

Harrison County
WEST VIRGINIA
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

POST OFFICE BOX 2074
CLARKSBURG, WEST VIRGINIA 26301

NEWSLETTER

SPRING 1980

Annual dinner

The annual dinner meeting of the Harrison County Historical Society will be held at 6:30 p.m. April 30, 1980, at the Sheraton Inn in Clarksburg. Members and guests of members are invited to attend the dinner and a reception at the Stealey-Goff-Vance House (Amy Roberts Vance House) from 5:00 - 6:00 p.m. on April 30.

At the dinner West Virginia Governor John D. Rockefeller will officially present to Dr. Robert S. Wilson, president of the Society, the notification that the Stealey-Goff-Vance House, which is owned by the Society and which houses the museum of the Society, has been named to the National Register of Historic Places.

Members of the families of individuals who have owned the house since it was built in 1807 have been invited to the reception and the dinner and have notified the Society that they will be present. These guests include John E. Stealey, descendant of Jacob Stealey who built the house, and Cyrus Vance and John Vance, grand nephews of Mary Hornor Goff who owned the property in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries and sons of Amy Roberts Vance, last owner of the property before it was conveyed to the Society.

Following the dinner the Madrigal Singers of Clarksburg will present a program.

To make reservations for the annual dinner on April 30, use the form enclosed in the newsletter.

STEALEY-GOFF-VANCE HOUSE

The Collection

Accessions:

Staffordshire teapot presented to Minter Bailey by Julia Neale Jackson, mother of Thomas Johathan (Stonewall) Jackson. Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Douglass M. Bailey and the Bailey Family, including M. Alvin Bailey and Miss Charlotte Bailey.

Queen Family coat of arms. Gift of the Queen Family Reunion 1979.

Jack Sandy Anderson. Gifts:

1. Sheraton-Empire transition chest of drawers; 4 drawers, bow front, brass pulls, walnut. Circa 1810.
2. Grandfather clock. Made by Joshua Shaw circa 1785.
3. Boston rocker; circa 1840-60.
4. Leeds pottery sugar bowl decorated in polycrome; circa 1790-1800.
5. Quilt; floral and leaf pattern finely quilted. Circa 1860.
6. Colored print of George Washington. Second half of 19th century.
7. Colored print of War of 1812 naval engagement. Circa 1850-60.
8. Victorian parlor chair; covered in wine-colored velvet; walnut trim with openwork carving. Circa 1870-80.
9. Pottery jar made at Shinnston, last quarter 19th century, by Knotts, Dillinger and Huhn.
10. Civil War sword, cavalry type.
11. Coin (U. S.) glass bread tray.

Caroline Needham Smith (Mrs. Hamilton P. Smith). Gifts:

1. Black silk taffeta undershirt.
2. 1 pair embroidered shoes 1870.
3. Sunbonnet.
4. Black heavily beaded over-jacket (Mrs. C. M. Jackson).
5. Beaded purse.
6. White petticoat.
7. Heavy white lace over-jacket (Mrs. T. M. Jackson).
8. White lawn dress 1906 (Florrie Jackson Needham).
9. Flowered print two-piece dress 1870 (Miss Florence Jackson).
10. 2 mourning caps 1880.
11. Heavily embroidered two-piece dress 1908 (Florrie Jackson Needham).
12. Scarf TMJ.
13. 2 children's bonnets 1890 (Florrie Needham Jackson).
14. 4 silk and embroidered baby and children's dresses 1890.
15. Watered silk two-piece dress with mother of pearl inlaid buttons 1870 (Miss Florence Jackson).
16. 5 pairs of handmade baby shoes (Florence and Thomas Moore Jackson).
17. 4 bullet molds.
18. Piece of Atlantic cable 1891.
19. 15 books (13 titles); include Saplin Ridge Letters; The Story of Sycamore.
20. Uncle Mose Jackson's corn sheller and newspaper clipping.
21. 2 watercolors in wood and gilded frames. Portraits of Caroline Moore Jackson and James Madison Jackson.
22. Deeds, letters, pictures, post cards, clippings of Clarksburg history; History of Clarksburg Library; copy of Monongalia Spectator February 13, 1819; Clarksburg Telegram, February 19, 1876 (Front page, "History of Clarksburg Chap. VI"; fourth page continuation wanting; continuation from fourth page); Clarksburg News Woman's Easter Edition 1897.

Maintenance

Under the direction of Dr. and Mrs. Robert S. Wilson the plater of the ceilings in the tool room and the upstairs hallway has been repaired and the ceilings painted. Mrs. Wilson has hung curtains in the room used for meetings of the Society.

In January and February 1980, the furnace in the attic which supplies heat to the second floor of the house was turned off, thus conserving fuel during the two winter months when the Society does not hold meetings or open the house for visitors on Saturdays. The furnace located in the basement furnished heat during the winter to warm the downstairs.

For two reasons a member of the board for several years has cut the grass of the property each week April through October: the Society is short of funds; hired workers are undependable and, when they do report, require the supervision of a member of the Society. The member who has cut the grass has asked for other volunteers to run the mower over the grass during one or two months of the grass-growing season. The task requires approximately one hour each week. The Society owns the electric lawn mower that the volunteer will use.

Staffing

Lucille Stryker is indexing the records of cemeteries compiled by W. Guy Tetrick in the 1920's and the 1930's. The Society needs to formulate procedures for indexing genealogical records, archival material and photographs which have been received in the last three years. Are there members who will volunteer to carry out this work?

Members who have done research and answered letters requesting information on genealogy and local history are Verna Shingleton and Lucille Stryker.

Members who have served as hostesses during the fall and winter are Helen Ash, Dorothy Davis, Audra Kincaid, Madge McDaniel, Gladys Merryman, Elizabeth Sloan, Frances Stout, Lucille Stryker, Helen Upton, Nina Watson, and Helen Wilson.

SOCIETY BUSINESS

Financial Statement, March 12, 1980.

General Fund Checking Account (Union Bank)	\$ 1169.28
Book Fund (Community Bank)	584.49
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Total	\$ 1753.77
Certificate of Deposit (Union) General Fund	3000.00
" " " "	1210.68
" " " (Community) Book Fund	1315.22
" " " " " "	1642.74
" " " (Fed. S & L)	1030.68
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Total:	\$ 8199.32

HISTORICAL NEWS

Towers School

The principal of Towers Elementary School in Clarksburg called together several months ago a group of individuals to discuss plans for nominating the Towers building for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. The ground on which Towers School stands is the only site west of the Allegheny Mountains where school has been held each year since 1795 except for 1861-1865 when the structure on the ground was a U. S. Army prison and hospital.

During the meeting the suggestion was made that research of the history of the schools which have existed on the site be done. If material needed can be found, the historical sketch for the fall newsletter of the Society will be on Randolph Academy, Northwestern Academy, Clarksburg High School, and Towers Elementary School.

Jackson-Meigs Papers

The John George Jackson-Meigs Papers which form the basis for much of Dorothy Davis's John George Jackson are now the property of the Blennerhassett Historical Park Commission, Parkersburg, West Virginia.