



It takes a community to preserve its history!!!

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Photograph of Fanny Isabella Wade, Ella Wade, Alice Brown, Genvevire Stuart, and Margaret Hursey preparing for Fanny Wade's wedding. The women are gathered around a sewing machine holding strips of fabric.

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Calendar of Events

- **Easter Egg Hunt Eggstravaganza** - March 26th - 30th
- **Former I.O.O.F Cemetery Cleanup** - April 21st - 9:30 am
Former I.O.O.F Cemetery Chestnut Street Clarksburg
- **Harrison Heroes VeteRUN 5K** - May 19th - 9 am - Clarksburg City Park
- **Appalachian Story Telling Dinner** - June 20th - 6 pm
PAW Building, 305 Washington Ave Clarksburg WV
- **Genealogy Workshop** - July 14 - Location TBA
- **5th Annual Keeping History Alive Vera Bradley Bingo** - Fall 2018 TBA

Easter Egg Hunt Eggstravaganza



After our massively successful Eggstravaganza last year, the historical society is back at it again! ONE day between March 26-30th we will be placing Easter eggs filled with Harrison County history facts (and of course candy) in parks across the county. Pay close attention to our Facebook page and email the week of to know when eggs will be laid!

Post photos and use the #HCWVHSEggHunt to show off your goodies!



Former I.O.O.F Cemetery Cleanup

The Harrison County WV Historical Society will be partnering with Historic Clarksburg WV Cemetery Preservation Alliance to hold a clean-up day at the former I.O.O.F Cemetery in Clarksburg. The event will take place from 9:30-3:30 and lunch will be provided. Volunteers will be trained on how to properly clean gravestones as well as repairing leaning and fallen stones. If you are interested in volunteering for this project please contact our AmeriCorps member Sydney at hcwvhs@gmail.com or calling 304-709-4902.

World War I Online Exhibit



Our staff and volunteers are currently working on a World War I online exhibit to tell the stories of the war's effect on local communities. If you have objects or stories about the war that you would like the historical society to highlight please contact us.

Appalachian Story Telling Dinner



The Historical Society will be hosting Lost Creek Farm for a night of Appalachian cuisine. Join us on West Virginia Day, June 20th, at the PWA building in Clarksburg for an evening of food and storytelling. Social hour starts at 6 and the dinner begins at 7. We will also be recording oral histories for our collection before and after the event. Tickets will be \$60 and available on our Eventbrite page. There will be raffles and other items for sales. Go to our Facebook as the event gets closer to get more information including a menu for the night.



Harrison Heroes VeteRUN 5K

The 2nd Harrison Heroes VeteRUN 5K will take place on Saturday, May 19th, beginning at 9:00 a.m. Help the Historical Society pay tribute to our past and present veterans on Armed Services Day at the Clarksburg City Park at Nutter Fort. Participants will run in remembrance of our fallen warriors. We are also giving back to today's veterans by donating a portion of our proceeds to the Louis A. Johnson VA Hospital in Clarksburg, WV. Our donation will go towards the Veterans Recreation Therapy Program Louis Johnson VA Hospital. Day of registration kicks off at 8:00 a.m. and the race will begin at 9 am. There will be a kids' run, vendors, and an awards ceremony and reception. Early bird registration is \$20 for adults and \$10 for kids (12 and under) before April 21th. After this, the prices increase \$5 for both races with registration ending May 14th. Go to our facebook to sign up!

More Than Just A Name

Often, we overlook a woman whose life is unrecognized because of the men in her family. Amy Roberts Vance is now recognized as a name of our historical house, the Stealey-Goff-Vance House. Her son, Cyrus Vance, was an important part of the history of the United States due to his role in the presidency of Jimmy Carter. The Vance family are part of the connections to American history and that of West Virginia. Who was Amy Roberts Vance, and how did her influences encourage major social and civic development in Harrison County?

Amy Roberts was born into a prominent family in Philadelphia in 1881. Amy married John Carl Vance II, of Clarksburg, and would have two sons, John Carl Vance III, and Cyrus Roberts Vance. Mr. Vance, a prominent businessman, decided to move his family to Bronxville, NY to enlarge his business as an insurance broker with a government agency during WWI. Unfortunately, in 1922, Mr. Vance died when his boys were still young. Following his death, Mrs. Vance would move with her sons to Switzerland where they later attended school and learned French.

Eventually, Mrs. Vance returned to Clarksburg in 1934. The boys, now young men, went to elite schools and were moving up in the world of business and politics. Amy's ties to Clarksburg were many, and various families offered their comfort during her travels and the growth of her sons. John W. Davis, whose ties with the various civic, political and social development of the county, became an "adoptive" father to young Cyrus. Davis mentored and introduced the young man to the world of politics and law as he grew.

