

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

Post Office Box 2074  
CLARKSBURG, WEST VIRGINIA 26301

**NEWSLETTER**

FALL 1988

**ANNUAL TOUR**

On Sunday, September 25, 1988, members of the Harrison County Historical Society and guests of members will travel by bus to Fairmont, West Virginia, to tour the Marion County Historical Society Museum, Prickett's Fort, and the Job Prickett House before being served dinner at Prickett's Fort.

The bus will leave from in front of the Stealey-Goff-Vance House at 1:30 o'clock p.m. for a visit to the Marion County Museum located in the Edwardian townhouse which stands next door to the Marion County Courthouse and for years was the residence of the Marion County sheriff. The three-story house contains Early American, Victorian, and Edwardian rooms plus a sizable and changing collection of Marion County historical memorabilia. During the visit to the museum, the Marion County Historical Society will serve punch and cookies.

Tour members will arrive at Prickett's Fort at 3:30 o'clock to tour the fort and the Job Prickett House which stands just south of the restored fort. In 1774, when all knew that Indian war was imminent, the governor of Virginia and the commander at Fort Pitt both sent word to frontiersmen to retire beyond the mountains at least to the South Branch of the Potomac River area to save their lives. The settlers refused to do so. Instead they built a string of forts from Fort Pitt south along the Monongahela River and its tributaries. Prickett's was one of the forts in the series; Nutter's near Clarksburg was another; and Richards' near West Milford was still another. The last in the line of forts was West's at Jane Lew in Lewis County. The Marion County Historical Society in 1970 sponsored the formation of the Prickett's Fort Memorial Foundation and in 1973 construction of a replica of the fort began on the site where the original structure had stood. A few years later the State of West Virginia named the installation a state park. At the fort costumed interpreters are at work with their daily tasks of cleaning muzzleloaders, weaving cloth, forging tools in the blacksmith shop, or cooking over an open fire.

The Job Prickett House was built of hand-fired bricks eighty-five years after the erection of the fort and stands today in sharp contrast to the rugged fortification. A great grandson of the builder of the fort erected the house in 1859. The furnishings show a great difference to those in the fort.

At 6:00 p.m. a roast beef dinner will be served tour members at Prickett's Fort. The bus is scheduled to return its passengers to the Stealey-Goff Vance house by 7:45 p.m. Please make reservations for the tour by filling in and mailing the reservation form at the bottom of this page.

**OCTOBER MEETING**

A sudden storm which dropped several inches of snow on Harrison County March 18, 1988, caused the cancellation of the monthly meeting of the Society. Clyde Morton, who was scheduled for the March meeting, will speak on "History of Pottery in Harrison County and Related Areas" at the regular meeting of the Society at 7:30 o'clock on October 19, 1988, in the Stealey-Goff-Vance House.

For four years Mr. Morton has been writing a book on West Virginia pottery manufactured in the nineteenth and the early twentieth centuries. After a career with the Naval Intelligence Support Center in Suitland, Maryland, Mr. Morton retired to Doddridge County, where he lives with his wife Jean and daughter Jennifer.

**NOVEMBER MEETING**

Golden Dale Heldreth will speak about dulcimers, especially about making the musical instrument, at the November meeting of the Society to be held at 7:30 o'clock on November 16, 1988, in the Society meeting room of the Stealey-Goff-Vance House.

Mr. Heldreth, a Grafton businessman, was born and reared in Lumberport, where his ancestor Frazier Heldreth settled circa 1800.

Suzy Heldreth, daughter of Mr. Heldreth, will illustrate Mr. Heldreth's talk by playing the dulcimer. Mr. Heldreth collects dulcimers and makes hammered dulcimers. His wife, Nancy Marie Heldreth, is an accomplished author of children's books.

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Harrison County Historical Society  
Annual Tour: Marion County Historical Society Museum; Prickett's Fort; Job Prickett House followed by dinner at Prickett's Fort.

Sunday, September 25, 1988

**CLOSING DATE FOR RESERVATIONS AND REFUNDS: Wednesday, September 21, 1988.**

Make checks payable to: Harrison County Historical Society  
and mail to: Post Office Box 2074  
Clarksburg, West Virginia 26301

Number of reservations for bus, admissions, dinner @ \$25.00 each: .....

Amount of check enclosed: .....

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Signature

## THE COLLECTION

### Accessions:

- Celery glass and syrup jug; Valencia waffle pattern; made by Adams Glass Company of Pittsburgh in the 1880's. Gift of Roy and Olive Lee Pritchard of Columbia, Tennessee.
- Small spinning wheel and reel for winding yarn once the property of Harmon Rector, Jr., and his wife Mary Nelson Rector who crossed the mountains circa 1779 and settled in present Pruntytown. Presented by Hazel Rector Smith, Winnie Rector Beatty, and Adean Rector McQuain.
- Flag displayed on bunting of speakers' platform in 1924, when John W. Davis formally accepted the nomination as candidate for President of the United States on the Democratic ticket. Claude White of Fairmont, who was a young boy about eight years old in 1924, watched the men take down the decoration of the platform. One of the workers asked the young boy if he would like to have the flag. Mr. White recently brought the flag to the museum because he thought it should be part of Harrison County memorabilia.
- Coverlet; list of teachers in Clarksburg Independent Schools circa 1900; photograph of those attending Smith reunion in 1925. Gift of Blanche Stonestreet estate. The coverlet was woven by women in the Stonestreet family in the 1830's.

