

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

POST OFFICE BOX 2074  
CLARKSBURG, WEST VIRGINIA 26301

**NEWSLETTER**

FALL 1979

FROM THE DESK OF THE SOCIETY PRESIDENT:

Members and Prospective Members  
Harrison County Historical Society

Dear Friends:

The Harrison County Historical Society has arranged interesting programs for this fall.

Our annual September tour will consist of a bus trip to Moorefield on September 29. This is the first day of the Hardy County Heritage Weekend. We will visit some of the historic homes of the area, view the old-time crafts and, in addition, have what we feel is a beautiful trip down and back. Reservations may be made by members and their guests. Please fill out the enclosed form as soon as possible as we are limited to one bus.

Some of the homes in the Moorefield area date back to the eighteenth century. They are very proud of their heritage and are doing a wonderful job in preserving the fine architecture of this area.

On October 17 Mr. Dwight Fowler, former head of the Industrial Arts Department of Fairmont State College, will speak on "Pewter, Old and New." If you have pewter pieces, bring them in for a discussion.

On November 14 Catharine Patton Clark will speak on early Bridgeport and give interesting data on the Johnson family of Bridgeport.

Our traditional Christmas party will be held on December 9.

The annual meeting of the West Virginia Historical Society will be held at the Bicentennial Motel in Buckhannon on October 13, 1979. It begins at 9:00 a.m. with a slide program and commentary on historical homes in the Upshur County area. Mr. Fred Armstrong, Department of Culture and History, will speak on the history of historical societies in West Virginia. Anyone interested in attending should send a check for \$10.00 (\$3.00 registration fee; \$7.00 luncheon ticket) to the Reverend Charles Aurand, 721 Twelfth Avenue, Huntington, WV 26701, no later than September 20, 1979.

Clarksburg is most fortunate to have the Amy Roberts Vance House. At this time the society is in the process of having this fine home, as well as the East Main Street area of Clarksburg listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

Please join us in preserving Clarksburg and Harrison County. Feel free to pass this letter on to a neighbor, relative, or friend who would be interested in joining the society. The dues are as follows:

Student	\$1.00	Family	\$7.50	Contributing	\$25.00
Single	\$5.00	Institutional	\$10.00	Life	\$100.00

Checks may be made payable to the Harrison County Historical Society, Box 2074, Clarksburg, West Virginia 26301.

Very truly yours,

Robert S. Wilson

ANNUAL TOUR  
HARDY COUNTY HERITAGE WEEKEND

Arrival and departure hours:

The bus will leave the Vance House at 7:00 a.m. on Saturday, September 29, arriving in Moorefield at approximately 10:30 a.m. The bus will leave Moorefield at 5:00 p.m. arriving in Clarksburg at the Vance House at approximately 8:30 p.m.

Hardy County structures open to visitors:

Moorefield:

Hickory Hill, built circa 1809, has been owned and occupied by members of the Felix B. Welton family since 1873. (The Durgon Extension Homemakers Club will make and sell applebutter here on September 29.)

Mill Island built circa 1847 and now owned by Royce Saville, is a handsome Georgian house where Hardy County records were hidden during the Civil War. (Antique Oriental rugs will be displayed and sold in the ballroom of the house by Gerald W. Thompson, Shepherdstown, WV. on Sept. 29.)

Methodist Parsonage, built about 1850, has been the residence for over 100 years for about thirty preachers' families.

Oakland Hall-Valley View Golf Club, built in 1840, was once the summer home of New Yorker Will Engleman, who had a private race track and whose Victorian bathroom was allegedly the first in the valley. (West Virginia artists Margaret and Philip Arabia, who have an art gallery in Speed, WV, will show, demonstrate and sell oil, acrylic and watercolor paintings and drawings on September 29.)

The Presbyterian Church, built in 1847, was used by both Confederate and Union forces as a hospital during the Civil War.

Water Edge Farm, the home of Mrs. John Fisher, was once an Indian fort dating to 1832. Over 230 different roses are grown by Mrs. Fisher on the grounds of the house.

The Willows, log section built before 1800 and brick portion in 1856, was formerly called "Randolph Place." The present owners are Dr. and Mrs. K. F. Johnson.

Old Fields:

Fort Pleasant, built in 1832 by Isaac Van Meter, is presently owned by Mr. and Mrs. Renick Williams.

Old Fields Church, built in 1812, is probably the second oldest church in West Virginia.

Travelers Rest, built in 1823 by Colonel Joseph Van Meter, descendant of first settler Isaac Van Meter, is now owned by Attorney and Mrs. James E. Ansel. (Exhibited here on September 29 will be antique pewter and old spectacles collected and owned by Dr. and Mrs. Thomas L. Ansel, Keyser, WV; a collection of antique stickpins belonging to Anna Mae Harman).

Food:

The \$15 tour fee includes bus fare and a ticket which will admit tour members to all the buildings open to visitors; the tour fee does not include the cost of food.

Tour members have the following choices as to food:

1. The Duffey Memorial Church in Moorefield will serve a smorgasbord lunch 11:30 - 2:00 p.m. on September 29 at a cost of \$3.75. The bus will stop at the church at noontime.
2. Or tour members can carry a lunch. If one "brown bags" it, he should be able to buy drinks during the lunchtime stop since the church is in downtown Moorefield.
3. Hardy County 4-H Clubs will sell barbecued chicken at Moorefield Town Park 11:00 - 6:00 p.m. on September 29. Orders will be taken in the morning on the trip from Clarksburg to Moorefield for box lunches of chicken prepared by the 4-H Club members for \$2.50 each. These box lunches will be picked up before the bus leaves Moorefield at 5:00 p.m.

For reservations use the enclosed form.

AMY ROBERTS VANCE HOUSE

The Collection:

Accessions: Van Horn papers; gift of Miss Grace Van Horn. Genealogical records and a history of the Van Horn family.

Hostesses, Spring and Summer 1979: Florence Berisford, Dorothy Davis, Audra Kincaid, Madge McDaniel, Gladys Merryman, Goldie Robinson, Verna Shingleton, Elizabeth Sloan, Frances Stout, Lucille Stryker, Elizabeth Upton, Helen Upton, Nina Watson.

HARRISON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Financial statement, August 1, 1979:

On Hand, Checking Account . . . . .	\$ 928.20
Savings Certificates (Union National Bank) . . . . .	3000.00
	1178.06
Book Fund (Community Bank)	
Checking Account . . . . .	611.66
Savings Certificates . . . . .	2900.00 (est.)
Total Assets: . . . . .	\$8617.92 *

Membership:

Adult . . . . .	143
Family . . . . .	50
Student . . . . .	12
Institutional . . . . .	2
Contributing . . . . .	3
Life . . . . .	15
Honorary . . . . .	2
Total . . . . .	227

Notepaper:

The envelopes of the notepaper on which a sketch of the Amy Roberts Vance House appears are too small to meet postal standards which went into effect in July. The Society has cut the price of the notepaper from \$1.50 to 75¢. Purchasers may use an envelope larger than the one supplied with the notepaper.

Harrison County history:

Copies of Colonel Henry Haymond's History of Harrison County are still available to members of the Society for \$12.75. Cost to non-members is \$17.50.

\*The Historical Society has been notified of a bequest of \$1000 by Mrs. Rebecca Jarvis Gordon.