

Harrison County Historical Society

Meeting

Jan 17, 1973

Amy Roberts Vance House

The meeting was called to order by Mrs. Bond Davis president.

The minutes of the November meeting were read & approved.

The treasurer's report was read & approved. Mr. Payne gave a summary of finances for the year 1972.

Mrs. Davis mentioned the possible need in the future of a retaining wall <sup>fence</sup> beside the property.

Jack Sandy Anderson gave a preview of the programs for the next few meetings.

Jack Sandy Anderson introduced Elizabeth Sloan who gave a very interesting review of the book 'American Nabob' by Holmes Alexander.

Meeting adjourned

Submitted by

Mrs. O. D. Linder, Secretary

HARRISON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Meeting February 20, 1973

Mrs. Bond Davis, President, presided.

In the absence of the Secretary, the minutes of the January meeting were omitted.

The Treasurer reported a balance of \$2926.05 as of February 20, 1973.

Mr. Payne, Treasurer, reported the following gift as a memorial:

The Clarksburg Women's Club in memory of  
Mrs. Clinton Israel

He also reported a gift from the Bridgeport Women's Club in appreciation of a talk on the old houses of Harrison County given at a meeting of the Club by Dr. Robert S. Wilson.

Miss Madge McDaniel announced the availability of the reprint of Haymond's History of Harrison County by September 1, 1973. A descriptive leaflet containing a blank for pre-publication orders was distributed.

Jack Sandy Anderson, Chairman of the Program Committee, introduced Mr. Jerry Steiner who discussed the eclectic use of antiques in interior decoration. Mr. Steiner encouraged the use of antiques of various periods in both traditional and modern interiors. Good taste is essential and an eye which can judge value, proportion, color and suitability helps. Mr. Steiner also suggested restrained use of patterns on walls and furniture coverings especially with Oriental rugs. Chinese and Near East designs are increasing in popularity. Lighting fixtures are a special problem. There were a few questions from the audience at the end of the talk.

Respectfully submitted,

*Elizabeth Sloan*

Elizabeth Sloan  
Secretary Pro Tem

HARRISON COUNTY WEST VIRGINIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Meeting March 21, 1973

Mrs. Bond Davis, President presided.

The reading of the minutes of the meeting of February 21, 1973 was dispensed with.

Mr. E. A. Payne, Treasurer, reported a bank balance of \$2859.32.

Miss Madge McDaniel, Miss Pauline Stout and were appointed a committee to audit the financial records of the Society.

Mr. Jack Sandy Anderson, Chairman of the Program Committee, introduced Mr. David H. Corcoran, Executive Director of the Pearl S. Buck Birthplace Foundation, Inc. Mr. Corcoran discussed the problems of restoring the home of Pearl Buck's maternal ancestors at Hillsboro, West Virginia:

Brief history of the Stulting family.

Pearl Buck's failure to interest the state in maintaining the house as a shrine.

Jim Comstock's efforts to preserve the house.

Purchase of the house by the West Virginia Federation of Women's Clubs.

Formation of the Foundation and acquisition of federal funds.

Determination of 1892, the date of Pearl Buck's birth, as the restoration date.

Plans for the collection of period furniture, the development of a working farm, the establishment of a museum and a library with Pearl Buck manuscripts as a nucleus.

Plans for an official opening of the house to the public in October 1973.

Mr. Corcoran showed slides of the demolition necessary before restoration of the house can begin. He also invited membership in the Foundation.

Respectfully submitted,

*Elizabeth Sloan*

Elizabeth Sloan  
Secretary Pro Tem

Harrison County Historical Society

Meeting - April 18, 1973 -

Annual banquet - Up Turner Inn - 6:30 P.M.

A reception was held in honor of Mrs Julia Davis Healy was held at the Army Vance House from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

The Annual banquet was held at the Uptowner Inn at 6:30 p.m.

Mrs. Davis, president, introduced Mr. O. D. Linder who gave the invocation.

After the banquet Mrs. Davis introduced the officers of the society and the guest.

Mr & Mrs. O'Brien - guest

Mrs. Virginia David Hood - guest

Mrs. O. D. Linder, secretary & chairman of the Genealogical Dept

Mr. O. D. Linder

Mr. E. A. Payne, treasurer

Mrs D. Ray Rogers, director Eagle & Sardis districts

Miss Grace Martin, director Clay & Coal district

Miss Elizabeth Sloan, Tenmile & Clark district

Mr. William Altman, Grant & Union district

Mr. Willis Detrick, Simpson & Elk district

Miss Madge Mc Daniel, Chairman of the Membership Committee

Mrs. Bertha Stout

Mr. Clinton Israel, Honorary member

Mr Jack Sandy Anderson, vice president & chairman of the Program Committee

Mrs. Davis presented the following slate of officers and directors for election.

President - Mrs Bond Davis

Vice President - Jack Sandy Anderson

Secretary - Mrs. O. D. Linder

Meeting April 18, 1973

Treasurer - Mr. E. A. Payne

Director - Union & Grant district - Mrs. Isaac Mapwell

Director, Tenmile & Clark district - Elizabeth Sloan

Director, Simpson & Elk district - Willis Tetrick

Mrs. Davis asked for nominations from the floor for each office. There were no nominations from the floor. Members were asked to mark their ballots and turn them in at the end of the meeting.

Mrs. D. Ray Rogers, director of Eagle & Sardis district, and Miss Grace Martin, director of Clay & Coal district, having been <sup>elected</sup> ~~appointed~~ April 1972 for a two year term, complete the required number of officers & directors in compliance with the society bylaws.

