

Harrison County
West Virginia
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Post Office Box 2074
Clarksburg, West Virginia

NEWSLETTER

SPRING 1992

MARCH MEETING

Mrs. Fray G. Queen will speak at the meeting at the Stealey-Goff-Vance House at 7:30 p.m. on March 18, 1992. Her talk will deal with the integration of Italian people, who arrived circa 1900-1920, into the culture of Harrison County. She will deal chiefly with the location of concentrations of Italian people in the early years and why they settled where they did.

Rosalyn Queen, who is executive secretary of the Italian Heritage Festival, will tell about the festival now in its fourteenth year. One of the most outstanding yearly celebrations in the State of West Virginia, the festival events draw approximately 150,000 people. Estimates set \$1,000,000 as the amount proceeds from the festival feed into the economy of Harrison County.

ANNUAL DINNER

The annual dinner of the Harrison County Historical Society will be held at 6:30 p.m. on April 15, 1992, at the Clarksburg Country Club. Guest speaker for the evening will be the Honorable Larrie Bailey, treasurer of the State of West Virginia. Treasurer Bailey is a former member of the West Virginia House of Delegates and a past state president of the Sons of the American Revolution. Bailey is chairman of the Marion County Sesquicentennial Committee which is busy making plans for a celebration to mark the 1842 founding of Marion County.

Sally Pierce Hall is chairman of arrangements for the dinner. To make reservations for the dinner fill in the form included in this newsletter and mail to the Harrison County Historical Society, Post Office Box 2074, Clarksburg, WV 26301

MAY MEETING

Gary Weiner will present a slide program of the Jackson-Junkin-Morrison Reunion held July 20 and 21, 1992, in Lexington, Virginia, at 7:30 p.m. on May 20, 1992, at the Stealey-Goff-Vance House.

The reunion was timed to coincide with the July 21 centennial of the erection of a statue to Thomas Jonathan Jackson in the cemetery in Lexington. For the centennial the memorial had been cleaned and refurbished. July 21, 1991, was also the 130th anniversary of the Battle of Manassas where Jackson's valor gave him the accolade "Stonewall."

Attending the occasion were three great grandchildren of Stonewall Jackson: Reverend William Edwin Christian II, Virginia Christian Choate, and Reverend Thomas Jonathan Jackson Christian II. Seven great, great grandchildren of General Jackson attended. Gary Weiner shot the photographs for most of the slides. Reverend William E. Christian photographed at the scene of the seven great, great grandchildren of Stonewall Jackson sitting in the Jackson pew in the church in Lexington. The children are holding a photograph of the statue of Jackson on the Plaza of the Harrison County Courthouse, a photograph made by Clarksburger Harlan Taylor in the 1960's.

Attending the Jackson centennial from Clarksburg were Gary Weiner and Nancy Jackson who descends from Stonewall Jackson's grandfather Edward Jackson.

JUNE MEETING

The annual picnic of the Society will be held in the garden of the Stealey-Goff-Vance House at 6:00 p.m. on June 17, 1992. This is a covered-dish affair. The Society will furnish coffee and tea. Bring a covered dish and join the fun!

SOCIETY BUSINESS

Stealey-Goff-Vance House Repair

Extensive work will begin in the next few weeks to stabilize the museum building. Last spring the State of West Virginia awarded a \$7,000 grant for the project and will probably appropriate more funds from the 1992 budget.

James Herron, assisted by the West Virginia Department of Archives and History, is drawing up specifications for the project. These will include stabilization of the foundation of the building, repair of termite damage to the foundation, and drainage of surface water so that it will not seep into the basement of the building.

State funds are available for stabilization of historic structures. The state will not fund decorating. The Society raised the money to paint the exterior of the museum two years ago. The Society still needs to secure the money to redecorate the interior rooms of the Stealey-Goff-Vance House.

Membership

We welcome these new members who have joined the Society since the last newsletter was published:

Penelope J. Ceccone
61 C. Midland Hgts
Midland, PA 15039

Janet Cooper
P.O. Box 69, Haha Hall
Wayne State College
Wayne, NE 68787

Betty Crawford
317 Grand Ave.
Bridgeport, WV 26330

Michael E. Elliott
2541 Ogden Ave.
Akron, OH 44312

Shelby Jean Rivellino
4251 Dentzle Rd.
Parma, OH 44234

Rodney Rogers
201 Weekley St.
Clarksburg, WV 26301

Bruce Rogers
225 Carr Ave.
Clarksburg, WV 26301

Richard L. Williams
3287 Lakeview PL
Herndon, VA 22071

Publications

Additional support for the Society comes from the sale of the following books which can be purchased at the museum:

<i>History of Harrison County</i> (reprint) by Henry Haymond	\$12.75
<i>Legacy of Love</i> (reprint) by Julia Davis	\$22.00
<i>Ramblings</i> by Jack Sandy Anderson (Shinnston area).	\$ 6.00
<i>Holt-Bennett Family History</i> by Margaret Holt Early.	\$10.00

HISTORICAL NEWS

An extensive body of works and memoirs of Clarksburg native James Edward Davis was donated last fall to the West Virginia and Regional history Collection at West Virginia University.

James Davis spent his career expanding the dimensions of art. Born in Clarksburg in 1901, Davis attributed his lifelong obsession with moving light and color to his growing up in a glass industry center: "I can remember from my earliest childhood days that they had these itinerant glassblowers who would set up their little shops and blow glass ---ships and birds--- and I would stand there by the hour and watch. That fascination has never left me."

Enrolled in the bachelor of science program at Princeton University in 1919, Davis soon switched to the art and architecture department from which he graduated with honors. He then studied at the National Academy of Design in New York City and at schools in Paris including Academie Colarossi. The Great Depression ended his free lancing in New York City. He taught in a private academy in New Jersey and then accepted in 1936 a position in the art department at Princeton. During this period he returned each summer to his studio in Clarksburg, a studio he called "The Barn."

Davis experimented with acetate to give his paintings "paths of motion" and finally discovered he could achieve results he wanted in the world of film. He made his first film in 1946. Three years later he received an award at an International Festival of Experimental Films in Belgium. He worked with Frank Lloyd Wright turning out for Wright films of the "Taliesin" buildings near Madison, Wisconsin. Davis also made two films about John Martin.

Davis received a \$10,000 award in 1957 from the Graham Foundation for Advanced Studies in Art in Chicago. He continued to make films for many more years before retiring to watch as a younger generation of artists parodied his achievements with everything from psychedelic light shows to shinning colored lights on aluminum Christmas trees. By the time of his death in 1974, his work, and the work of other "light artists", had become deeply ingrained in modern society.

**Harrison County Historical Society
Annual Dinner at the Clarksburg Country Club
6:30 p.m., Wednesday, April 15, 1992**

CLOSING DATE FOR RESERVATIONS: April 6, 1992; CANCELLATIONS: April 8, 1992

Number of reservations for dinner @ \$15.00 each _____

Amount of check enclosed _____

Signature

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

I can serve as a host/hostess at the Stealey-Goff-Vance House on the following days:

May	June	July	August	September
1	5	3	7	4
8	12	10	14	11
15	19	17	21	18
22	26	24	28	25
29		31		

Signature

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

**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.