

# THE WAG\*

## News Briefs

### Wereth Eleven Presentation

For Black History Month, the Harrison County WV Historical Society brought a special presentation about the Wereth Eleven to the PWA Uptown Event Center on Friday, February 26. Kip Price shared the story of Piedmont, WV native, James Aubrey Stewart, and 10 other African-American servicemen who became separated from their unit during the Battle of the Bulge. Also, the presentation featured special guest, World War II veteran, Asa Davison.

Also originally from Piedmont, WV, Mr. Price began his journey sharing the story of the Wereth Eleven through the Aubrey Stewart Project, and has since conducted independent presentations on the lives of these heroes throughout North Central West Virginia area.



*Friends of Wereth members, Kip Price and Asa Davison, with AmeriCorps Member, Crystal Wimer at the Uptown Event Center*

We had a great turn out for the Wereth Eleven presentation, and we want to thank Kip Price and Asa Davison for making the trip to Clarksburg to share this important story. Also, we want to thank Elinda Carson, Laura Goff Davis, Russell Clark, and the Progressive Women's Association for the use of their building and for helping us with promotion and refreshments.

### Preparations for Grant Project Complete

With the help of our awesome volunteers, the HCWVHS is now ready to

begin our preservation project on the Stealey-Goff-Vance House. A small team of dedicated ladies assisted our Preserve WV AmeriCorps Member, Crystal, with packing up the collection in the display room. Beginning in early February, the team worked for five weeks and finally finished on March 5. We want to give a big thank you to Peggy Karis, Nancy Karis, Marilyn Blake, Heidi Kennedy, Alifair Masters, Faith Dixon, Ashley Smallwood, Lori Hostuttler, Karen Henderson, and Dixie Smith for giving up several weekends to help us out!



*HCWVHS volunteers, Peggy Karis and Nancy Karis, assist with packing our glass collection at the Vance House*

Also, on Saturday, April 16, our volunteers helped remove and stack the stone patio in order for Centennial Preservation to start working on the foundation of the rear addition. Thank you, Jim Crim, James Beverly, Vanessa Costa, Laura Davis, and Sherri Heavner, for all

your hard work! We are now ready to begin preserving the Vance House!!!



*Above: Volunteers, Jim Crim, Vanessa Costa, and James Beverly remove concrete near the foundation.*

*Below: Vanessa Costa and James Beverly remove flagstones from the rear patio.*



## The Life & Art of Justine Hart

On March 21, the Harrison County WV Historical Society and the Starving Artist Studio co-sponsored a presentation on the life and art of local artist, Justina Carskadon Hart. Anne Hart, granddaughter of Justina Hart, discussed the art and achievements of her late grandmother.



*Justina "Tini" Carskadon Hart*

Clarksburg native Justina Carskadon Hart began painting at age four, and attended the Randolph-Macon Women's College, and was a graduate of the New York School of Fine & Applied Arts (Parsons School of Design). Hart is represented in the collections of many museums and private collections in the U.S. Her work reflects the influence of Hans Hofmann with



whom she studied and under whose tutelage she moved from small objective to large, non-objective painting. A contemporary of Blanche Lazzell and James Edward Davis, Hart found that both of these artists to be critical in her development as an abstractionist, and she went on to achieve recognition for her inventive collages and paintings. Mrs. Hart had studios in New York City and Palm Beach, Florida at various points in her life, and exhibited one-woman shows at galleries in New York, Nantucket, Massachusetts, Fairmont State University, West Virginia University, Charleston's Sunrise Museum, and locally in Clarksburg. Furthermore, Mrs. Hart was an instructor at Salem College and Fairmont State College, and was a founding member and first director of the Clarksburg Art Center.



A display of Hart's artwork at the Starving Artist Studio in Clarksburg.

We want to give a big thanks to Anne Hart

and Amanda Leesburg and the Starving Artist Studio for helping us present the interesting life and art of Justina Carskadon Hart!

## HCWVHS Photographs Featured in Mine Wars Documentary



Photograph of miners from Ehlen used in the recent documentary, "The Mine Wars."

Two photographs from our archive collection were recently featured in the new PBS American Experience documentary, *The Mine Wars*. In January 2015, the HCWVHS was contacted by the Film Posse for photographs of miners to use in this documentary, and we were happy to help.

