

Harrison County
WEST VIRGINIA
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

POST OFFICE BOX 2074
CLARKSBURG, WEST VIRGINIA 26301

NEWSLETTER

SPRING 1981

March Meeting

Shawn Reilly Williams, historian-curator at the Waldomore building of the Clarksburg-Harrison Public Library, will speak at the March meeting of the Society at 7:30 p.m. on March 18, 1981, in the Stealey-Goff-Vance House, 123 West Main Street, Clarksburg, W. Va.

Mrs. Williams, a native of East Lyme, Connecticut, was graduated with honors in 1978 from the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Virginia. Her major study was anthropology. Mrs. Williams has had volunteer experience at Carlisle House, Alexandria, Virginia, and with the East Lyme, Connecticut, Historical Society. For eighteen months she was an administrative assistant at Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, Williamsburg, Virginia. Mrs. Williams on March 18 will describe her experiences at the Foundation in Williamsburg, will discuss her duties at Waldomore, and will tell members of the Harrison County Historical Society how she can help the Society.

ANNUAL DINNER

The annual business and dinner meeting of the Harrison County Historical Society will be held at 6:00 p.m. on April 8, 1981, at the Sheraton Inn, West Main Street, Clarksburg, W. Va.

Speaker at the dinner will be A. James Manchin, secretary of state of the State of West Virginia and a native of the Marion-Harrison county area. At the time the newsletter went to press, Mr. Manchin had not decided on the title for his speech. Because of a full schedule at the Sheraton Inn, the date was changed from the regular meeting night for the Society to April 8. Announcement of the subject of Mr. Manchin's speech will be made in the newspapers.

From 5:00 - 6:00 p.m. on April 8 members of the Society and their guests are invited to a reception to be held at the Stealey-Goff-Vance House. Members of the social committee will serve as hostesses for the reception.

STEALEY-GOFF-VANCE HOUSE

Service to the Genealogical Researcher

Lucille Stryker has indexed the surnames from the markers of cemeteries in Harrison County as recorded by W. Guy Tetrick in the 1920's and the 1930's. The index is on the shelf with the Tetrick, Cemetery Records in the library of the Stealey-Goff-Vance House.

Verna Shingleton continues to answer by mail the many letters which are addressed to the Society for answers to genealogical questions. Mrs. Shingleton usually is at work in the office of the Society when the Stealey-Goff-Vance House is open to visitors on Saturday afternoon.

The Property

During the winter months the furnace in the attic was turned off. Heat from the first floor, supplied by a furnace in the basement, was enough to keep water pipes on second floor from freezing. The gas bill for December was \$132.26; for January, \$200.88. Electricity for the two months was \$44.71 (Current needed to operate the furnace thermostat). The fee for sewage and water has climbed from about \$12 to almost \$18 a month.

If the application to the state preservation office for a sum around \$2,100 to purchase and install insulation for the attic of the Stealey-Goff-Vance House be accepted, the Society must match the amount of the grant. If members examine the financial statement included in this newsletter, they will see that the commitment can be met by dipping into the investments of the Society. Members may have noticed during the winter months that water which seeps into the boxing on the northwest portion of the roof drips onto the front steps of the house. This should be fixed at the time the insulation is installed. If a member wishes to donate funds for this repair, he may write a check payable to the Society and mail it to Post Office Box 2074 in Clarksburg.

Hostesses

Hostesses at the Stealey-Goff-Vance House, 2-4 p.m. on Saturday, from September 1980 to April 1981 are Dorothy Davis, Gladys Merryman, Beatrice Quigley, Mrs. Fred Scanes, Jr., Elizabeth Sloan, Frances Stout, Lucille Stryker, Laura Stuart, Helen Upton, Nina Watson, and Mrs. William Yoke.

SOCIETY BUSINESS

Financial Statement — February 12, 1981

General Fund Checking Account (Union Bank)	\$1464.42
Book Fund (Community Bank)	799.64
Investments: Certificates of Deposit (Union) General Fund	3000.00
Certificates of Deposit (Union) General Fund	1278.66
Certificates of Deposit (Federal S & L)	1085.84
Certificates of Deposit (Community) Book Fund	1642.74
Certificates of Deposit (Community) Book Fund	1768.09
Certificates of Deposit (Community) Book Fund	1377.72
Total Assets: Checking:	2264.06
Investments:	8504.31

Membership Report

The membership of the Society as of February 12, 1981, was a total of 154 which divides into the following categories: Life - 21; Family - 41; Adult - 82; Student - 2; Institutional - 2; Contributing - 3; Honorary - 3. If you have not paid your dues, send a check for \$5 (single) or \$7.50 (family) before May 1, the date on which delinquents are dropped from the roll of members.

NEWS OF HISTORIC INTEREST

A letter will soon be sent to every household in the area of Clay, Eagle, and Sardis districts in northern Harrison County, according to Charles Righter, publicity chairman for the publication of a history of the area.

Citizens in the northern section of the county will be asked to prepare histories of their families for publication in the book to be published by Taylor Company. The volume will also contain a general history of the area, the history of the communities, and a history of the religious, educational, fraternal, and economic institutions. Outstanding events from earliest times to the present will be recorded.

The steering committee for the project ask that people supply it with the names and addresses of people once active in northern Harrison County who have moved to other places so that an attempt can be made to secure the histories of their families.

Clarence Moran, state historic preservation officer, announced Jan. 5, 1981, that twelve West Virginia historic sites have been named to the National Register of Historic Places. One of the twelve named was the Salem Historic District in Salem, W. Va. The district has forty-one brick-facade buildings which line the streets of the district. Most of the buildings were built in 1902 after a fire destroyed the business section of the downtown during the night of December 14, 1901.

Dr. John E. Stealey, Clarksburg native now instructor at Shepherdstown State College and president of the Jefferson County Historical Society, announced in December that the Jefferson County Historical Society may not accept the gift of Piedmont, the ancestral Georgian mansion of the Briscoe family.

In her will, Louise Briscoe in 1980 left the home to the Society with the stipulation that her business associate, Paul Miller, and then his son could live in the house until their deaths. "Theoretically," said Stealey, "we could not get possession for 70 years."

Members of the board of directors of the Jefferson County Historical Society are concerned about funds to maintain the house. Roger Perry, a member of the board stated: "Philanthropic groups are only accepting a gift if sufficient funds are also left to keep it going. They've learned that they've grabbed a tiger by the tail, and it turns on them."

"We may end up negotiating with the two people who inherited the major interest ... We have an obligation to the person who left us the remaindership," said Stealey.
