



Post Office Box 2074

NEWSLETTER

SPRING 1991

MARCH MEETING

Dollie Bassel, chairman of the Clarksburg Heritage Committee of the Stonewall Jackson Civic Club, will speak before the membership at 7:30 o'clock on Wednesday, March 20. Her subject will be "Preserving our Heritage Today and Tomorrow."

When the Clarksburg Development Corporation saw a need for bringing to the forefront Clarksburgers who in the past have made large contributions to the nation and to the state, they joined forces with the Stonewall Jackson Civic Club to form a Clarksburg Heritage Committee. One of the first projects of the committee was to foster the name of John W. Davis, 1924 nominee for the U.S. Presidency and ambassador to the Court of St. James, to be given to the West Virginia State office building established in what was once the Sheraton Hotel. They have many more projects in mind. One of these is the restoration of the Jackson Cemetery on Philippi Street. Here lie buried John George Jackson; Mary Coles Payne, mother of Dolley Madison; Mary Payne Jackson, sister of Dolley Madison; Johnathan Jackson, father of Stonewall Jackson; George Towers, Dr. Benjamin Dolbeare and many other notable Clarksburgers.

ANNUAL DINNER

The annual dinner meeting of the Society will be held at 6:30 o'clock on Wednesday, April 17, 1991, at the Harrison County Senior Citizens Center, 500 West Main Street, Clarksburg.

Speaker for the evening will be Frederick H. Armstrong, director of the Archives and History Section of the West Virginia Division of Culture and History. His office is in the Cultural Center in Charleston. Mr. Armstrong oversees the collection of all state historic manuscripts and data of interest to researchers in genealogy and history. He also constantly collects materials to enhance the collection and plans to spend time at the Stealey-Goff-Vance House in April to search the picture file of the Society for items he may wish to copy for the collection in Charleston.

The menu for the dinner will be turkey, mashed potatoes, vegetables, salad, hot rolls, dessert and beverage. To make reservations send the form included in this newsletter and your check.

MAY MEETING

David Houchin, local historian and genealogist, will speak at the Stealey-Goff-Vance House at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, May 15, 1991. Mr. Houchin will discuss the development of the town of Clarksburg, its westward expansion in the years following 1810, the rivalries of the developers and the unusual circumstances surrounding a chancery case pending --- but never tried --- before the Circuit Court in 1813, involving such leading men of the town and the region as John George Jackson, James Pindall, Josias Adams, Benjamin Wilson, Jr., and, as attorney for the defense, Philip Doddridge.

JUNE MEETING

On Wednesday, June 19, the Society will hold its annual picnic at a site to be announced in the spring.

THE MUSEUM

The Collection

Accessions:

A letter from Clarksburg dated Feb. 21, 1898 on the stationery of "The Walker House" by James S. Walsh to his wife in Alma, WV (envelope accompanies letter): a scrapbook containing newspaper clippings, photographs, memorabilia pertaining to the Holden family. Gift of Mrs. Arthur Ward, Fairmont, WV.

Families Are Forever, a book pertaining to the Ogden and related families by Leland Ogden and Loine O'Brien of LaMesa California. Gift of Leland Ogden.

Laminated copy of Clarksburg Telegram (four sheets), November 10, 1888; map of the Highland Park addition to Clarksburg dated Nov. 1911. Gift of Roy M. and Olive Lee Pritchard.

Moon and star pattern glass covered compote on a high standard (compote 6" diameter), Pittsburgh circa 1874-1880. Gift of Jack Sandy Anderson.

Framed coat-of-arms, Robinson Family; framed Civil War memorabilia; typed information concerning Randolph Academy, students and teachers of schools of which Lucy Robinson was principal. Gift of Anna Louise Robinson.

Visiting Hours The museum will be open to visitors each Friday afternoon from 2:00 - 4:00 o'clock May through September 1991. School or club groups who wish to tour the museum may arrange hours for a visit by telephoning Madge McDaniel at 842-3073.

THE SOCIETY

The Property

A request for a Capital Improvement Grant from the Harrison Arts Council is in preparation. Plans call for renovation of the museum display area, interior painting and rewiring. Donations for matching funds will help since just \$850 remains in the renovation fund donated by members two years ago.

A Cry for Help

Many letters come to our mailbox from people seeking help tracing their families who once lived in this area or information concerning historical events. An attempt is made to answer these. They do not require much research. Our two volunteers who do the research and answer the letters are swamped. We need somebody who will help our volunteers answer these letters. Many people making requests are willing to pay for the work performed by our members. Please volunteer.

Membership

Several people have failed to renew their membership for 1991. Since the operation of the property and the collection depends largely on membership receipts, it is imperative that you send your check immediately. A membership form is included in this newsletter. The following members have joined since the publication of the Fall 1990 Newsletter:

Mary E. Ashcraft, 3250 East 28th St., Tucson, AZ 85713; Teddy Belin, Rt. 6, Box 606, Conroe, TX 77302; Rev. and Mrs. S. Kenneth Davis, 171 East Main St., Salem, WV 26426; Evelyn Furner, R. 2, Box 211, Bristol, WV 26332; Carole Heim, 713 Brightridge Rd., Bridgeport, WV 26330; Mrs. Myrtle Marshall, 413 Monticello Ave., Clarksburg, WV 26301; Ruth E. Nickle, 3601 Peck Drive, Kansas City, MO 64133; Mrs. Kathryn Boyd Wavrin, 232 N. Washington St., Carpenterville, IL 60110.