*The Mine Wars* aired on PBS on January 26, 2016, and last month, the Film Posse sent us a free DVD copy of the documentary in appreciation for our assistance on the film.



## AmeriCorps Member Named 2016 WV History Hero

On January 29 at the Culture Center in Charleston, our AmeriCorps Member, Crystal Wimer, was recognized as a 2016 History Hero for her work and support of our historical programs and services.

Keyser native, Crystal Wimer, is our second year AmeriCorps Member who began her service in September 2014. Crystal has brought new energy and perspectives to our organization as well as her expertise. Her presence in Harrison County has been noted by local officials and organizations. Crystal is self-motivated and knows the direction we should be heading as a steward of local history. During her time with us, she has tackled the challenges of managing our volunteers and being a spokesperson for the HCWVHS as well as grant writing and project



management. In short, she has assumed every possible role needed in a non-profit organization and has admirable versatility.

We want to thank Crystal for all she has done to promote the HCWVHS and local history in Harrison County, and we congratulate her on this worthy achievement!



*From left to right: Harold Forbes, Chairman WV History and Archives Commission; Terry Waxman, WV House of Delegates; Crystal Wimer, Preserve WV AmeriCorps Member; and Kay Goodwin, WV Secretary of Education and the Arts*

## HCWVHS Receives Cultural Foundation Grant



*Board member, Carol Schweiker, receives a \$500 Clarksburg-Harrison Cultural Foundation Grant on behalf of the HCWVHS.*

At a ceremony held on January 31 at the Waldomere, HCWVHS board member, Carol

Schweiker, received a \$500 grant from the Clarksburg-Harrison Cultural Foundation. The funds went toward the purchase of a digital projector that the historical society and guest lecturers may use for future programming and events.

We thank the Clarksburg-Harrison Cultural Foundation for continuing to support us over the years, and thank you, Carol, for putting together this year's grant submission.



*Above: Old mill and dam at West Milford, HCWVHS Photograph Collection*

*Below: West Milford Dam before demolition, Photograph by Callie McMunigal, USFWS*



## Remembering the West Milford, Highland, & Two Lick Dams

As the Harrison County community mourns the loss of the West Milford, Highland, and Two Lick Dams, the HCWVHS takes a look back at the early attempt to make the West Fork River navigable.

Our historical sources on this topic come from Dorothy Davis' article, "An Attempt to Improve Navigation on the West Fork River," and Henry Haymond's *History of Harrison County: From the*

## Calendar of Events

**May 13**—WV Humanities Council Hatfields and McCoys Exhibit at United Hospital Center  
Co-sponsored by UHC and HCWVHS

**June**—Open Meeting at the Vance House  
TBD

**June 26**—Keeping History Alive Bingo, Clarksburg VFW, 2:00 pm

**\*\*Check your email and the HCWVHS Facebook page for event updates\*\***



*Early Days of Northwestern Virginia to the Present.* On January 19, 1817, an act of the Virginia Legislature incorporated the Monongahela Navigation Company for the purpose of improving commercial navigation on the West Fork and Monongahela Rivers. The company would be responsible for constructing a series of locks, dams, and slopes to expand year-round boat traffic from Stone Coal Creek to the West Fork and Monongahela right up into Pennsylvania.

Local Harrison County citizens, John George Jackson, Benjamin Wilson, Jr., James Pindall, George I. Davisson, William Williams, John Stealey, Ralph Berkshire, Felix Scott, Thomas Wilson, John Rogers, and George S. Daring, were authorized to receive subscriptions for stock in the Monongahela Navigation Company which amounted to \$100 per share. However, when the company charged John George Jackson with assembling seven dams on the West Fork in 1822, Jackson's old rivalry with Benjamin Wilson reignited. Dorothy Davis recounted this incident in her article:

*"Those in the northern portion of the county who opposed the work of the company—people in Bridgeport and Shinnston areas—sent petitions in December 1822... the petitioners (Benjamin Wilson, Jr., was the first name signed to the petition from Bridgeport) feared the passage of fish would be impeded by the dams, stagnant ponds created would be a menace to the health of the citizens, and water in the stream during twelve months of the year would prevent 'the procuring of Stone Coal and Iron Ore out of the bed of the river.'" (7)*

Despite petitions, work continued and dams were built at Lambert's Run, Tenmile Creek, Shinnston, and White Rocks by 1824. Approximately \$18,918 was spent on the completion of the dams (Davis, 8).

