

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

POST OFFICE BOX 2064  
CLARKSBURG, WEST VIRGINIA 26301

**NEWSLETTER**

S P R I N G 1 9 7 5

MARCH MEETING

Ron Chrislip, curator of the Prickett's Fort Memorial Foundation of Marion County, will speak on the reconstruction of Prickett's Fort. He will use slides to illustrate his talk. The meeting will be held at 7:30 o'clock on Wednesday, March 19, 1975, in the Amy Roberts Vance House.

APRIL DINNER MEETING

United States Senator Jennings Randolph will speak at the spring dinner meeting scheduled for 6:30 o'clock on April 16, 1975, in the Sheraton Inn. Senator Randolph is a direct descendant of Samual Fitz Randolph on whose land the Virginia Assembly established in 1794 the second town---after Clarksburg---within the present boundaries of Harrison County. This town---Salem---was the birthplace of Senator Randolph. After having been elected to the United States House of Representatives in 1932, Congressman Randolph was reelected for six consecutive terms to the House. During this period Mr. Randolph was a member of the District of Columbia Committee for fourteen years, seven of which he was chairman of the committee and thus the mayor of the capital city. He was first elected to the United States Senate in November 1958 and was reelected in 1960, 1966, and 1972. He is Chairman of the Committee on Public Works in the 94th Congress. His devotion to his state caused Jim Comstock in the W. Va. Hillbilly to name him the man most deserving the title "Mr. West Virginia."

Members and friends of members of the Society are invited to a reception honoring Senator Randolph between the hours of 5:30 and 6:30 o'clock on April 16 in the Amy Roberts Vance House.

WEST VIRGINIA STATE HISTORICAL CONVENTION

The Society will be the host of the annual convention of the West Virginia Historical Society on October 25, 1975. The meetings, which will be held at the Sheraton Inn in Clarksburg, will be open to members of the Harrison County Historical Society whether or not they belong to the state organization.

The Amy Roberts Vance House will be open from 7:00 o'clock to 9:00 o'clock on Friday evening, October 24 so that delegates to the convention, who have arrived the evening before the convention convenes, can visit the museum. The Vance House will be open from 9:00 o'clock until 5:00 o'clock on October 25.

THE ROLE OF THE SOCIETY IN THE 1976 BICENTENNIAL

Jack Sandy Anderson, president of the Society, is chairman of the Heritage Division of the Clarksburg-Harrison Bicentennial Commission. He has announced that the projects of the division, which will require the Society to begin soon to make plans, are the publication of a Bicentennial commemorative book of pictures and an exhibit of early paintings owned by citizens of Harrison County.

Madge McDaniel for several months has distributed forms for listing any painting in the county which was produced before 1914 for an index to paintings to be assembled by the Smithsonian Institution. The owner of a painting can designate, if he so chooses, that the name of the owner not be published. If any member of the Society knows of paintings not yet listed, he can assist the search by telling Miss McDaniel where to send a form. Listing the painting does not necessitate its being exhibited during the Bicentennial celebration.

During the period from June 20, 1976 to July 4, 1976, the Bicentennial Commission will sponsor a series of commemorative activities. On each day of the two-weeks' observance the Vance House will be open.

Harrison County Historical Society

Reception at the Amy Roberts Vance House and Annual Dinner at the Sheraton Inn  
Wednesday, April 16, 1975

CLOSING DATE FOR RESERVATIONS AND REFUNDS: April 11, 1975

Make check payable to Harrison County Historical Society

Mail this slip and check to: Harrison County Historical Society  
Post Office Box 2074  
Clarksburg, WV 26301

Number of reservations for reception @ no charge

Number of reservations for dinner @ \$5.00 (The cost includes tax  
and gratuity)

Amount of check enclosed

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

## THE COLLECTION

### Acquisitions:

Chest of drawers made by Hursey, Harrison County cabinet maker.  
Gift of Mrs. Catherine Osborn Goff, Dr. Robert S. Wilson, Dr. Robert B. Davis, Dr. J. G. Kirkwood, Jr., and Dr. Franklin L. Oliverio.

Wrought iron andirons and stretcher. Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Atterholt.

United States Bicentennial Society art project (the first of a number): the Young America series of Winslow Homer. Six Homer paintings of children and young people reproduced on Lenox china plates with a gold border and cobalt rim. Limited edition. Displayed in an inlaid wooden box. Gift of Miss May W. Potter.

### Loaned to New Salem Fort, Salem College:

George Washington hand press. Once used by the Clarksburg Publishing Company. Given to the Harrison County Historical Society by Mr. Willis Tetrick.

## VANCE HOUSE STAFF

Hostesses who have served at the Amy Roberts Vance House from 2:00 o'clock to 4:00 o'clock on Saturday since September are Frances Custer, Pearl Custer, Dorothy Davis, Margaret Early, Frances Hanlan, Virginia Husk, Frances Johnson, Aileen Lucas, Elizabeth Sloan, Hattie Smith, Neva Switzer, Helen Upton, Lucile Walls, and Frances Watson.

Substitute host and hostesses are Jack Sandy Anderson, Florence Berisford, Bertha Stout Brown, Gladys Merryman, and Virginia Shetter. Aileen Lucas is in charge of staffing the House.

## GENEALOGICAL DEPARTMENT

Mrs. Linder, chairman of the department, has recently added to the holdings of manuscripts and papers many pictures and several original unpublished records of families in Harrison County and surrounding counties.

Through donation and purchase, the department has acquired the nucleus of a library consisting of books relating to West Virginia history and West Virginia families. On the desk in the department, Mrs. Linder has pointed out, are books which will serve as tools for the beginning genealogist or the veteran genealogist. Any member or friend of a member searching for facts on his family can confer with research assistants in the department as to the holdings of the department.

Verna Shingleton has answered approximately seventy-five letters of inquiry from people seeking information on earlier residents of the county. The names of the writers of the letters have been entered in the Researchers Card File which at present contains nearly five hundred names of people who want, or who hold, information on families. If a member of the Society has genealogical material he will share, please tell Mrs. Linder so that she can place his name in the file.

Assistants in the department are Mary Allen, Catherine Goff, Marjorie Marstiller, Ann Miller, Gladys Norris, Verna Shingleton, Gladys Smith, Frances Stout, and Lucille Stryker.

SOCIETY BUSINESS

At the end of February 1975, 179 of the 284 members who paid in 1974 had sent dues for 1975. Any member who has not paid dues, please put a check in the mail since those who are delinquent on May 1 are dropped from the membership roll. The membership, according to various classifications is as follows:

	Dues paid in 1974	Dues paid in 1975
Individual adult	204	127
Family	59	39
Institutional	7	3
Contributing	8	3
Life	Total number is 15; added in 1975, 1	
Student	6	6

The report of the treasurer as of February 28, 1975, is as follows:

General Fund	\$2186.20
Book Fund (sale of Haymond)	1023.39
Certificate of Deposit (with interest)	<u>1267.36</u>
Total:	\$4476.95

The wall and the fence are installed, the wall paid for by Elizabeth Sloan and the fence, by gifts from members and money from the general fund. A report of the project is as follows:

Total cost of fence and wall	\$3129.44
Cost of fence alone	1097.64
Gifts of members for fence	665.00
Paid from treasury of Society	432.64

Money donated for the garden is held by the Goff Plaza Garden Club. Now that the fence and the wall are installed, the garden club will begin to restore the garden.

Members who wish to purchase the reprinted issue of Haymond's History of Harrison County may buy the book at the reduced price of \$12.75.

The Society continues to sell Vance House notepaper at \$1.55 per box.