

Harrison County
WEST VIRGINIA
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Post Office Box 2074
Clarksburg, West Virginia 26301

NEWSLETTER

FALL 1981

Annual Tour

The annual tour for members and guests of members of the Harrison County Historical Society will be on Saturday, September 12, 1981.

In the morning tour members will visit the Belmont County Museum, Barnesville, Ohio, where they will be conducted by Beatrice Woodell Hanlon (Mrs. Everett Hanlon). Mrs. Hanlon, who lives across the street from the museum, has invited her Harrison County friends to stop in her home while they are in Barnesville. A description gives a preview of what to expect at the museum:

The Belmont County Museum is housed in a most unique, spacious and beautiful "Gay 90's" mansion. It is a rare and perfect example of Richardsonian style of a Romanesque architecture. This elegant home was 5 years in building, 1888-1893. As one wanders through the 26 rooms and spacious hallways with never-ending, hand-carved woodwork, he is amazed that such a spacious and beautiful building could be erected in 5 years. This lovely home was built by J.W. (Dias) Bradfield at a cost of \$65,000 and could not be replaced today for \$1,000,000. The hardware on doors and windows throughout the entire mansion are of solid brass, different design for each floor and valued at well over \$10,000.

As one enters the museum, he finds himself first in an entry hall and then in the main reception hall, the two being separated by a delicate openwork oak screen with a handcarved dragon design in the lower panel. The first floor consists of twin-parlors, dining room, butler's pantry, kitchen, growlery, gift shop and two long hallways.

The second floor has five large bedrooms, two lavish dressing rooms, a master bedroom with 22K gold trim. As this house was built several years before Barnesville had a water system, two large storage tanks were installed on the third floor, one for drinking water and the other for rain water, providing running water throughout the building.

On the third floor is found the ballroom, scene of many gay occasions: dances, parties, and celebrations. The basement consists of seven spacious rooms, including a summer kitchen, laundry, wine room, and recreation room.

A noon meal consisting of sirloin strip steak, vegetable, baked potato, salad, roll or muffin, beverage, and ice cream will be served tour members at Howard Johnson's Motor Lodge Restaurant, 775 National Road, Wheeling, West Virginia.

In the afternoon tour members will visit West Virginia Independence Hall, Market and 16th Streets in Wheeling. Built in 1859 for a United States customhouse and post office, the structure was restored after the West Virginia Legislature appropriated funds and the building was bought in May 1964. The name "West Virginia Independence Hall" is fitting:

At a meeting of 1,200 Union supporters in Clarksburg on April 22, 1861, a motion passed for a meeting of delegates from north-western Virginia counties to be held in Wheeling on May 13, 1861, to investigate means of staying in the Union rather than joining the Confederacy. The June Wheeling Convention, which grew out of the May 13 meeting, was given permission to use the United States courtroom in the customhouse and post office building, and additional rooms were made available as needed.

One of the first acts of the Convention in this building was the preparation of a document with the title "A Declaration of the People of Virginia". It was adopted and signed a week later. By a curious coincidence the Declaration was adopted by a vote of 56 for, with none against, and attention was called to the fact that there had been 56 signers to the Declaration of Independence of the United States.

During the convention the document was referred to simply as the Declaration, but in the course of time it has been spoken of either as West Virginia's Bill of Rights or as West Virginia's Declaration of Independence. The Declaration was signed on June 20, 1861; another coincidence is that it was signed exactly two years before West Virginia achieved statehood.

The Declaration, among other things, demanded a reorganization of the state government, all of the officers of which had cast their lot with the Confederacy. The Convention adopted an ordinance for the reorganization of the state government, variously known as the Reorganized or as the Restored Government of Virginia. Francis H. Pierpont was elected as governor of the Restored Government of Virginia.

The Assembly of the Restored Government met in the United States courtroom on the third floor of the building. Rooms on the second floor were assigned to the officers of the new state government loyal to the Union. Provision was made for forming a new state out of Virginia, and in February of 1862 the name West Virginia was selected for the new state.

A constitutional convention to adopt a constitution for West Virginia likewise held its sessions in the courtroom, which from 1861 to June 20, 1863, had the distinction of being the capitol of the government of Virginia loyal to the Union.

The time schedule for the tour is as follows:

- 7:00 a.m. Bus leaves Stealey-Goff-Vance House, Clarksburg.
- 10:00 a.m. Tour of Belmont County Museum, Barnesville, Ohio.
- 12:30 p.m. Dinner, Howard Johnson's Restaurant, Wheeling, W. Va.
- 2:00 p.m. Tour of Independence Hall, Wheeling, W. Va.
- 6:30 p.m. (approximately) Bus arrives at Stealey-Goff-Vance House, Clarksburg.

