

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

Post Office Box 2074  
CLARKSBURG, WEST VIRGINIA 26301

**NEWSLETTER**

FALL, 1985

**ANNUAL TOUR**

Members and guests of members will travel to Charleston on Sunday, September 29, 1985, to visit the Cultural Center in the West Virginia Capitol Complex. The Cultural Center contains the West Virginia State Library and the West Virginia State Museum. After leaving the Cultural Center the bus will drive past historic houses in Charleston and stop at the Craik-Patton House restored and managed by the National Society of Colonial Dames of America in West Virginia.

The Craik-Patton House, a Greek Revival structure, was built in 1834 by James Craik, grandson of Dr. James Craik, personal physician and friend to George Washington. Mr. Craik, whose wife was Juliet Shrewsbury, practiced law in Charleston and later became the rector of St. John's Episcopal Church. In 1858 the house was sold to Colonel George S. Patton, grandfather of General Patton of World War II fame. Colonel George Patton, who organized and led the Kanawha Riflemen, later became a brigadier-general in the Confederate Army. He was killed in action at Winchester, Virginia, in 1864.

Moved from Virginia Street to Lee Street in the early 1900's, the Craik-Patton House was again moved in 1973 to Daniel Boone Park. The house is being furnished to reflect styles appropriate to the former owners, the Craiks and the Pattons. The lower level meeting room will be used for seminars and exhibits.

A Country Roads Bus will leave the Stealey-Goff-Vance House at 12:00 noon on September 29 with arrival in Charleston scheduled for 2:30 p.m. Tour members will visit the Cultural Center and the Craik-Patton House before dinner at 5:30 at the Fifth Quarter Restaurant. After helping themselves at the soup and salad bar in the restaurant, diners will be served a meal of steak, baked potato, vegetable, sherbet. The bus should return to the Stealey-Goff-Vance House in Clarksburg by 9:00 p.m.

To make reservations send form enclosed in this newsletter.

**HARRISON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMORIAL FUND**

Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Lowther of Salem and Frankie Lowther Davis of Battle Creek, Michigan, have presented the Society a memorial gift for the name of Colonel William Lowther, their great, great grandfather, to be placed on the Memorial Plaque at the Stealey-Goff-Vance House.

Because he had shown strong leadership in distributing food throughout the West Fork River settlements during "the starving year" of 1773, the governor of Virginia named William Lowther a justice for the District of West Augusta in 1774. The Virginia governor named William Lowther a justice and first sheriff of the new Harrison County in 1784.

Known as "defender and protector of Northwestern Virginia", Lowther fought in Dunmore's War; and as captain in the Virginia militia, had authority to organize and distribute militiamen whom he led in 1781 to rendezvous with George Rogers Clark at Fort Pitt, a campaign during which he won a commission as major. He was named colonel in 1793, when he had the whole command of Northwestern Virginia which was constantly under attack by Indians. In 1797 the governor of Virginia named Colonel Lowther the first sheriff of Wood County.

William Lowther lived with his wife and a large family of children on a farm six miles south of Clarksburg. He died October 28, 1814, and is buried in the Lowther Cemetery on his farm.

**CLARKSBURG BICENTENNIAL**

Many events are scheduled for the last six months of the celebration of the two hundredth anniversary of the 1785 incorporation of Clarksburg by the Virginia Assembly:

July

**Clarksburg Fire Department Exhibit**

The sixth mini-exhibit at the Clarksburg-Harrison Public Library during the 1984 Harrison County Bicentennial and the 1985 Clarksburg Bicentennial will open on July 1. The exhibit will tell the history of the Clarksburg Fire Department through photographs and through a display of artifacts used by members of the department through the years.

**Bicentennial Shrine Circus**

In the late afternoon on July 16 - the day before the performance of the Shrine Circus at Hite Field - a circus parade will travel through the downtown streets of Clarksburg. In the evening of July 16 fireworks will be staged at Hite Field. Afternoon and evening performances of the circus are scheduled for July 17.

August

**Clarksburg Hotels Exhibit**

The seventh mini-exhibit at the Clarksburg-Harrison Public Library will tell the story of Clarksburg Hotels. Some of the hotels featured in the exhibit will be the Hewes Tavern, Bartlett's Hotel, the Deison House, the Northwestern Hotel, the St. Charles Hotel, the Gore Hotel, the Waldo Hotel, and the Stonewall Jackson Hotel.

**Genealogical Symposium**

On August 2-3 the Harrison County Genealogical Society and the Clarksburg Bicentennial Committee will sponsor a genealogical symposium. Speakers will explain methods of searching records for information on ancestors. One speaker will tell kinds of records to be found in the Virginia State Library and how to search records in the library at Richmond.

**Oak Mound Indian relics**

The Oak Mound Restoration Committee of the Clarksburg Bicentennial will stage a major exhibit at the Clarksburg-Harrison Public Library in mid-August.