However, this success was short lived. Two major setbacks lead to the demise of the Monongahela Navigation Company and its dams. High waters and floods during 1822-1824 had prevented the completion of all seven dams and damaged the existing ones. Then, the death of the company's principal shareholder, John George Jackson, in 1825 effectively

sealed the fate of the company. Without Jackson's influence and money, the company went into confusion and neglected the dams already in place. By 1829, the dams constructed by the Monongahela Navigation Company "were declared a common nuisance and the sheriff ordered to abate them" (Davis, 9).



Benjamin Wilson, Jr., HCWVHS Photograph Collection



John George Jackson, HCWVHS Photograph Collection



## In Memorial

In 2015, the HCWVHS lost three important members from our organization. Robert Haymond Maxwell, Jr., Jack Sandy Anderson, and Beatrice D. Quigley were great promoters and supporters of local history and our organization. All led exciting lives and will be sadly missed by those whose lives they touched.



**Robert Haymond Maxwell, Jr.**  
1943-2015

Robert Maxwell was a seeker of new ways to tell stories. Born in Clarksburg, WV, he was the son of Haymond Maxwell, Jr. and Jane Linn Maxwell Roger. Robert was a proud graduate of Washington Irving High School; studied cinematography and broadcasting at University of Southern California and was a graduate of the University of Hard Knocks in WV, from WV new's journalist, Jim Comstock.

Robert's WI pals, Robert N. Swiger, Gary Dawson, and Mimi Lee Fleming, [WI '61] remember his love of music, especially his participation in the garage band, "The Electras". Robert and his friends were infamous for creating a sophomore prom in the old Waldo Hotel and renting the old VFW hall for a fund raiser. Robert N. Swiger noted that those close bonds with so many school mates reflected their mutual respect during their journey through those formative years and after (\*WI High School Newsletter website).

Robert's travels across the country would take him to Indiana, New York City, Washington, D.C., Pittsburgh, and finally back home to Clarksburg, WV. He won awards, worked with some of the best news' journalists and with the best news' shows: The Today Show, Huntley Brinkley, Hullabuloo, and AFL Football. His political film work was featured on "60 Minutes"; his music productions were on PBS Radio, "All Thngs Considered". He was a gifted still photographer, musician, storyteller in film and word.

Robert Maxwell was a member of the Harrison County Historical Society and Oral Lake Fishing Club. He is survived by his sister, Mary Linn Maxwell of Clarksburg.



**Jack Sandy Anderson**  
1932-2015

Jack Sandy Anderson left his home in West Virginia to go Beyond to share his stories. Jack had done all he could for Harrison and Marion Counties, Shinnston and his home state to save their histories. He had listened to *others tell stories when* he was young, especially his grandmother, Cora Martin Sandy. He went on to enlighten hundreds of young people for 31 years as a teacher; worked to start historical society's in Harrison and Marion Counties; collect as many photos, pieces of pottery, glass, post cards, diaries, letters, furniture, and "*you name it*" if it had something to do with beauty and history. He told stories and others listened. Tell Jack your name, upon being introduced, and he'd tell you if you were related to

him, or where your lineage began, who married who, how many children and where they lived. He was a living "green leaf" of "Ancestry.com". If you were part of his ancestry line, he would recite that line. He knew more about those early individuals than most did.

Jack wrote many books including six on cooking. He collaborated with many other historians. He was a friend and mentor. He wrote about our communities and people we know of. Among them, "Ramblings" was about Shinnston; "Out Of The Past" centered on Harrison County. On Tuesday, June 21st, 2015, 2 weeks before his passing, Jack worked with a member of Harrison County Historical Society to complete the editing of his last book of articles, *Glimpses of the Past: Marion County History Vignettes*.

***Who will tell the stories, Jack, now that your memories are gone?***

Jack Sandy Anderson was preceded in death by his parents, Russell Lowell Anderson and Pearle Sandy Anderson, step-brothers and 1 stepsister. He is survived by sister, Patricia (Patty) Sampson, many nieces and nephews and his beloved dog, "Big Boy".

To tell ALL of Jack's story and of his accomplishments would be an enormous undertaking. Instead, it is an honor for HCWVHS to preserve his stories.



