

Harrison County
WEST VIRGINIA
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

POST OFFICE BOX 2064
CLARKSBURG, WEST VIRGINIA 26301

NEWSLETTER

SPRING, 1982

March Meeting

Ray Swick, historian with the Blennerhassett Island Historic Park Commission, Parkersburg, W.Va., will speak at 7:30 p.m. on March 17, 1982, in the meeting room of the historical society in the Stealey-Goff-Vance House, 123 West Main Street in Clarksburg. Dr. Swick will speak on the subject "John Pierce Duvall and John Cain: Two Forgotten Figures of the Early Virginia Frontier."

John P. Duvall was appointed lieutenant of Harrison County when the county was formed July 20, 1784, with authority over all military affairs of the county including the responsibility to call out the militia in event of invasion or insurrection. His position made him in charge of defense during the Indian wars. He was one of the twelve first justices of Harrison County. He owned thousands of acres in present Harrison County much of it on Limestone, Katylick, and Freeman's creeks. In the 1790's he and John Cain lived on Duvall's Island in the Ohio River near Marietta.

Annual Dinner

The annual dinner of the Society for members and guests of members will be held at 6:30 p.m. on April 21 in the Sheraton Inn in Clarksburg.

Speaker of the evening will be Dr. Otis Rice, head of the history department of West Virginia Institute of Technology at Montgomery. Dr. Rice will speak on the subject "A Tale of Three Cities: Charleston, Wheeling and Clarksburg and the Capital of West Virginia." He will describe the move of the West Virginia capital from Wheeling to Charleston in 1870 and the move from Charleston back to Wheeling. Then a battle royal began. Clarksburg wanted the capital; Martinsburg wanted the capital; Charleston and Wheeling wanted the capital. The capital moved again to Charleston in 1877, where it has remained.

On April 21 the Stealey-Goff-Vance House will be open from 5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m., when members may stop in the house or bring their guests for a tour of the museum before the dinner at the Sheraton. For reservations for the dinner, please send a check with the form included in this newsletter to The Harrison County Historical Society, Post Office Box 2074, Clarksburg, WV 26301.

Historic News

New organization:

A historic organization, new to the State of W.Va., was formed in November 1981, when the more than fifty charter members decided that the headquarters for the organization will be in Clarksburg.

Called the "Preservation Alliance of West Virginia, Inc.," members decided that the work of the alliance will be to buy threatened historic sites and retain ownership until some other agency is able to purchase the site; to accept easements wherein a private owner can donate an easement for a tax write-off; to write up grants; and to publish a newsletter.

The organization hopes in the future to be allied with National Historic Preservation in a joint membership much as the state nature conservancy is tied into its parent organization.

The first activity of the new alliance was a lobbying effort in the 1982 W.Va. legislature for continued funding for historic preservation in the state.

Ralph Pedersen, chairman of the house committee of the Harrison County Historical Society, was elected vice president of the new organization which will hold its spring meeting in May at Camp George Washington Carver.

Independence Hall photograph:

George Ashby Short, president of the Harrison County Historical Society, caught the tone of Independence Hall in Wheeling, visited by members during the fall 1981 society tour, in a photograph which he and his wife Roberta used as a 1981 Christmas greeting.

The picture shows one of the vaulted windows of the hall in a sea of blackness. A bit of light filters through the divided panes of the window onto what looks to be a chair in the black interior. Silhouetted against the window are the shoulders and head of an adult male, no doubt some member of the Harrison County Historical Society on the tour.

Goldenseal article:

The board of the Harrison County Historical Society invited Margo Stafford, a member of the staff of the West Virginia Department of Culture and History, to attend the October 21, 1981, meeting of the Society, when members of the Greek Community in Clarksburg described life in the settlement which grew up around the "Tinplate" in Clarksburg in the second decade of the twentieth century.

Ms. Stafford sent the Society in February a typewritten transcript of the tape on which was recorded the words of each speaker at the October meeting and sent notification that a story of Greek culture in Harrison County will be printed in the May 1982 issue of Goldenseal, the official publication of the West Virginia Department of Culture and History.



Independence Hall
by George Short

Stealey-Goff-Vance House

The Collection. Accessions:

Clemens, William Montgomery. North and South Carolina Marriage Records. Gift of Robert S. Wilson, M.D.

Document of Civil War Volunteer Enlistment of John Wesley Cork. Gift of Clela F. Rush.

Monongah Mines Relief Committee. Monongah Mines Relief Fund, Monongah Mine Explosion, December 6, 1907. Gift of Mary Ellen McAndrew

The Righter Family History. Gift of Charles L. Righter.

Stealey, John Edmund. "History of the Stealey Family". Gift of John E. Stealey.

1890 baby dress, 1913 wedding dress and slip once owned by Eva Mines; 1888 boy's dress once owned by Earle Harris; 1916 baby dress once owned by Marie Harris. Gift of Marie Gum.

