

Harrison County
WEST VIRGINIA
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Post Office Box 2074
CLARKSBURG, WEST VIRGINIA 26301

NEWSLETTER

SPRING 1984

MARCH MEETING

James M. Pool, coordinator of activities for the 1984 bicentennial of Harrison County and the 1985 bicentennial of the City of Clarksburg, will speak at the March meeting of the Society to be held at 7:30 p.m. on March 21, 1984, in the Stealey-Goff-Vance House.

Mr. Pool, an attorney, will tell plans for the celebration which will focus on one weekend of festivities in May 1984, when the Pittsburgh Brass Band will present a concert and a parade will mark the late May 1784 passage of the act by the Virginia Assembly authorizing a County of Harrison to be organized at George Jackson's House on the Buckhannon River July 20, 1784.

In addition to supervision of historic tours, newspaper publicity, activities in the schools and speeches before county groups, Mr. Pool will publish a book on transportation in a county which since the eighteenth century has been the distribution center for Northwestern Virginia (W.Va.). The publication will be financed by a grant from the West Virginia Arts and Humanities Commission.

ANNUAL DINNER

The annual dinner of the Society will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, April 11, 1984, at the Sheraton Inn in Clarksburg.

The speaker following the dinner will be Dr. John Hymes, Jr., president of the West Virginia Historical Society and chairman of the Social Studies Division, Glenville State College, Glenville, West Virginia. Dr. Hymes, who was adviser to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for the Bulltown Project, has written extensively about the archaeological findings during the excavation of the Bulltown battlefield in Braxton County.

The entree for the dinner on April 11 is chicken. For dinner reservations, send the form included in this newsletter to the Society. The fee includes tax and gratuity.

THE HARRISON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMORIAL FUND

Kathryn Keys Thorniley made a gift in memory of her parents Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Keys, both descendants of early Harrison County citizens:

The great grandfather of Charles Clarence Keys (1882-1962) moved to Harrison County, and to what since 1845 has been Doddridge County, WV, from Petersburg, Va., and died in Harrison County in 1832; Jonathan Hughes, the ancestor of Audrey Hughes Keys (1889-1968), came with his family and the Jacksons, Hackers, Pringles, Cutrights and others from the South Branch of the Potomac River to settle on the Buckhannon River in 1769. Audrey Keys was born on Hacker's Creek on part of a 400-acre tract that William Thornhill, also an ancestor of Audrey Keys, purchased from William Lowther in 1785, land a portion of which still is owned by the Thornhill-Hughes family. Mrs. Keys' mother was a McDonald of the family that settled near Bridgeport in the eighteenth century.

C.C. and Audrey H. Keys, both teachers in Harrison County, married in 1909 and moved to Salem, where Mr. Keys opened C. C. Keys Music Co. and in the 1930's he established his main store in Clarksburg, a business which existed for more than 50 years.

Always supportive of education, civic and church affairs, C. C. and Audrey Keys passed on their example of interest in the cultural to three daughters:

Wilma Donna Keys (Mrs. Zygmund Zimowski)
Anita Kathryn Keys (Mrs. C. W. Thorniley)
Mary Frances Keys (Mrs. Ralph Shepler)

Descendants of Jacob and Elizabeth Kerns Stealey, who in 1807 built the Stealey-Goff-Vance House, presented a memorial gift for Irvin Stealey, great grandson of Jacob and Elizabeth Stealey and for two children of Irvin Stealey. Donors are Jane Ann Stealey (1914 -), Alice Stealey (1915 -), Thomas Francis Stealey (1921-), all children of Irvin Ray and Corinne Pearl Tucker Stealey; and Hilary Morrison Stealey (1918-), wife of Thomas F. Stealey, and Rebecca Maxine Boyles Stealey (1928 -), widow of William Ray Stealey. The memorial gift honors:

Irvin Ray Stealey (Jan. 30, 1881 - Feb. 7, 1969), son of John Edmund and Mary Louise Temple Stealey, and his wife Corinne Pearl Tucker Stealey (Nov. 5, 1886 - Dec. 15, 1958) and the following children of Irvin Ray and Corinne Tucker Stealey:

Helen Louise Stealey (Feb. 28, 1913 - May 11, 1983)
William Ray Stealey (Apr. 27, 1926 - Apr. 11, 1981)

G. Ashby Short made memorial gifts in honor of his ancestors Aaron and Sarah Allen Smith and his grandparents John and Mary Ellen Tetrick Short:

Aaron Smith (1751-1826) made the first settlement on lower Simpson Creek in April 1772. He built a cabin and established tomahawk rights to 400 acres and returned the same year to the South Branch of the Potomac River, where he married Sarah Allen (1753-1837) and brought her to Simpson Creek to what in 1784 would be Harrison County. The raised twelve children while fighting in the American Revolution and warding off hostile Indians. They are buried in the Smith Cemetery on Simpson Creek.