Picture File

Two members of the board of directors of the Society have spent January and February indexing photographs owned by the Society and bringing the picture file up to date. They still have a month's work ahead of them. Then the board must work out a procedure whereby members can borrow the photographs they need, but a plan with controls which will assure the pictures are returned to the file. During the winter of 1992 the board plans to index all pamphlets, programs, manuscripts, etc., held by the Society.

Publications

The following books are for sale, postpaid: History of Harrison County by Henry Haymond, \$12.75; John George Jackson by Dorothy Davis, \$12.50; Legacy of Love by Julia Davis Adams, \$22.00; Ramblins by Jack Sandy Anderson, \$6.00.

HARRISON ARTS COUNCIL, INC.

As a constituent member of the Harrison Arts Council, Inc., the Harrison County Historical Society is represented on the Council by Madge McDaniel who serves as its secretary. Two events sponsored by the Council are of interest to Society members:

OXACA VILLAGE, AN INTERCULTURAL EXPERIENCE

The Harrison Arts Council is seeking volunteers to act as tour guides for the upcoming exhibit to be housed at Carmichael Auditorium, uptown Clarksburg, April 1 - June 5. This exhibit of a present-day Mexican village comes from the Houston Children's Museum. School tours are scheduled and volunteers to help at the exhibit are needed. A training session is scheduled for the end of March. For details call the Harrison Arts Council, 623-3181.

VICTORIAN GARDEN PARTY

A Victorian Garden Party, sponsored by the Harrison Arts Council, will be held on Sunday, June 9, from 3-7 p.m. on the grounds of the Jennings Randolph Center for Public Service in Salem. Nina West, chairman, says, "We hope that you will be able to join us for a brief return to yesteryear." For details call 623-3181.

WEST VIRGINIA DAY CELEBRATION

The West Virginia and Regional History Collection of the West Virginia University Library stages a West Virginia Day Celebration each year on June 20. The 1991 celebration will center on the early settlement era of state history. Plans for the day include a forum, an exhibit of the collection's holdings of the settlement period, a West Virginia birthday picnic and an evening street fair and concert in downtown Morgantown. Since the collection holds a high percentage of the extant artifacts pertaining to West Virginia history, a visit to the exhibit will reward history-oriented individuals.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION
HARRISON COUNTY, WV, HISTORICAL SOCIETY
P. O. Box 2074
Clarksburg, WV 26301-2074

Please Print

Name _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

..... Adult - \$5.00 Family - \$7.50 Contributing - \$25.00
..... Student - \$1.00 Institutional - \$10.00 Life - \$100.00

Please keep us informed of change in address.

Why Join the West Virginia Historical Society?

The West Virginia Historical Society offers members a unique opportunity to be informed and participate in the preservation of our State's History. As a member, you will enjoy the following benefits:

- You'll receive the Society's quarterly newsletter containing an update on the Society's activities, news from local historical groups throughout the state, information regarding historical publications, and informative and entertaining articles regarding historical events in West Virginia's colorful past.

- You'll have input into the activities of West Virginia's Archives and History Commission, the appointive body overseeing the activities of the State Archives, State Museum and the State's Historic Preservation Office. The President of the Society is a voting member of the Archives and History Commission and, as such, has direct input regarding structures to be included in the National Register of Historic Places, and the awarding of public monies to preserve these sites.

- You'll assist in encouraging young West Virginia students to study and take pride in the history of our State. Each year, the Society presents special awards to students in recognition of superior entries in the West Virginia Social Studies Fair.

- You'll be a part of a statewide network, coordinating historic preservation efforts along with county and local historical organizations.

- You'll have the opportunity to participate in and attend

presentations and lectures by noted historians and authors.

- You'll have access to a statewide network of speakers available to speak at local historical society meetings and events.

Most importantly, you'll be a part of the growing effort to preserve and promote the proud history of West Virginia. We encourage you, if you're not already a member, to use the convenient form below to join. If you are a member, please pass this form along to a friend.

MEMBERSHIP

West Virginia Historical Society
Post Office Box 5220
Charleston, West Virginia
25361-0220

Please enroll me as a member of the West Virginia Historical Society in the class indicated for which I enclose my check for \$ _____.

INDIVIDUAL OR CORPORATION
(\$5 per year) \$ _____

FAMILY
(\$10 per year) \$ _____

CONTRIBUTING MEMBER
(\$25 or more per year) \$ _____

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

(Please make checks payable to the West Virginia Historical Society)

Harrison County Historical Society
Annual Dinner at the Harrison County Senior Citizens Center
500 West Main Street, Clarksburg
6:30 p.m., Wednesday, April 17, 1991
CLOSING DATE FOR RESERVATIONS: Friday, April 12;
CANCELLATIONS: Monday, April 15

Number of reservations for dinner @ \$10.00 each: _____

Amount of check enclosed: _____

Signature: _____

Please mail to: Harrison County Historical Society
P.O. Box 2074
Clarksburg, WV 26301