

Harrison County
WEST VIRGINIA
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

Post Office Box 2074
Clarksburg, West Virginia 26301

Spring 1978

ANNUAL DINNER MEETING

The annual dinner meeting of the Harrison County Historical Society will be held on April 19, 1978, in the Sheraton Inn in Clarksburg. Members and guests of members are invited to a reception at the Amy Roberts Vance House from 5:15—6:00 p.m. on April 19. The dinner at the Sheraton is scheduled for 6:00 p.m.

The speaker following the dinner will be Dr. George Parkinson, curator of the West Virginia Collection at the West Virginia University Library. Although Parkinson was born in Columbus, Georgia, his family hails from Ohio. Dr. Parkinson is a graduate of Ohio State University and the University of Wisconsin where he received his Ph.D. in history. At the West Virginia University Library Dr. Parkinson oversees the largest archival collection in the State which includes sound recordings, books, documents, and manuscripts relating to West Virginia and Appalachia. He also teaches American history at the University.

To make reservations for the dinner and the reception, fill in and mail the form on the back of this sheet.

AMY ROBERTS VANCE HOUSE

Maintenance

Members were told last fall that to meet the cost of utilities, cleaning of the Vance House, and printing of Society correspondence the Society must use all the funds raised by dues. An appeal was made for donations for repairs to the Vance House. Members were generous. They contributed a total of \$1817.

A new ceiling has been installed in the east living room at a cost of \$450. A contract for \$423 has been signed for a new roof on the clapboard portion of the house to be installed as soon as the weather will permit. The \$944 balance in the donated funds, it is hoped, will pay for painting the outside of the house during the spring of 1978.

A member of the board has laundered the curtains in the Vance House and has paid for drycleaning the draperies in the dining room and the west living room. The Society has had the interior of the house thoroughly cleaned.

Staffing

The Amy Roberts Vance House was open each Saturday afternoon September through December, 1977. Hostesses who served during this period were Helen Ash, Dorothy Davis, Ann Davis Hurst, Audra Kincaid, Aileen Lucas, Elizabeth Sloan, Frances Stout, Lucille Stryker, Frances Watson, and Nina Watson.

Genealogical service has been limited to answering correspondence. Because Harrison County is an old county which once included a high percentage of the land area of present West Virginia, the requests for information are voluminous. The requests also help the Society. It was research for an answer to a question as to the burial site of Samuel Hall Young out of which the historical sketch for this newsletter grew. Mrs. Verna Shingleton has searched for the answers to requests and Lucille Stryker has typed the correspondence.

The Collection

Accessions:

Section of log from Stonewall Jackson birthplace. Gift of David Carper.

Empire sofa; belonged to Governor Joseph Johnson, part of the furnishings of the David Johnson house, Bridgeport. Loaned by Dr. Robert S. Wilson.

Lake atlas of Harrison County.

Genealogies: William Williams---Sardis-Katy Lick area.

Harry L. Jackson (John and Elizabeth Cummins) descendants in Kentucky.

Robinson (Ben and Lucy), Rapp and Lynch families: newspaper clippings, scrap books, photographs; a little material on Towers School.

EVENTS

Reception at the Amy Roberts Vance House for the West Virginia state convention of the United Daughters of the Confederacy, September 1977.

A window display in September 1977 by J.C. Penney Company of costumes from the Vance House collection. First prize award.

Tour of Vance House by a group of senior citizens from South Carolina, October 1977.

Three markers by each of the grave sites of Mary Coles Payne, Mary Payne Jackson, and John George Jackson installed in November 1977. The markers were paid for by the Harrison County Bicentennial Commission; the Society sponsored the installation. The West Virginia Memorial Company donated the labor required to cut the inscriptions into the granite.

A Simpson Creek covered bridge historic highway marker authorized by the Board of the Society. The West Virginia Historical Society, at its meeting in 1977 at North Bend State Park, passed a resolution requesting that state preservation officers be authorized to consider any action on West Virginia covered bridges proposed by the Department of Highways. The resolution grew out of efforts sparked by Mrs. Neil McIntyre to save the Simpson Creek covered bridge. The society contributed one third of the money used to telephone state authorities during the crisis when destruction of the sycamore tree near the bridge was imminent and the future of the bridge itself was uncertain.

HERITAGE TRUNKS

The State Department of Archives and History of the Science and Cultural Center is sponsoring the preparation of "Heritage Trunks" for use in teaching West Virginia History in the eighth grade of schools in West Virginia. An appeal is being made for the donation of antique "Camel-back" trunks into which articles pertaining to the history of bygone days in Appalachia will be placed. The trunks will be transported from school to school during the school year.

Harrison County has been asked to furnish three trunks and the articles to be placed inside the trunks. Items for the trunks can be such things as swatches of homespun cloth, examples of quilting new or old, cloth or cornshuck dolls, tools used in the kitchen or on the farm, etc.

Trunks and items for the trunks will be evaluated and certificates of value issued for use in claiming a deduction on federal income tax. The project in Harrison County is under the direction of William Ashcraft, supervisor of secondary schools. Further information may be obtained by telephoning Mr. Ashcraft, JoAnn Young (622-7436), or Madge McDaniel (842-3073).

REPORT OF MEMBERSHIP AND FINANCES

No doubt because of the cancellation of monthly meetings in December, January, and February, collection of dues has been slow. If you have not sent dues for 1978, please do so. The fee for family membership is \$7.50; single, \$5.00; student, \$1.00. As of February 20 dues had been received as follows: adult, 70; family, 34; institutional, 1; contributing, 3; student, 1. The society has 14 life membership with one of those subscribed in 1978.

Finances:	General Fund	\$1306.02
	Repair Fund	1817.00
	Book Fund	<u>323.66</u>
	Total:	\$3446.68

Certificates of Deposit		
	General Fund(2)	\$3500.00 plus interest
	Book Fund	\$2200.00 plus interest

Harrison County Historical Society
 Reception at the Amy Roberts Vance House (5:15 - 6:00 p.m.) and Annual Dinner at the Sheraton Inn (6:00 p.m.)
 Wednesday, April 19, 1978

CLOSING DATE FOR RESERVATIONS AND REFUNDS: April 11, 1978

Make check payable to Harrison County Historical Society
 Mail this slip and check to: Harrison County Historical Society
 Post Office Box 2074
 Clarksburg, West Virginia 26301

Number of reservations for reception at no charge	_____
Number of reservations for dinner at \$7.00 (Cost includes tax and gratuity)	_____
Amount of check enclosed	_____
Signature _____	

HOSTESSES JUNE, JULY, AUGUST 1978

If you are willing to serve as a host or hostess at the Vance House from June through August 1978, Monday to Saturday 2-4 p.m., please check and mail this form to Harrison County Historical Society, Post Office Box 2074, Clarksburg, West Virginia 26301.

JUNE			JULY			AUGUST		
1__	12__	22__	1__	12__	22__	1__	11__	22__
2__	13__	23__	3__	13__	24__	2__	12__	23__
3__	14__	24__	4__	14__	25__	3__	14__	24__
5__	15__	26__	5__	15__	26__	4__	15__	25__
6__	16__	27__	6__	17__	27__	5__	16__	26__
7__	17__	28__	7__	18__	28__	7__	17__	28__
8__	19__	29__	8__	19__	29__	8__	18__	29__
9__	20__	30__	10__	20__	31__	9__	19__	30__
10__	21__		11__	21__		10__	21__	31__

Signature _____ Telephone _____