**Beatrice D. Quigley  
1919-2015**

Beatrice Quigley, known to her friends as "Bea", grew up in Clarksburg, WV. Her giving spirit and devotion to civic work have become part of her legacy to Harrison County. She would tell of memories of the 1924 presidential candidate, Clarksburg's own John W. Davis, and of hearing him speak in his very public presidential visit back to Clarksburg. Bea was a graduate from Washington Irving HS in 1937, where she

lettered in basketball; went on to Salem College, and then would go to Washington, D.C. to train with the first class of 12 young women (from 1000 applicants) in the first class of airline hostesses for the Pennsylvania Central Airlines. Following World War II, she returned to Clarksburg, completed her Bachelor of Arts Degree from Salem College, and would eventually become the Chief of Library Services at the Veterans' Hospital in Clarksburg. She retired in 1980.

To tell the story of Bea's unlimited civic energies is impossible: Clarksburg Junior Women's Club, Altrusa International, NARFE, Friends of Fort New Salem, active with the Governor Johnson Garden Club, and still had time to enjoy a round of golf as a long-time member of the Sunnycroft Country Club. Bea's service with the Bridgeport United Methodist Church was one of longstanding devotion in so many ways.

The Harrison County WV Historical Society is proud to say that "Bea" Quigley was one of the founding members of our Historical Society. Her many hours of patronage and volunteer contributions are honored as part of our history in this county.



Financial Report 2015  
1/1/2015 – 12/31/2015

Income

Uncategorized	85.64
Donations	25,885.00
Fundraisers	3,477.97
Grant	250.00
Interest	.25
Membership	635.00
Rebate	9.00
Royalties	1458.84
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>31,801.70</b>

Expenses

Administrative	3,603.06
Banking	91.90
Advertising	711.49
Association Fees	165.00
Building Maintenance	588.84
Education	53.51
Grant Match	3900.00
Insurance	1,564.75
Meals and Entertainment	54.56
Misc. Expense	1,000.00
Postage and Delivery	326.81
Printing and Reproduction	1,273.17
Taxes (Licenses and Local Fees)	366.90
Travel	297.57
Utilities	3,116.84
Workshop	59.69
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>17,374.09</b>
<b>Total CDs</b>	<b>39,199</b>

Our financial report shows a large donation amount which reflects the generosity of a few individuals who have contributed greatly to cover the match required from the State Historic Preservation Office. This grant will enable us to raise the addition on the back side of the house and place a foundation under it. This will stabilize the building which has separated. Additionally, donations have allowed the society to begin our digital catalog of our collection. Aside from utilities and insurance, most expenses reflect costs of archival material and office equipment, programming and costs of books/printing.

The coming year will see the society pay \$18,000 toward our share of the house repair and \$4,000 for another year of an Americorp Member if granted. The steps and porch are in need of stabilization so they will be safe for people entering the building. We have submitted a grant for that work. This will require additional fundraising. The estimate for that work is \$28,700. Now is the time to make repairs for the future. Anyone wishing to help in our effort is welcome.

Thanks go out to our community for 1,160 volunteer hours worth \$22,040 at the rate of \$19 an hour. We received in-kind donations of \$6,520.36. The value of our rental space in the Olymbec building is estimated at \$21,600. This is a value of \$28,560.35, and when added to cash donations, is a total value of \$54,445.35. **Thanks to everyone!** More to come.





**Available Publications from the HCWVHS**

***Old Gold: Glimpses of Antebellum Shinnston***

Written by Granville Davisson Hall

***Shinnston Tornado***

Written by John L. Finlayson

***Out of the Past: Harrison County History Vignettes***

Written by Jack Sandy Anderson

***Glimpses of the Past: Marion County History Vignettes***

Written by Jack Sandy Anderson

\*\*All of our publications are available on Amazon, and *Shinnston Tornado* and *Out of the Past* are also available as a Kindle eBook.

\*\*HCWVHS members receive a discount on publications ordered directly from us. To place an order, email us at [hcwvhs@gmail.com](mailto:hcwvhs@gmail.com).



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***1784 - 1863 - 21st CENTURY***

P.O. BOX 4695, BRIDGEPORT, WV 26330

**hcwvhs@gmail.com**

2015 DUES WILL REMAIN IN EFFECT THROUGH DECEMBER 2015

\$20.00 Single \$15.00 Senior / Associate

\$30.00 Family \$250.00 Corporate

\$ 5.00 Student \*\*\*Designated For

\*\*\* Designated is any amount to be devoted ONLY to projects, utilities, or special interests

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