### Museum tours

Dr. Robert S. Wilson and his wife Helen with Jack Sandy Anderson have made a new tape on which is recorded the historic background of artifacts displayed in the museum. Planned to be played by hosts and hostesses while visitors tour the rooms of the museum, the voices of historians telling the stories called up by the various artifacts enhance the items on display.

### Host and hostesses

Volunteers who have served as hosts and hostesses at the Stealey-Goff-Vance House Museum during the summer months are: Jack S. Anderson, Bertha Stout Brown, Charlene Cross, Betty Dakan, Charles Gribble, Sally Hall, Anne Harvey, Ethel Heflin, Mildred Lawson, Aileen Lucas, Madge McDaniel, Thelma Nutter, W. Obed Poling, Bea Quigley, Reverend Russell Reithmiller, Annabel Shreeves, Jane Stealey, Mary Virginia Thorpe, Thecia Tucker, Barbara Whitney.

## THE SOCIETY

### Genealogists

One of the most demanding jobs in the Society and one of the most beneficial to society at large is that of genealogist. Scores of letters of inquiry about ancestors arrive in the Society mailbox because most of Northcentral West Virginia once lay in Harrison County borders thus making county records a treasure trove of information on the thousands who have lived in the county in the past two hundred years.

The genealogist spends hours searching records and hours answering letters. For twenty years the work was performed by Verna Jefferson Singleton who now lives in a nursing home in Winchester, Virginia.

Now the Society has two new volunteers: Anne Harvey and Eleanor Lou Jones. These two anticipate the need for help. So if any Society member has a bent for mining records, telephone Madge McDaniel (842-3073) to volunteer.

### The Property

Jack and Barbara Whitney and Bea Quigley have cleaned out weeds and trimmed shrubbery in front of the museum this summer. As soon as the outside temperature lowers a bit, the three plan to clean out the tree sprouts and vines in and around the fence on the east side of the house. For this they need volunteers from the membership of the Society. If you are a candidate for the work, telephone Barbara Whitney (623-1634) or Bea Quigley (842-3454).

The board of directors is planning to replace the broken sidewalk in front of the property. Director Al Heck is investigating the possibility of the city, through a grant, furnishing the labor for the project. Final plans for the installation of a sidewalk should be finished in fall of 1988.

### Books for sale

The Society has approximately 225 copies of Legacy of Love for sale at \$22 each. The price includes sales tax and cost of mailing the book. The Society must sell only a few more copies to pay completely the bill for reprinting the book. Then sale of the remaining books will be profit for the Society.

Also for sale by the Society are History of Harrison County by Henry Haymond at \$12.75 each and John George Jackson by Dorothy Davis at \$12.50 each.

### Financial Statement, July 15, 1988

Checking Account (Union National)	
General Fund . . . . .	\$2,224.20
Memorial Fund . . . . .	525.00
Investments (all CD's)	
Union Bank . . . . .	\$10,600.00 (est.)
CB&T of Harrison County . . . . .	3,628.56 (5/25/88)
Lowndes Bank (Memorial Fund) . . . . .	3,000.00
Elizabeth Sloan Memorial . . . . .	5,000.00

New Members

Denver D. Atkinson  
202 Norma Avenue  
Nutter Fort, WV 26301

Donna Barnes  
19896 Gardenia Drive  
Jupiter, Florida 33969

Juanita Burtch  
691 Rojean Drive  
Stanton, Michigan 48888

Col. Elmer I. Caldwell  
4534 Seminary Road  
Alexandria, Virginia 22304

Claudene Cross  
212 Milford Street  
Clarksburg, West Virginia 26301

James W. Davis  
324 Burton Ave.  
Nutter Fort, West Virginia 26301

Anne Reynolds Harvey  
Route 3, Box 72 Hill Grit Farm  
Clarksburg, West Virginia 26301

Delores C. Jones  
Apt. 213, Salem Manor  
Salem, West Virginia 26426

Patricia H. Kennedy  
135 Corte Anita  
Greenbrea, California 94904

Barbara Lefebure  
P.O. Box 247  
Lost Creek, West Virginia 26358

Olive Lee and Roy Pritchard  
907 Camellia Drive  
Columbia, Tennessee 38401

Mrs. Patty Sampson  
P.O. Box 351  
Lumberport, West Virginia 26386

Annabelle A. Shreeves  
532 Haymond Avenue  
Clarksburg, West Virginia 26301

Ray Shreve  
1417 West Pike Street  
Clarksburg, West Virginia 26301

Andrew S. White  
4640 Bright Plume  
Columbia, Maryland 21044

Larry B. Whitehair  
Route 1, Box 65A  
Clarksburg, West Virginia 26301

Lansing E. Williams  
1559 Morgan Street  
Wooster, Ohio 44691

Robert V. Wygal  
119 Temple Terrace  
Clarksburg, West Virginia 26301