John Short (1836-1864) and his wife Mary Ellen Tetrick Short (1838-1876) lived at Enterprise. "John stood firm on his conviction against the need to fight the War Between the States to settle sectional differences. He was imprisoned at Camp Chase, released, then removed from his farm and young family by the Northern Home Guard and without access to either judge or jury, was shot in public and left for his relatives to gather up his remains."

Willis G. Tetrick, Jr., presented a gift in memory of his parents, W. Guy and Virginia H. Tetrick:

W. Guy Tetrick (Jan. 3, 1883 - July 15, 1956) left a large collection of genealogical information as a heritage to the people of Harrison County and Northcentral West Virginia. Virginia Ann Hevener Tetrick (Dec. 15, 1890 - Aug. 21, 1975) was an interested and active supporter of the Harrison County Historical Society from the time of its formation in the 1960's until her death after which her financial bequest helped assure the future of the Society.

Charles L. Righter made a gift in memory of his paternal ancestors John and Sarah Bigler Righter:

Reverend John Denham married John Righter and Sarah Bigler on April 26, 1795, near the village of Enterprise. The Righters established a home near Saltwell, reared five children, and at the time of Mr. Righter's death in 1820 had acquired five thousand acres of land. John Righter was a justice of peace of Harrison County. Righter's widow married Cyrus Ross in 1822. She had outlived Mr. Ross by eight years when she died in 1880 after having passed her one hundredth birthday.

BUSINESS OF THE SOCIETY

The Property

Ralph Pedersen, architect and Society chairman of building maintenance, supervised in Summer 1983 the installation of new copper eaves in the roof that overhangs the front of the Stealey-Goff-Vance House; the installation of a new front porch deck; and the painting of the front stoop. Mr. Pedersen had the accumulated layers of paint on the stoop scraped away and in doing so found that the original paint had been buff in color. He matched the new paint applied to the stoop with the original color.

The work Mr. Pedersen did in Summer 1983 was financed with a \$1,150 historic-preservation grant from the State of West Virginia matched with \$1,150 from the treasury of the Society.

At the same time Mr. Pedersen reported his repair job finished, he told the board of directors that the City of Clarksburg had notified the Society to replace the sidewalk in front of the Stealey-Goff-Vance House. Even though its maintenance coffers are empty, the directors instructed Mr. Pedersen to apply for a historic preservation grant, which may take months to be executed, to help pay for the new walk. When the directors have an estimate of the Society's share of the cost, they will send to members a special letter soliciting funds because the city will install a walk and send the Society a bill for the work if the Society does not act on the city's ultimatum.

The Collection

Members can see from the information supplied under "The Property" that any spare funds the Society accumulates go into maintenance of the museum building.

The Society two years ago supplied \$800 for an inventory of the collection in hope that it could then finance a worker to catalog the collection. At the end of the inventory, the board of directors did not have money to finance the cataloging.

George A. Short, president of the Society, Willis Tetrick, Jr., past president, and Charles Righter decided that they would start a Memorial Fund, invest the proceeds, and use the yield from the money to catalog the collection and, when funds grow enough, to hire a curator for the museum.

The Society will hang in the museum of the Society a plaque on which will be etched the names of people whom Society members have memorialized by contributing to a Memorial Fund. A brief biography of the people named on the plaque will be printed in the newsletter which is deposited in the Clarksburg-Harrison Public Library, the West Virginia Collection of the West Virginia University Library, the Morrow Library at Marshall University, and in the West Virginia State Library in the Cultural Center in Charleston as well as in historical and genealogical libraries that have requested the newsletter such as the Library of the University of Wisconsin and the public library at Fort Wayne, Indiana, and the New York Public Library, New York City.

