

Harrison County
WEST VIRGINIA
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

POST OFFICE BOX 2074
CLARKSBURG, WEST VIRGINIA 26301

NEWSLETTER

SPRING 1979

MARCH MEETING

Dr. David D. Nuzum of Keyser, West Virginia, will speak at the meeting of the Harrison County Historical Society scheduled for 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, March 21, in the Amy Roberts Vance House. His subject will be the history of the Nuzum family.

Dr. Nuzum, a native of Harrison County, graduated from Victory High School and West Virginia University. He has instructed English at Potomac State College for more than forty years.

ANNUAL DINNER MEETING

The annual dinner meeting of the Harrison County Historical Society will be held at 6:00 p.m. at the Sheraton Inn in Clarksburg on April 18, 1979.

Speaker for the event will be Clarence Moran, chief state historic preservation officer in West Virginia. Mr. Moran will talk on historic preservation with emphasis on structures in the Harrison County area. He will show slides. Mr. Moran helped in the process leading to the naming of Waldomore and the West Main Street residence built by Nathan Goff, Jr., to the National Register of Historic Sites. Mr. Moran assisted in having the Amy Roberts Vance House nominated as a prospective site for listing in the National Register of Historic Sites. Mr. Moran is currently interested in East Main Street in Clarksburg as a likely candidate for nomination as an area which should be preserved.

A reception for Mr. Moran and his wife will be held at the Amy Roberts Vance House from 5:15 - 6:00 p.m. on April 18. All members of the Society and guests of members are invited to the reception being planned by Mrs. Alexander Stout, chairman of the social committee of the Society.

AMY ROBERTS VANCE HOUSE

The Collection

Accessions: Doll bed; gift of Mrs. Oscar Andre; a Lowndes item.

Mrs. Caroline Jackson Needham Smith (Mrs. Hamilton Smith) has sent the Society some old photographs of Harrison County residents, most of them members of the Jackson, Bassell, and Lewis families; photographs of John W. and Nell Bassel Davis; photographs of T. Moore Jackson and John G. Jackson residences; 3 copies Traders National Bank note No. 1 (\$5), May 9, 1891; xerox copies of letters by Mrs. Thomas Jonathon Jackson and Laura Jackson Arnold.

The Property

In 1978 members of the Society donated \$1967.00 for upkeep of the Vance House. The money was used to install a dry-wall ceiling in the west living room, to roof the clapboard portion of the house, to paint the outside of the building, and to replace cracked window panes:

Paid Out:	Ceiling	\$450.00
	Roof	423.00
	Windows	50.00
	Paint	<u>1028.26</u>
	Total:	\$1951.26
Balance in fund:		\$ 15.74

The estimate of the cost of repairs and upkeep in 1978 seemed so high that the board postponed replacement of the ceiling in the "Tool Room" which occupies most of the upstairs portion of the clapboard wing of the house. When members visit the house, the board suggests that they look at the room and then express themselves as to whether the repairs should be made.

Closing the house in January and February, turning the thermostat to sixty degrees, and shutting down the upstairs furnace reduced the fuel bill which for December 1978 and January cost a total of \$241.48.

For a number of years telephone service in the Vance House has been a semi-public telephone that cost between three dollars and four dollars each month. Last fall the West Virginia Public Service Commission suggested that the telephone company make the semi-public fee comparative to that charged for other types of service. When the telephone bill increased seven-fold, the board voted to have the telephone removed.

Vance House Services

The House is open from 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. on Saturday from March 1 until December 31. Hostesses during 1978 were Helen Ash, Florence Berisford, Dorothy Davis, Louise Dennison, Audra Kincaid, Gladys Merryman, Elizabeth Sloan, Lucille Stryker, Helen Upton, Frances Watson, and Nina Watson.

