

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

Post Office Box 2074  
Clarksburg, WV 26302-2074

**NEWSLETTER**

SPRING 1989

**ANNUAL DINNER**

Julia Davis Adams will be the guest speaker at the annual dinner of the Society to be held at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, April 19, 1989, at the Senior Citizen Center, 500 West Main Street, Clarksburg. Before the dinner the Society will host from 4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. a reception and autograph party at the Stealye-Goff-Vance House, 123 West Main Street. Mrs. Adams will autograph copies of Legacy of Love, currently being sold by the Society. In the book the author reminisces her life at 303 Lee Avenue in Clarksburg, where she spent her childhood in the home of her grandparents John J. and Anna Kennedy Davis.

Julia Davis lost her mother Julia McDonald Davis a few days after Julia Davis was born in July 1900. She was reared in the Davis Mansion which her grandfather had built in 1874. Her father John W. Davis practiced law with his father in the Clarksburg law firm Davis and Davis. During summer months in childhood Julia Davis traveled to the Eastern Panhandle to live at Media, the Jefferson County farmhouse where her McDonald grandparents lived. This experience too is related in Legacy of Love.

Julia Davis was educated at Wellesley and Barnard colleges. Her father, after serving as U. S. Congressman, became U. S. Solicitor General in 1913. In 1918 the President named him U. S. Ambassador to the Court of St. James. Julia Davis lived at the U. S. Embassy in London during the years her father was ambassador. While she was in Britain she met William McMillan Adams from Canaan, New York, who was an assistant military attache at the Embassy. She married him in 1923 and was living in Scandinavia, where her husband was trade representative, in 1924 when her father campaigned on the Democratic Party ticket for U. S. President. It was in Europe that Mrs. Adams began to write, her interest then being Scandinavian legend and history as depicted in her book Sword of the Vikings. During her career as writer she has published twenty-one novels and children's books and is working on two more.

After the death of Mr. Adams, Julia Davis Adams moved from her home in New Jersey to live in West Virginia. She has owned Media for many years, and still owns it, but she now lives on South Mildred Street in Charles Town, West Virginia, near the homeplace of her McDonald grandparents.

During the short business meeting following Julia Davis Adams' speech, Society President Jack Sandy Anderson will conduct the election of officers and board members of the Society.

The menu for the dinner will be turkey, dressing, mashed potatoes, green beans, perfection salad, hot rolls, and cake. To make reservations use the form at the bottom of this sheet.

**MARCH MEETING**

Noel Tenney, director of Fort New Salem at Salem College, will be the speaker at the March meeting of the Society to be held at the Stealye-Goff-Vance House at 7:30 p.m., Wednesday, March 15, 1989. The subject of Mr. Tenney's speech will be "How Oral Literature Reflects Everyday Life in Appalachia"

Mr. Tenney, along with Judy Byers and John Randolph, has just produced six one-hour-long tapes showing patterns of oral literature in Northern West Virginia. In the study the three scholars of Appalachian life had illustrated dialects, words, superstitions, humor, and history they have found in their families, their communities, and the works of earlier writers and singers. Mr. Tenney's speech has grown out of research done to produce the tapes.

**MAY MEETING**

Larry Carpenter, who resides in Dola, will speak on "Appalachian Rifles" before the Harrison County Historical Society at 7:30 p.m. on May 17, 1989, in the Stealye-Goff-Vance House.

Mr. Carpenter has been competing in muzzle-loading contests for ten years and has been building replicas of the muzzle loader for the last three years. He is the proprietor of Carps Black-Powder Shop; Muzzle-Loading Rifles and Accessories.

In 1988 Mr. Carpenter won the West Virginia Off-Hand Contest for the 25-yd. competition category, and in 1988 he won the muzzle-loading rifle competition at the Treasure Mountain Festival in Franklin, WV. He is a member of the West Virginia Primitive Society, the West Virginia Muzzle-Loading Rifle Society, and a life member of the National Muzzle-Loading Rifle Association.

Mr. Carpenter will tell the history of the rifle in the United States from the late 1700's to 1840. He will point out that the golden years of the muzzle-loading rifle were from 1820-1840.

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Harrison County Historical Society  
Annual Dinner at the Senior Citizen Center, 500 West Main Street, Clarksburg, WV 6:30 p.m., Wednesday, April 19, 1989

CLOSING DATE FOR RESERVATIONS: April 12, 1989  
(Closing date for cancellations: April 14, 1989)  
Make check payable to: Harrison County Historical Society  
Mail this form and check to: Harrison County Historical Society -  
Post Office Box 2074  
Clarksburg, WV 26302-2074

Number of reservations for dinner at a cost per person of \$10.00 .....

Amount of check .....

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Signature

JUNE MEETING

Gary Weiner invites members of the Society and friends of members to a dinner to be served on the lawn of his home on Route 19 South at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, June 21, 1989.

Guests are to bring a covered dish and table service. Gary will provide the beverages.

SOCIETY BUSINESS

Sidewalk replacement

The sidewalk in front of the museum property has been replaced with help from a Sidewalk Paving Project of the City of Clarksburg. The Society paid \$2,121 as its share toward completing the project.

Membership

The total membership cannot be estimated as of February 15, 1989, since renewals are coming in for 1989. A form is included in this Newsletter for those who have not paid 1989 dues. If you have paid, please give the form to a non-member with a warm invitation to join the Society.

Financial statement, February 15, 1989

Investments:

5 Certificates of Deposit Union Natioan Bank (estimated) . . . . .	\$14,000.00
2 Certificates of Deposit - - Lowndes Bank . . . . .	3,600.00
1 Certificate of Deposit - - CB&T (estimated) . . . . .	2,500.00
Total . . . . .	\$20,100.00

Undeposited checks . . . . . 20.00

Checking Account (Union Bank) . . . . . 1,043.73

Note: The \$600 in the Memorial Fund has been transferred from the checking account to a certificate of deposit which matured at Lowndes Bank, making the new CD for \$1900.

New post office zip code

The post office department has sent the Society a letter stating that mail service is now completely computerized. The department meets difficulty in delivery if patrons fail to use the new zip code which for the Society is 26302-2074

Museum hosts/hostesses

The Stealey-Goff-Vance House will be open from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. each Friday afternoon from May 5 through September 29, 1989. Dr. Robert S. Wilson, his wife Helen, and Jack Sandy Anderson have made a new tape on which they recorded background for the artifacts to be viewed by visitors to the museum. The Society depends on members of the Society to volunteer as hosts and hostesses during the Friday visitations. If you can be a host or a hostess, indicate the days you prefer to serve and send the form included in this Newsletter to the Society.