Child's coat once owned by Gussie Hall Lowther. Gift of Ruby Bush.

The Property:

Ralph Pederson, Clarksburg architect and chairman of the house committee of the Society, supervised the installation of a 3½-inch batt of insulation under the floor of the attic and of 6 inches of loose insulation blown into the walls of the attic. The work, finished on October 12, 1981, cost \$1,200, one half of which was financed by a grant from the Historic Preservation unit of the Department of Culture and History of the State of West Virginia.

In the spring of 1982 Mr. Pedersen will have repaired the gutter of the eaves which overhang the front steps of the museum and have replaced two faulty boards in the floor of the front porch of the Stealey-Goff-Vance House.

House tours:

Bea Quigley, chairman of hostesses and hosts at the museum, sent the following message to the editor of this newsletter: "I am anxious for more members of the Society to be host or hostess at the Stealey-Goff-Vance House on Mondays and Fridays. Now that we have a taped guided tour (made by Dr. Bob and Helen Wilson and Jack Sandy Anderson), we can be more knowledgeable about the house and its contents. If no visitors call on the day that you serve, it is a good time to visit with a friend and, if you like, to enjoy a cup of tea or coffee (bring your own tea bag or coffee), or browse through the collection. So select a partner, or we shall select one for you, and sign up for a day a month, or whatever time you can, and return the form no later than March 13 to Harrison County Historical Society, Post Office Box 2074, Clarksburg, WV 26301. Sometime in March or April you will be notified of a time for the hostesses and hosts to be photographed so that a picture can accompany a story describing the museum and its collection which will be published in a Sunday edition of the Clarksburg newspaper."

Mrs. Quigley also stated that she wished to pay tribute to the late Gladys Merryman who served faithfully over a long period of years as hostess and thank those who have served as staff during the fall of 1981. People who staffed the museum during visiting hours September through December 1981 are: Alvin Bailey, Charlotte Bailey, Bertha Brown, Betty Dakan, Charles Gribble, Louise Horner, Mildred Lawson, Madge McDaniel, Gladys Merryman, Dorothy Moffett, Lane Moffett, Bea Quigley, George Short, Frances Stout, Lucille Stryker, Helen Upton, Nina Watson, Shawn Williams, Helen Wilson, Ann Yoke.

The Society opens the house for tours by students accompanied by a teacher. Helen Wilson and Madge McDaniel have conducted these groups through the museum.

Society Business

Financial Report (February 8, 1982):

Checking Account, Union National Bank	\$2,212.96
Savings Certificates, Union National Bank	5,093.27
Savings Certificates, Community Bank	3,528.35
Savings Certificates, Mountain State Federal Savings & Loan	1,200.00 (est)
Undeposited checks	45.50

The checking account at the Community Bank has been closed. The W.Va. Department of Culture and History has paid \$600 toward insulation of the Stealey-Goff-Vance House. The Consolidated Gas Supply sent a donation of \$200 to the Society.

The board decided a few years ago that it would be poor business practice to use the fees paid for life memberships for current expenses. Instead, the treasurer invested money received for life memberships in certificates of deposit. These are now worth several thousand dollars as shown in the financial report of the treasurer printed in this newsletter. The interest from each life membership amounts to a little more than an adult membership fee paid yearly.

The board does not plan to spend the money in certificates of deposit for current expenses if it can avoid doing so since the Society should build an endowment to assure that private funds can finance the operation of the museum in the future. Cost of utilities rises; cost of labor rises. Cost of cutting grass alone, which formerly was volunteer work, will this year cost around \$300 and the cost of printing a newsletter, which once was \$10, will be nearly \$100. So if any member wishes to make a contribution to the Society, in addition to a membership fee, he should know that his contribution is tax exempt.

Membership:

Current membership is as follows: Life, 27; Family, 47; Adult, 90; Student, 2; Institutional, 1; Contributing, 5; Honorary, 3. Eighty members in various categories have not paid dues for 1982 to date. If you are one of these, please send dues by May 1. A form to accompany your check is enclosed.

We welcome the following new members:

Mrs. Helen Flesher Bindemann 1219 30th Street Parkersburg, WV 26101	Nolan Fowler 660 Crestwood Drive Cookeville, Tenn. 38501	Mrs. Vincent Merendino 130 Denham Street Clarksburg, WV 26301	David A. Swiger 2852 Via Carmen San Jose, Calif. 95124
Mrs. Sandy Brady 714 Pennsylvania Ave. Nutter Fort, WV 26301	Mr. & Mrs. Marshall Jones 727 Long Street Bridgeport, WV 26330	Mrs. J. Roger Morgan 210 Temple Terrace Clarksburg, WV 26301	
Catherine Custer Burke P.O. Box 187 Rowlesburg, WV 26425	Mrs. Anabel Luebbe 504 Worthington Drive Bridgeport, WV 26330	John E. Stealey III (Life) P.O. Box 572 Shepherdstown, WV 25443	