Volunteer researchers, all members, have supplied by mail or phone the following information, much of it from the holdings of the Harrison County Historical Society:

Vance family; Clarksburg boyhood of Cyrus
Navigation on the West Fork River and Elk Creek
Taped interview for radio program on Mrs. Vance, Vance House, and Harrison County Historical Society
Old photographs Bridgeport and Harrison County for use in decorating restaurant
Indian tribes migrating and hunting in Harrison and Taylor Counties
Tippecanoe Battlefield artifacts
Springer settlement near Salem
History of Harrison County; street maps of Clarksburg and Fairmont
Collection of Materials on music; scores, artifacts, organizations

Genealogical Questions: The Harrison County Historical Society is not giving genealogical service at the present time.

NEWS OF HISTORIC SITES IN HARRISON COUNTY

Covered Bridges

Two of the three covered bridges in Harrison County have been saved through a campaign instigated and led by Mrs. Neil McIntyre, chairman of the covered bridge committee of the Society.

The Simpson Creek Covered Bridge will be restored and painted. The West Virginia Department of Highways will build a small park with picnic tables near the bridge, landscape the area, and install indirect lighting to be thrown on the old bridge at night.

The Rooting Creek Bridge will be moved to the Watters Smith State Park where it will have full maintenance and 24-hour guard service that goes with the park. Two other sites were rejected before the selection of the park site where the bridge will have a beautiful location over Duck Creek near the bridle paths used by horseback riders.

Mrs. McIntyre's work called attention to the need to save the nineteen covered bridges extant in the State of West Virginia. All nineteen have been nominated for consideration for the National Register of Historic Sites.

Historic Houses in County

The William Johnson House in Bridgeport has been for sale for a number of months. In February the City of Bridgeport, one of the heirs of the David Johnson estate, accepted sealed bids on the house. No name of a purchaser had been revealed at the time this newsletter went to press.

The Smith House just off the Meadowbrook Road on Simpson Creek stands on land owned by La Rosa Coal Company. The Company is building a resort golf course, nine holes of which are under construction. The La Rosa Coal Company has not made a decision as to whether to keep the Smith House or to demolish it.

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE WEST VIRGINIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The annual meeting of the West Virginia Historical Society will be held on October 13, 1979, in Buckhannon. The Upshur County Historical Society will be the host. Gene Starr is president of the Upshur County Historical Society.

Harrison County Historical Society

Will members who have not sent dues for 1979, please do so now. The cost of individual membership is \$5.00; family \$7.50. A report on Membership as of February 10 shows that members need to be reminded to forward checks to Box 2074, Clarksburg:

Adult	83
Family	31
Institutional	2
Contributing	2
Life	15 (Including 1 new)
Student	1
Honorary	2

Financial Statement (To February 10, 1979):

On Hand, Checking Account	\$1287.75
Union National Bank Savings Certificates	3000.00 (\$58.12 quarterly interest goes into General Fund; \$1146.32 certificate compounded)
Book Fund (Community Bank)	
Checking Account	560.66
Savings Certificates (2)	2790.19
Total Assets	
Checking Accounts	1848.41
Savings Certificates (4)	<u>6936.51</u>
Total:	\$8784.92

HOSTESSES VANCE HOUSE JUNE — DECEMBER 1979

If you are willing to serve as a hostess at the Vance House on Saturday 2-4 p.m. from June to December 1979, please check this form and mail it to Harrison County Historical Society, P.O. Box 2074, Clarksburg, West Virginia 26301.

June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
2 _____	7 _____	4 _____	1 _____	6 _____	3 _____	1 _____
9 _____	14 _____	11 _____	8 _____	13 _____	10 _____	8 _____
16 _____	21 _____	18 _____	15 _____	20 _____	17 _____	15 _____
23 _____	28 _____	25 _____	22 _____	27 _____	24 _____	22 _____
30 _____			29 _____			29 _____

Signature _____ Telephone _____

Address _____

Harrison County Historical Society

Reception at the Amy Roberts Vance House (5:15 - 6:00 p.m.) and Annual Dinner at the Sheraton-Clarksburg (6:00 p.m.)

Wednesday, April 18, 1979

CLOSING DATE FOR RESERVATIONS AND REFUNDS: April 13, 1979

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 \$8.00 _____

Amount of check enclosed _____

Signature _____