First announced by President Short in April 1983, the fund as of February 1, 1984, totals \$1,300, all of which has been invested in a 5-year certificate of deposit at 9.7% interest.

Hosts and Hostesses at Museum

Bea Quigley, chairman of staffing for the Stealey-Goff-Vance House, thanks those members who have served as hosts and hostesses at the museum during the past year. They are Alvin Bailey, Charlotte Bailey, Allie Billingslea, Bertha Brown, Betty Dakan, Dorothy Davis, Agatha Donahue, Charles Gribble, Jean Jones, Aileen Lucas, Mary Jo Lucas, Madge McDaniel, Dorothy Moffett, Layne Moffett, Ruth Runner, Janet Stealey, Mary Stealey, Sue Stout, Lucille Stryker, Frances Watson, Nina Watson, Ann Yoke.

According to Bea, "Starting in May we will be back on the two days per week schedule; so much help will be needed. It is really rather fun to have time (if you do not have visitors) to browse through the collection of history and genealogy books and the genealogy file. The taped tour is now also in printed form for those who prefer it that way. Won't you please select some days to serve during the coming 1984 summer season so that a schedule can be set up in advance? A form is enclosed.

"Our immediate need is staff for the following 1984 early spring days: March 9, 16, 23, 30; April 13, 20, 27. If you can serve on any of these days, please call me [Bea Quigley] at 842-3454."

Membership and Treasury

Madge McDaniel, treasurer, reports: "Collection of dues is going well for this early in the year. Check your membership cards, for with a membership of 203 last year and so far this year, a total of 160, several members have not yet sent a check for dues. We can always sign up new members. The enclosed membership form can be used by members to hand to any new member he may recruit."

Membership report (February 1, 1984): Adult, 82; Family, 38; Student, 3; Institutional, 2; Contributing, 5; Life, 30; Honorary, 3. Total 160.

Financial Statement (February 1, 1984):

Checking Account, Union National Bank	\$1585.05
Undeposited cash and checks	97.50
Investments (all certificates of deposit)	
Union National Bank	\$6600.00 (est)
Community Bank	\$4334.11
Mt. State Federal	\$1410.00 (est)
Memorial Fund	
Lowndes Bank	\$1300.00
Lowndes Bank Savings	19.35

HISTORIC NEWS

Harrison County Bicentennial

The major event of the 1984 celebration of the bicentennial of Harrison County will occur during a weekend in early May when the Pittsburgh Brass Band during an evening will present a concert and on Saturday a parade of bands and bicentennial floats will move through Clarksburg streets.

A series of feature stories on the history of the county will run in the Clarksburg newspaper during the 1984 bicentennial of the county and the 1985 bicentennial of the City of Clarksburg. Five separate self-conducted tours of historic sites in the county have been sent to the printer. They will be ready for distribution in late spring. The bicentennial committee will supply speakers on county history for clubs and schools.

Preservation Alliance

The annual meeting of Preservation Alliance will be held in Wheeling May 18-20, 1984. The McLure Hotel in downtown Wheeling will be headquarters for the weekend. The meeting will open with a social hour on Friday evening. On Saturday Preservation Alliance will stage a tour of West Virginia Independence Hall, Wheeling Suspension Bridge, Olgebay Mansion Museum and privately owned buildings. On either Saturday or on Sunday Preservation Alliance may sponsor a brunch on a new riverboat/party boat that is supposed to start operating along the Ohio River at Wheeling in spring 1984.

Because many members cannot attend all of the annual meeting, Preservation Alliance will have separate registration fees for each part of the program (social hour, tours, dinner, etc.). Individuals can register early for the activities of May 18-20 by writing Preservation Alliance of West Virginia, Post Office Box 1135, Clarksburg, West Virginia 26301.

West Virginia Historical Society

The annual meeting of the West Virginia Historical Society will be held in Clarksburg on September 22, 1984. Sessions for the state meeting are centered around a noon luncheon, which will be held at the Sheraton Inn in Clarksburg, so that members of the Society can return to their homes following the afternoon meeting.

The Harrison County Historical Society will help entertain those who attend the convention probably by opening the museum during the hours of the meeting and perhaps by staging a reception sometime during the weekend. The fall newsletter of the Harrison County Historical Society will give details.