

Harrison County
WEST VIRGINIA
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Post Office Box 2074
CLARKSBURG, WEST VIRGINIA 26301

NEWSLETTER

FALL 1983

ANNUAL TOUR

The Country Roads Tours bus will leave the Stealey-Goff-Vance House at 8:00 a.m. on Sunday, September 11, to travel to Huntington for a visit to Huntington Galleries.

On arrival in Huntington, members of the tour will eat dinner at the Huntington Convention Center Hotel, where the meal will be a 40-foot-long smorgasbord with three entrees and many salads, vegetables, and desserts. After the meal, tour members will proceed to view the exhibits at the Huntington Galleries which opens at 1:00 p.m.

The Huntington Galleries opened its doors in 1952, a gift to the people of the tri-state area from Herbert L. Fitzpatrick, who donated the fifty-acre hilltop site and his superb private collection, and from other generous benefactors who financed the museum structure. Eighteen years later, in 1970, new doors opened on an extensive addition designed by Walter Gropius made possible by the Henry L. and Grace Rardin Doherty Foundation which also facilitated the completion of the workshop quadrangle in 1976.

The galleries complex includes ten exhibition galleries, a reference library, studio workshops, a 300-seat auditorium, an amphitheatre, an observatory, a museum store, nature trails, a sculpture garden and a junior art museum. The serenity of its setting belies the many activities that take place within the galleries complex. Each year more than 20,000 children from West Virginia, Kentucky and Ohio visit the museum for informative tours, enroll in art classes, hike the nature trails, attend plays, or sing folk songs during the Heritage Festivals. And so do hundreds of thousands of adults who take tours and classes and hikes, and who also gaze at the stars through the telescope in the Donald C. Martin Observatory, attend the galleries theatre productions and the Huntington Chamber Orchestra performances.

The fee for the trip includes the dinner, \$8.00; the admission to the galleries, \$2.00; and the bus fare, \$15.00. After leaving the galleries in the afternoon, the bus will travel without stopping to Clarksburg arriving at the Stealey-Goff-Vance House at approximately 8:00 p.m. Coffee, hot water for tea and cold drinks will be served free of charge on the bus. If he wishes food on the way home, a tour member should "brown bag" it by taking a lunch with him from home in the morning.

HARRISON COUNTY BICENTENNIAL

Willis G. Tetrick, Jr., and John F. McCuskey have accepted positions as co-chairmen of the Harrison County Bicentennial to be celebrated throughout 1984.

The Sons of the American Revolution, with Charles L. Righter as coordinator of arrangements with the Harrison County Court, sparked the idea of the observance of the bicentennial. The court-appointed bicentennial committee has worked since January 1983 on plans for the 200th anniversary.

The committee last spring staged a contest in the schools of the county for a logo for the bicentennial. Glenn Gillespie, Jr., a 1983 graduating senior at South Harrison High School, won first place for a logo using the colors, red, white and blue, in the design of eagle and flag, stars around the edge of the circular pattern, and "Harrison" printed so as to make the word stand out in "Harrison County Bicentennial 1984." The first prize was \$45.00 of the \$125. donated by local banks for first prize and honorable mention awards.

The first contribution of the historical society to the celebration of the bicentennial is the historic sketch in this newsletter. It is a study of the events that led to the formation of Harrison County. The society will aid the bicentennial committee by supplying historical data needed in staging various events during 1984.

Sometime in the spring of 1984 a special Bicentennial Day will be observed. The committee decided that July 20, the day of the first meeting of the Harrison County Court, comes at a time when school music groups have disbanded. The day the legislature passed the bill ordering justices to form a new county was not recorded in Acts of the Virginia Assembly. So a day for the official celebration will probably be an arbitrary one set in May 1984.

MEMORIAL FUND

No organization can keep up a building and operate a museum on five and seven-dollar membership fees. Since 1970 the board of directors of the Harrison County Historical Society has kept the Stealey-Goff-Vance House open largely through generous donations of members whenever it has asked for funds for a fence, for roof repairs, for paintings; and and by volunteer work supplied by members.