Jack Sandy Anderson introduced Mrs. Julia Davis Healy, guest speaker, who shared with us her childhood memories of Clarkburg.

Mrs. Davis read two postcards addressed to John W. Davis in the 1930's. The postcards had been presented to the society by Mr. Lea Caulfield.

Mrs. Davis presented Mrs. Julia Davis Healy with a honorary membership in the society.

Mrs. Davis announced we now have two honorary members. Mrs. Julia Davis Healy and Mr. Clinton Israel.

HARRISON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MEETING May 16, 1973

In the absence of the Secretary, the minutes of the meetings of March 21 and April 18 were not read.

Mr. E. A. Payne, Treasurer, reported a bank balance of \$2710.73. He reported a membership of 262 as of May 16, 1973 with 13 Life Members.

Miss Madge McDaniel, Chairman of the Audit Committee, reported that the financial records of the Society had been found by the Committee to be correct. A certificate to this effect was submitted to the Secretary Pro Tem.

Mr. Jack Sandy Anderson, Chairman of the Program Committee, introduced the program for the meeting - Mr. Russell Fluharty, President of the Mountaineer Dulcimer Club, and three of his group. The Society was delightfully entertained by an hour of music which included selections played on the dulcimer, mandolin, rebec, jew's-harp, and musical saw. Songs ranged from mountain ballads through hymns to West Virginia state songs. The audience was a little slow in it's reactions, but by the end of the evening was singing, clapping and stamping - all with restraint so as not to drown the music and in respect for the age of the rafters of the Vance House.

Respectfully submitted,

*Elizabeth Sloan*

Elizabeth Sloan

Secretary Pro Tem

Harrison County Historical Society

Meeting June 20, 1973

7:30 p.m.

Amy Roberts Vance House

The meeting was called to order by Mrs Bond Davis, president.

The minutes of the May meeting were read & approved.

The treasurer's report was read & approved.

Mrs David explained the need for making the Vance House more secure by putting new locks on the front & back doors, grillwork on the windows downstairs and the back door & paneling or something on the french doors at the rear of the house. She explained there was not a quorum present at the board meeting and she asked the society members to decide if something should be done. The motion was made, seconded & passed by unanimous vote of the members present to authorize Mr Tetrick to take the necessary steps to secure the Vance House against fire, theft and vandalism.

Mrs Davis introduced Rev. Boner who gave a very interesting & informative talk on the History of the Simpson Creek Baptist Church.

Meeting adjourned

Submitted by

Mrs. O. B. Linder, Secretary

HARRISON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MEETING October 17, 1973

Mrs. Bond Davis presided.

The reading of the minutes of June 20, 1973 was omitted. Since the "meeting" of September 1973 consisted of the tour and dinner, there are no minutes for that date.

Mr. Payne reported a balance in the treasury of \$2279.39. The membership on this date numbered 274.

Miss Madge McDaniel reported on the sale of Haymond History of Harrison County. Received \$4718.20; expenses have been covered; balance \$1179.69.

Miss McDaniel appealed for names of potential new members.

The speaker for the evening was Dr. Michael Greer, professor of Political Science at Salem College and a member of the West Virginia Legislature. His subject was The Mysterious Death of Meriwether Lewis, leader of the Lewis and Clark expedition and, at the time of his death, governor of the Louisiana Territory. The administration of the Territory had been sloppy, Lewis had been accused of the mishandling of funds, and had been called back to Washington for an accounting. He died violently at an inn on the Natchez Trace. The testimony of the inn keeper's wife and of Lewis's servant would indicate suicide; Jefferson, whose secretary Lewis had been, believed the death to have been suicide. Fifty years later the account of a maid at the inn raised the specter of murder. With all the known evidence presented, Dr. Greer left his audience, like a coroner's jury, no option but to bring in an inconclusive verdict.

Respectfully submitted,

*Elizabeth Sloan*

Secretary Pro Tem

HARRISON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MEETING November 21, 1973

Mrs. Bond Davis, President, presided.

Reading of the minutes of June 20 and October 17 were omitted.

Mr. Payne reported a balance in the treasury of \$2275.89.

Miss Madge McDaniel reported a profit on the sale of Haymond History of Harrison County of \$1358.69.

Miss McDaniel reminded the Society that there was Vance House note paper for sale.

Miss McDaniel also announced that the 1974 membership "drive" was under way, and she asked for the names of individuals who might be interested in joining the Society.

Mrs. Davis thanked Miss Madge McDaniel and Mr. Jack Sandy Anderson for the work done on the reprint of Haymond History of Harrison County.

The program consisted of a very entertaining account of the Shinn family by Jack Sandy Anderson. Highlights:

An amusing description of the religious characteristics of the Shinns from Old Gold by Granville Davisson Hall.

Shinns probably "go back to" Saxon England.

The line is known from 1520.

First Shinn in America: John, a Quaker, settled in New Jersey.

First Shinn in West Virginia: James, youngest son of John.

First Shinn in Harrison County: <sup>Levi & Jonathan in 1772</sup> ~~Clement in 1776(?)~~ No!

Early Shinns were millers and cabinet makers.

The Shinnston Historical Association has been deeded the Shinn cemetery (back of Shinnston High School) and was given the Levi Shinn house built in 1778.

There are two other early Shinn homes standing in Shinnston - one of them the Stone House built in 1821.

The name "Clarksburg" was suggested by a Shinn.

Respectfully submitted,

*Elizabeth Sloan*  
Secretary Pro Tem