, March 21, 1973

David H. Corcoran, Executive Director, Pearl S. Buck Birthplace Foundation, Inc., will speak on the subject: "The Restoration of an Important National Landmark: The Birthplace of Pearl S. Buck".

APRIL DINNER MEETING

Julia Davis (Mrs. Charles Healy), will speak at the spring dinner meeting scheduled for 6:30 o'clock on April 18, 1973, in the Uptowner Inn in Clarksburg. Julia Davis is the author of ten books for children, two detective stories, two books of non-fiction, four novels, and a play. She was born in Clarksburg and, as a child, was a member of the John J. Davis household---an experience of which she wrote with humor and understanding in Legacy of Love.

Mrs. Healy, who now lives in Princeton, New Jersey, will describe the Clarksburg she remembers during the first decade of the twentieth century.

The Society will honor Mrs. Healy during the hour 5:30-6:30 o'clock at a reception in the Amy Roberts Vance House. Members of the Society and their guests are invited to attend the reception.

Reservations for the dinner are to be made in advance, by mail, and are to be accompanied by check. Please do not telephone reservations. Please do not request reservations after the closing date of April 13, 1973.

AMY ROBERTS VANCE HOUSE

The Collection

Selected recent acquisitions:

- Hand woven coverlet; navy and white, reversible; made by Martha Harbert Griffin of Jones Run. Five hand blown goblets made at the Lumberport Glass Factory ca. 1921. English Version of the Polyglott Bible...; on flyleaf: "James L. Griffin's Book August the 31st 1841". Gift of Miss Agnes Harbert.
- Sanborn maps of Clarksburg 1911, 1916, 1924, 1955. Gift of Harlan Taylor.
- Bookcase; glass doors; made by the Hurseys. Chair (rocker); imitation bamboo painted black and gold; hand-woven carpet seat and back. From the estate of Mrs. Gertrude Boggess McIntire.
- Child's rocking chair; bentwood back and seat (in one piece) with a perforated design. Gift of Mrs. Frank Atterholt.
- Hazel Atlas glass dish commemorating John W. Davis Day August 11, 1924. Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Matthew Holt.

RESERVATION FOR APRIL DINNER MEETING

CLOSING DATE: April 13, 1973

Make check payable to Harrison County Historical Society

Mail reservation slip and check to:

Harrison County Historical Society
Post Office Box 2074
Clarksburg, WV 26301

OR

E. A. Sloan
359 Lee Avenue
Clarksburg, WV 26301

Number of reservations for reception (no charge) _____

Number of reservations for dinner @ \$5.00 each _____

Payment Enclosed _____

Names of all individuals for whom dinner reservations are being made:

Signature _____

Visitors to the Museum

The Workshop for Harrison County teachers sponsored by the Society on September 27, 1972, was so well received that teachers requested a repeat performance on November 29, 1972. Still more teachers wish to visit the museum and hear the three speakers who appeared at the first two workshops; so a third session is scheduled for May 17, 1973.

Special tours of the museum have been staged during the winter months for nine Harrison County public school groups, for one Doddridge County public school group, and for the honorary society of the History Department of Salem College. Arrangement for tours for school groups may be made by telephoning Madge McDaniel, 842-3073; and for adult groups by telephoning Bertha Stout Brown, 624-7908.

Mrs. Brown, who is in charge of staffing the museum during Saturday visiting hours, has been assisted during the winter months by Lucile Stryker, Pearl Custer, Margaret Holt Early, and Margaret Hayman.

During June, July, and August the museum will be open to visitors from 2:00 o'clock until 4:00 o'clock six days each week, Monday through Saturday.

GENEALOGICAL DEPARTMENT

Mrs. Linder and her committee, who have entered approximately 40,000 cards in files to index the holdings of the Society, have asked that members of the Society assist them in three ways:

1. By entering the family names in which they are interested and the family names on which they have information in the Researchers' Card File now being compiled. The purpose of the file is to enable researchers to find others who share their interest.
2. By returning Genealogical Data Sheets which were handed to members earlier in the year so that the information can be filed and indexed.
3. By writing information they are carrying in their heads concerning people and places in Harrison County. The papers need not be polished literary compositions. The committee wants to file and index memories and facts of history.

SOCIETY BUSINESS

Membership of the Society on December 31, 1972, was 254. The board of directors voted on November 15, 1972, to carry names of delinquent members until May 1 after the January in which dues are collected. So if you have not sent dues for 1973, forward them to Mr. E. A. Payne, 211 Johnson Avenue, Bridgeport, WV 26330.

The Society post office box number has been changed from 2064 to 2074.

The estimate submitted by the contractor for piping water to the bathroom on the south side of the house was so astronomical that the custodial committee headed by Mr. Tetrick decided to postpone the work for awhile. But when rain water began to drip onto the landing of the staircase to the south wing of the house, the custodial committee had a repairman on the roof the next day. The cost for the repair was \$30.00. The roofing firm has informed the board that the house needs a new roof. The estimated cost is \$350.00.

The board recently purchased two fire extinguishers, one for the first floor and one for the second floor.

To reduce the \$20.90 monthly charge for telephone service at the Vance House, the board voted on February 17, 1973, to have installed a pay phone. By paying a \$3.30 monthly service charge, the Society will continue to be listed in the directory; the number, when dialed, will signal the telephone in the Vance House to ring. The only change is that a user of the service in the Vance House must insert a dime to make an outgoing call.

The board is concerned about security for the collection. Two suggestions have been made: (1) Installation of a wall on the east side topped by a fence which would continue to run across the back of the property and from the fence now located on the west side of the property to the south-west corner of the Vance House. (2) Installation of heavy mesh screen over windows on the first floor. Will members please express their opinion on the matter to a member of the board of directors.

Mr. Payne has reported \$2923.47 in the treasury of the Society on March 1, 1973.

A budget currently being considered by the board of directors sets the cost for a year to maintain the museum, operate the Genealogical Department, and perform the business of the Society at \$1952.50.

The nominating committee---Louise Hornor, chairman; Mrs. Bertha Stout Brown and Mrs. Thomas Craig, members---will present a slate of officers who will, with the nominees from the floor, be voted on at the April meeting of the Society.