This year payment of matching -cost fee for repair of gutters and payment of routine maintenance such as utilities, cleaning, and mowing the grass have reduced the checking account until the treasurer reports \$505.84 must cover costs of maintenance until the end of 1983.

Mr. George A. Short, president of the society, talked with Willis Tetrick, Jr., and with Charles L. Righter about the need for an endowment fund to supply interest which can be used for current expenses to run the museum and such projects as cataloging the collection of the society. The three decided to start a "Memorial Fund" and to show their seriousness in the establishment of the fund, each one of the three wrote a personal check to start the project.

Mr. Short stated, "The principal of the fund will not be used at any time. Earnings from the principal will be a continuous living memorial with the money spent for educational and research purposes."

The memorial fund committee asks that donors supply a thumbnail biographical sketch of the person to be honored by the donation. From time to time the name of donors and honorees will be published in the newsletter.

The committee realizes that a contingent clause must be inserted in stipulations for the administration of the fund. The committee will state that if ever in the future either the society or the museum would cease to exist, the fund would be transferred to and be executed by the Clarksburg-Harrison Public Library for genealogical and historic purposes.

A form for contributions to the fund is enclosed with this newsletter.

HOSTS AND HOSTESSES AT MUSEUM

Dear Historical Society Members:

Due to lack of volunteer hosts and hostesses the Stealey-Goff-Vance House will be open only one day per week during the months of October, November, December, March and April.

If eighteen people will agree to serve just one day per month (two hours) it would be greatly appreciated and our problems with scheduling would be simplified. Why not choose a friend to work with you and perform this service for your organization? If no visitors come, it is a good time to browse through the collection, work on your genealogy, catch up on your magazines, correspondence, or visit with a friend.

Perhaps you have suggestions on how we might better perform this function. Your board would be glad to hear them. Phone Bea Quigley at 842-3454 or Madge McDaniel at 842-3073.

A form is enclosed for volunteering starting in October. Won't you please help? Also, there are several unfilled dates in July, August, and September. Please phone me if you are willing to serve anytime (Monday or Friday) during the next three months and indicate your willingness to serve during the next five-month period on the enclosed form.

Hopefully yours,
Bea Quigley
Scheduling Chairman

SOCIETY BUSINESS

House Repair:

Ralph Pedersen, chairman of grounds, supervised early in the spring of 1983, the replacement of the front porch of the museum with an entirely new deck. He had the leaky eaves across the front of the house torn out and new copper conduits installed.

A grant for \$1650 from the state of West Virginia matched by the same amount supplied by the historical society paid the bill for the repairs. \$1133.85 remains in the fund. The money will be used for minor needs such as reinstalling a finial which fell several years ago from the east side of the Stealey-Goff-Vance House, recharging the fire extinguishers throughout the house, etc.

Mr. Pedersen, who is an architect, told the board of directors of the society that the entire roof of the house will need replaced in four or five years.

Membership:

Have you paid your dues for 1983? A check of the membership list showed that a few members have failed to renew. Please check the date on your membership card and if you owe dues, please send with your check the form enclosed in this newsletter.

The Society welcomes the following new members:

Mr. and Mrs. William D. Gaston
and Tamara
1300 N. 13th St.
Clarksburg, WV 26301

Catherine S. Cotchett
522 W. Bellevue Ave.
San Mateo, CA 94402

Richard L. Staley
21341 Olive St.
Elsinore, CA 92330

Mrs. Haroldine Stalnaker
Rt. 3, Box 89-R
Weston, WV 26452

Added to the life membership roll: Ralph Pedersen
P.O. Box 1885
Clarksburg, WV 26301

The membership of the society is: Adult, 109; Family, 48; Student, 5; Institutional, 3; Contributing, 5; Life, 30; Honorary, 3. Total 203.

Financial Report (June 15, 1983):

Investments (Includes life memberships and bequests):

Union Bank	\$6200.00 (est)
Community Bank	4200.00 (6/1/83)
Mountain State Federal	1350.00 (est.)
Checking Account, Union Bank	2624.19
Undeposited checks and cash	15.50
Amount remaining in repair fund	1133.85
Interest from investments in checking account	1000.00
Available for operating expenses	505.84

For Sale by the Society:

Alvin Bailey and Frances Watson have colored the sketch of the Stealey-Goff-Vance House on each piece of note paper in the boxes of paper for sale by the historical society. The boxes of paper can be purchased for \$2.00.

