

*Harrison County*  
WEST VIRGINIA  
**HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

Post Office Box 2074  
Clarksburg, West Virginia 26301

**NEWSLETTER**

FALL 1980

**ANNUAL TOUR**

Members and guests of members will visit Blennerhassett Island in the Ohio River as part of the annual tour of the Harrison County Historical Society scheduled for Sunday, September 21, 1980.

Formally opened by the Blennerhassett Island Historic Park Commission in August 1980, the island is reached by boat which travels from Parkersburg to the park. Visitors will view the archaeological excavations made by West Virginia University to uncover the foundation of the Harman Blennerhassett Mansion and will view the terrain and flora of the island.

On the return to Parkersburg tour members will dine at Point of View Restaurant which overlooks the Ohio River and Blennerhassett Island.

The tour bus will leave the Stealey-Goff-Vance House September 21 at 12:30 p.m. Tour members will board the boat in Parkersburg to travel to the island at 3:00 p.m. and return to Parkersburg by boat at 4:30 p.m. Dinner is scheduled for 5:15 p.m. The bus will arrive in Clarksburg at 8:30 p.m. For reservations please mail the form included in this newsletter by September 10. (No cancellations can be honored after noon on September 13.)

**NEWS OF HARRISON COUNTY HISTORIC SITES**

**Stealey-Goff-Vance House**

Mrs. Willis G. Tetrick, Jr., supervised in June the planting of five dogwood trees and seven azalea bushes in the garden of the Stealey-Goff-Vance House.

Three of the dogwood trees were purchased from a memorial fund donated in the past five years: Virginia Hartsock Long, \$25, in memory of Charles M. Long, and Mrs. W. Guy Tetrick, \$100, in memory of W. Guy Tetrick. Two dogwood trees, the azalea bushes, and labor were paid for from donations to the project: Mrs. Roger Garrett, \$15; Goff Plaza Garden Club, \$100 plus \$30 to the historical society general fund; Madge McDaniel, \$20; Mrs. M. I. Stutler, \$5; Willis G. Tetrick, Jr., \$50; Mrs. L. F. Wilson, \$10.

**Towers School**

A roadside historic marker has been installed to designate the site of Randolph Academy, North Western Virginia Academy, and Towers School. The marker stands on the grounds of Towers School in Clarksburg. A. James Manchin, West Virginia Secretary of State, and James Eakle, principal of Towers School, were the speakers at a dedication held near the marker on June 30, 1980. Madge McDaniel and Virginia Hartsock represented the Harrison County Historical Society at the dedication.

The historic sketch included in this newsletter is part of an effort currently underway to have the site named to the National Register of Historic Places.

**Saltwell**

Through the efforts of the Shinnston Historical Association, a roadside marker was installed at Saltwell, on Route 13, and dedicated on Sunday, July 20, 1980.

Dr. Charles L. Righter, a descendant of Peter B. Righter and Abraham Righter, was master of dedication ceremonies. Fred H. Armstrong, West Virginia state historian, delivered the dedicatory address. State Treasurer Larrie Bailey represented Governor John D. Rockefeller IV at the ceremony. The legend on the marker reads:

**Saltwell**

Village so named because of well drilled here in 1835 by Abraham and Peter Righter. The well reached a depth of 745 feet releasing natural gas. Often attributed to be first deep well drilled in United States. Water from such wells was reputed to have medicinal value. Some salt was produced here but these efforts were abandoned as Kanawha Valley production and influence increased.

**SOCIETY BUSINESS**

Dr. Robert S. Wilson, president of the society 1979-1980, supervised the application submitted for \$1,200 in federal funds to finance, in part, insulation in the attic of the Stealey-Goff-Vance House. One stipulation of the grant is that the agency which receives money match any funds it is given. If the Harrison County Historical Society is awarded the grant, payment of the society share will be made from the sum listed below under "checking account".

**Harrison County Historical Society Financial Statement - July 20, 1980**

On Hand	Checking Account, Union National Bank . . . . .	\$1,856.24
	Savings Certificates (2) . . . . .	4,300.00 (est.)
	Checking Account, Community Bank . . . . .	608.39
	Savings Certificates (2) . . . . .	3,200.00 (est.)
	Savings Certificate First Federal . . . . .	1,000.00

**Harrison County Historical Society Membership Report July 20, 1980**

Adult . . . . .	123
Family . . . . .	66
Student . . . . .	12
Institutional . . . . .	2
Contributing . . . . .	2
Life . . . . .	20
Honorary . . . . .	2
Total . . . . .	227

Please inform Madge McDaniel as to likely candidates for membership in the Harrison County Historical Society.

**Hostesses Stealey-Goff-Vance House March - August 1980**

Helen Ash	Beatrice Quigley	Nina Watson
Dorothy Davis	Elizabeth Sloan	Vieva Weekley
Audra Kincaid	Frances Stout	Mary Wyatt
Gladys Merryman	Lucille Stryker	
May Potter	Helen Upton	

Verna Shingleton and Lucille Stryker answered genealogical questions by mail. Dorothy Davis answered historical questions by mail. Lucille Stryker continues to work on the surname index of the Tetrick cemetery records.