In 1969 the staff of the history department of Salem College had permission to enter Oak Mound south of Clarksburg to search for Indian artifacts. They removed many human bones. The focus of the exhibit of the committees in August will be a painting of a skeleton on which bones found in the mound will be superimposed. Late in August after the exhibit closes, all bones removed in 1969 will be reinterred in Oak Mound. The name of the mound will be recorded in "West Virginia Historic Spots". To correct errors in the present highway marker near Oak mound, a new highway marker will be erected.

September

Clarksburg Schools

The mini-exhibit for September will tell the history of schools starting with Randolph Academy and tracing the development of education through Northwestern Academy and the various schools administered by boards of education since 1865.

October

Then and Now

October 1 the mini-exhibit at the library will show building that once stood at sites in the city side by side the buildings or parking lots on the site in 1985.

Bicentennial Weekend

Events scheduled from October 16 through October 20 will make the "Bicentennial Weekend" the most festive celebration of the bicentennial year. Throughout the weekend a motorized trolley will run every ten minutes from the Waldo Hotel to the railway station. Anyone can ride the trolley for 5¢. On a siding near the railway depot will be a steam engine, a caboose and a B & O Safety Car which contains a B & O traveling exhibit.

On October 16 the bicentennial committee will present a historic pageant at The Rose Garden (Robinson Grand Theater).

On October 17 and October 18 the League of Women Voters will sponsor a walking tour of the city. Tour members will be divided into two sections. One group will board a bus to ride to Goff Plaza for a guided tour of historic houses. The other group will tour the downtown section of the city. Then when the bus returns from Goff Plaza, the second group will go for the tour already made by the first group who will tour downtown.

On October 18 and 19 the League for Service will present its "Bicentennial Follies" at The Rose Garden.

Sunday, October 20, a city-wide ecumenical church service will be held after which officials of Clarksburg and of the Bicentennial Committee will dedicate the Bicentennial Park on Lowndes Hill. Anyone who wishes can then attend a Bicentennial Brunch at the Sheraton Inn.

November

Downtown Historic District

The mini-exhibit at the library will show pictures of Central Clarksburg Historic District.

Antique Show

On November 9-11 antique dealers will exhibit their wares at a show probably held at the Nathan Goff Armory.

Bicentennial Slide Show

On November 27 the Bicentennial Committee will present at Waldomore "Clarksburg, a Cultural Landscape", a slide/sound tape of sites and history of Clarksburg.

December

Visiting Authors

On December 13-14 a symposium of visiting authors will be held at Waldomore. The event will mark the tenth anniversary of the opening of the new building of the Clarksburg-Harrison Public Library.

THE SOCIETY

Sidewalk

Ralph Pederson has received notice that some funds are now available in West Virginia for matching grants. The Society will apply for a \$2,000 grant (funded 50% by the state; 50%, Society) to replace the sidewalk in front of the Stealey-Goff-Vance House.

Financial Report, June 25, 1985

Checking Account, Union Bank . . . . .	\$2,048.08
General Fund . . . . .	\$1,469.92
Memorial Fund . . . . .	578.16
(Donations \$450; interest \$148.16	
Investments (all certificates of deposit)	
Union Bank . . . . .	\$6,300 (est.)
Community Bank . . . . .	\$5,039.62
Mountain State Federal . . . . .	\$1,700 (est)
Lowndes Bank . . . . .	\$3,000

Membership

We welcome the following new members: W. E. Elliott, 215 S. Sixth St., Clarksburg; Mr. and Mrs. Mark Folio, 735 E. Main St., Clarksburg; John Randolph, Rt. 1, Bristol; David Spelsburg, 100 Shawnee Way, Clarksburg; Linda A. Waldeck, 3330 Jones R., Diamond, OH 44412.

Society membership consists of adult, 112; family, 40; contributing, 11; institutional, 5; life, 29; student, 3; honorary, 3. Total: 203.

Several members have not renewed membership for 1985. Please check the date on your membership card. If you owe dues, please send a check as soon as possible. Use the enclosed form.

Books for Sale

We have for sale copies of HISTORY OF HARRISON COUNTY by Col. Henry Haymond @ \$12.75 to members and JOHN GEORGE JACKSON by Dorothy Davis @ \$12.50 to members. Order through the Society.

The Museum

The following members have served in spring and summer 1985 as hosts and hostesses during visiting hours at the Stealey-Goff-Vance House: Polly Coston, David Curry, Melissa Curry, Frances Custer, Betty Dakan, Dorothy Davis, Elsie Grant, Charles Gribble, Kitty Hess, Sara Limpert, Aileen Lucas, Lenore McDaniel, Madge McDaniel, William Miles, Deborah Palagino, Ruth Runner, Jane Stealey, Mary Stealey, Ann Yoke.

Volunteers are needed for the following days this summer: August 9, 23, 30; September 6, 13, 27. If you can serve, please telephone Bea Quigley at 842-3454.

Starting October 1, the winter schedule goes into effect. Friday only is visiting day. If you can serve on the museum staff, please check days you will report on the form enclosed and mail the form to the Society.