Haymond's History of Harrison County can be purchased from the society by members at a special price of \$12.75.

Dorothy Davis has given the society two boxes (56 copies) of the biography John George Jackson. The book, which retails for \$18.50 can be purchased by society members for \$12.50.

HISTORIC NEWS

Canal Wall at Harper's Ferry:

Work started in May to restore one-half mile of the stone wall lining the banks of the Patowmack Company Canal dredged in 1803 between Virginius Island in the Shenandoah River and Harper's Ferry. The bridge linking the island and Harper's Ferry was washed away in 1889 and restored in 1974. The bridge is named "Randolph Bridge" in honor of Senator Jennings Randolph who is "The true father of the park at Harper's Ferry". The bridge will now be accompanied in its facelift with the stone wall that runs just north and south of the buttresses of the bridge. The total cost of the restoration will be \$350,000 which will come from the U.S. Department of Interior's Park Restoration Improvement Program.

Wheeling Suspension Bridge:

Early in May 1983 a rededication ceremony was held in Wheeling at the 133-year-old suspension bridge which was reopened to traffic after the ceremony. Ralph Pedersen designed the brochure describing the bridge which the Preservation Alliance of West Virginia recently wrote to be distributed to tourists.

Annual Meeting of the Preservation Alliance:

The annual meeting of the West Virginia Preservation Alliance of West Virginia was held June 10-12 at the Sheraton Inn in Bluefield, W.Va.

James Carrico, superintendent of the New River Gorge National River, gave a talk on the history and industrial archaeology of the New River; Robert Moore, Jr., executive director of the Pocahontas Coalfield Centennial Celebration, presented a brief history of the Pocahontas Coalfield which opened in 1883. Co-winners of the first Outstanding Preservation Award of the Alliance went to Emory Kemp and Beverly Fluty.

On Saturday morning, June 11, delegates to the convention toured several homes in Bramwell, the coal operators' town which was described in Goldenseal, December 1982, and traveled to Pocahontas, Va. for a lunch of cabbage rolls and a tour of the Pocahontas Exhibition Coal Mine. Clarksburg is headquarters of Preservation Alliance of W.Va.

Harrison County Historical Society
Annual Tour to Huntington Galleries, Huntington, W.Va.

Bus leaves Stealey-Goff-Vance House 8:00 a.m.; bus returns to Clarksburg 8:00 p.m., Sunday, September 11, 1983.

CLOSING DATE FOR RESERVATIONS AND REFUNDS: September 7, 1983

Make check payable to Harrison County Historical Society

and Post Office Box 2074
Mail to Clarksburg, W.Va. 26301

Number of reservations for tour @ \$25.00 _____

Amount of check enclosed _____

Signature

MEMBERSHIP FORM

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

Send check to: Harrison County Historical Society
P.O. Box 2074
Clarksburg, W.V 26301

MEMORIAL FUND

Yes, I wish to donate to a Memorial Fund being started Fall 1983 by George A. Short, Charles L. Righter, and Willis Tetrick, Jr., for the benefit of education and research through work of the Harrison County Historical Society at the Stealey-Goff-Vance House in Clarksburg, W.Va.

Name of person honored _____

Name of donor _____

Amount of donation _____

_____ Cash _____ Pledge

_____ I am enclosing biographical sketch of honoree.

_____ I shall send later a biographical sketch of honoree.

Signature

I can serve as host or hostess at the Stealey-Goff-Vance House on the following dates:

1983			1984	
October	November	December	March	April
7 _____	4 _____	2 _____	2 _____	6 _____
14 _____	11 _____	9 _____	9 _____	13 _____
21 _____	18 _____	16 _____	16 _____	20 _____
28 _____	25 _____	23 _____	23 _____	27 _____
		30 _____	30 _____	

Will serve as substitute if available when called _____

Signature _____ Telephone _____

Comments _____

Please mail to: Harrison County Historical Society
P.O. Box 2074
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