Seats on the bus will be reserved in the order that checks for the tour arrive in the mail. The closing date for reservations is September 7, 1981. The last day for cancellations is September 9, 1981. For further information or for cancellation, telephone Madge McDaniel, 842-3073.

To make reservations fill in the form included in this newsletter and mail, with check to Harrison County Historical Society, P.O. Box 2074, Clarksburg, W. Va. 26301

Stealey-Goff-Vance House

The Collection

Accessions:

Books:

- American Association of University Women, Clarksburg, W. Va. 60-Year History of the Clarksburg College Club Branch, American Association University Women, 1981. Gift of Madge McDaniel.
- Art in the United States Capitol. Gift of The Honorable Robert H. Mollohan, U.S. House of Representatives.
- Dabney, R.L. Life and Campaigns of Lieut.-Gen. Thomas J. Jackson (Stonewall Jackson). New York: Blelock & Co., 1866. Gift of Lucille Stryker.
- Dawson, Ray F. The Dunhams of Callaway; Genealogical History. Gift of Ray F. Dawson, Winter Park, Florida.

Photographs:

- Waldo P. Goff; Waldomore, circa 1900. Gift of Mrs. Catherine Osborn Goff.
- Campaign poster of John W. Davis, 1924 candidate for President of the United States, and Charles W. Bryan, 1924 candidate for Vice President of the United States. Gift of The Honorable Jennings Randolph, U.S. Senate.
- Three bank savings books, Home Bank for Savings, Clarksburg, W. Va. Gift of John E. Stealey.

House and Grounds

The Society has been awarded \$600 by the Historic Preservation Unit of the Department of Culture and History of the State of West Virginia as part payment for insulation to be placed in the attic of the Stealey-Goff-Vance House. This is a matching grant with the stipulation that the grantee supply \$600 to the project. Mr. George Short, president of the Society, is waiting for word from Ralph Pedersen of the state historic preservation agency before beginning work on the project which, according to the wording of the grant, must be completed by fall 1982. In the contract for the work Mr. Short will include screens for over the chimneys (two dead birds have been found in the house) and repair of the boxing under the portion of the roof which overhangs the front steps. The member of the Society who has mowed the grass in the garden behind the museum has resigned the work. The Society hired an adult man to mow the grass beginning July 1. He will clear out dead shrubbery and clean what was once a flower bed of poison ivy and weeds as soon as weather turns cool in the fall. The dogwood trees and the azaleas planted under the supervision of Mrs. Willis Tetrick, Jr., in the summer of 1980 all lived, except for one azalea, through the winter and bloomed in spring 1981.

Society Business

Change in officers

Officers elected at the annual meeting in April were George Short, president; Dorothy Davis, vice president; Elizabeth Sloan, secretary; Madge McDaniel, treasurer; Alvin Bailey, Beatrice Quigley, Frances Watson, members of the board of directors. At the May meeting of the board of directors Elizabeth Sloan resigned, effective immediately, as secretary because she is moving from Clarksburg to the State of Mississippi. Mr. Short appointed Pauline Coston to serve as secretary and three members of the board to assume other work for which Miss Sloan had responsibility for many years. Mrs. Robert S. Wilson will be curator of the museum; Alvin Bailey, supervisor of custodial help at the Stealey-Goff-Vance House; Beatrice Quigley, chairman of hostesses during visiting hours at the museum; Madge McDaniel collector of in-coming mail and sender of notices of meetings and newsletters. Mr. Short appointed Frances Watson and Sue Stout as co-chairmen of the social committee and Verna Shingleton, respondent to genealogical queries which arrive in the mail.

Announcements

At the request of some who have served as hostesses in the past and of board members who believe keeping the Stealey-Goff-Vance House open on week days will better serve the public, the museum will be open 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. on Monday and Friday beginning September 1. The museum will be closed on Saturday. Those who sign to serve as hostess on the form included in this newsletter will be given an orientation session to instruct them as to artifacts on display at the museum. Members are urged to invite friends to join the Society. Information regarding dues was included in the last meeting notice. If there are questions, please telephone Madge McDaniel, 842-3073. Members who join now may be included in the tour described elsewhere in this newsletter. Their dues will be credited through 1982. Members may purchase copies of Haymond's History of Harrison County for \$12.75 (\$17.50 to non-members).

Financial Report, July 1, 1981

On Hand, Checking Account, Union National Bank	\$ 1,353.74
Savings Certificates, Union National Bank (est.)	4,300.00
Checking Account, Community	1,194.51
Savings Certificates, Community (est.)	4,800.00
Savings Certificates, Federal Savings and Loan (est.)	1,100.00
Undeposited checks and cash	24.75

Both checking accounts have been converted to NOW accounts.

Membership Report

Life 21	Institutional 3
Family 63	Contributing 5
Adult 125	Honorary 3
Student 8	