In the meantime, Amy began to imprint her talents and organizational skills into the community at a time when many in Clarksburg were needy as a result of the Depression. She was integral in the leadership of the Tuesday Club, a literary society; American Red Cross; "Inasmuch Baby Clinic;" The League for Service, the Clarksburg Country Club; The Goff Plaza Garden Club; board of directors and founder of the Clarksburg Community Concert Association; and the board of the Clarksburg Public Library to name just a few. Many of those meetings were held at the "Vance House", which she had remodeled and updated.



Photo of Mrs. Robert-Vance that still hangings in the Stealey-Goff-Vance House today.

Mrs. Vance became a leader in her time of widowhood and became part of the development of a community with many needs. Harrison County is entering a new era of possibilities for women and girls to learn from the past; you too can become a leader in civic and social growth, no matter the circumstances.

Thanks to some of the informative sources provided by Carolyn Reynolds Burnside and her book, *Unto The Least of These, History of the Clarksburg League For Service*; and Helen Jones, for some of her valuable collections of research materials. Lastly to M. Linn Maxwell, for her memories of taking tea and luncheon on the Vance House patio with her childhood friends Amy, Grace and Camilla complete with proper dresses, white gloves and manners. Linn's memories of entering the Vance house from the front entrance and seeing her young friend sitting on the stairs waiting for her were so touching. This makes our house come alive with memories of the people that lived there.

Women of all sizes, colors, social, economic, cultural and academic levels have minds and will create, organize, and contribute. Yes we can!

Written by: Carol Schweiker



The Tuesday Club, a women's literary society. Amy is sitting in the front middle. Photo likely taken mid to late 1950's.

From “Rags” to Royalty to Relief Worker

Mabel Gordon Dunlop, uncertainty, arrived in this world near Shinnston in 1881. Her mother died early in her childhood, and her father, Charles Dunlop, former general manager of the B & O Railroad station in Grafton, abandoned her. She was raised by neighbors and lived in a penniless condition until her father was located working for the railroad in Rock Island, Illinois. After Dunlop was forced to provide her an annuity, Mabel attended school in Wheeling and later studied archaeology and ethnology at the University of Chicago. It was when she studied abroad at the University Athens in 1901 that she met her future husband, Slavko Grouitch. Grouitch, a Serbian nobleman, and diplomat, already led a distinguished career in Serbian diplomacy and public service. After she completed a lecture circuit on art and sculpture in New York, the couple married on August 12, 1902. Mabel was immediately smitten with the Serbian people, and despite her baroness title, set out to uplift the lives of girls in her adopted country. She led efforts to establish a boarding house and school for 80 girls in Belgrade as well as develop an agricultural course of study for girls.

When World War I erupted in Europe in 1914, she threw herself into service as an emissary and surgical nurse for the Serbian Red Cross. Mabel witnessed the horrors of the Balkan War in 1912 and took on a one-woman mission to alleviate the suffering of her citizens. As her husband served as a diplomat to Great Britain in 1914, she recruited 36 nurses to form a St. John Ambulance unit to work on the front in Serbia. It was during this recruitment effort that Madame Grouitch met and later became a good friend of Flora Sandes. Sandes served side by side with “Madame Grouch” on the front lines as a nurse until she later made her mark on history by being the only British woman to serve as a soldier in World War I as an officer in the Royal Serbian Army. But, Mabel’s war work went beyond just being a nurse as she later became a war relief fundraising force.



Mabel with Serbian Refugees 1915/1916. Photo courtesy of flickr.com/photos/pegiobgd/24323496786



MADAME GROUTICH

Image of Mabel in her Red Cross Uniform. Courtesy of Review of Reviews and World's Work, Volume 51

In 1915, she and the American Red Cross raised more than \$6,300 to fund the Mabel Grouitch Baby Hospital in Serbia which was led by two female doctors: Dr. Louise Taylor Jones and Dr. Catherine H. Travis. She created the Fund for Serbian Students which allowed young people affected by war to continue their higher education studies. Throughout the remainder of WWI, she assisted the American Red Cross in establishing hospital units in Serbia as well as made repeated visits to the U.S. to campaign for more medical supplies for those caring for the wounded soldiers as well as seeds, grain, farm implements and clothing for 800,000 Serbian refugees displaced by the fighting. Madame Grouitch single-handedly in 1917 raised over \$91,000 which amounts to more than \$1.5 million today. After the armistice was signed in November 1918, she became the director of the Serbian Aid Fund and continued to appeal to Americans for knitted garments for soldiers and civilians in Serbia. In the years immediately following the Great War, the Grouitchs’ took up residence in Washington, D. C. while Baron Grouitch served as the Serbian ambassador to the U.S. until 1922. The house that served as the Serbian ambassador’s residence during their tenure is currently the Embassy of Barbados.

After 1922, Madame Grouitch and her husband lived the remainder of their lives quietly at their estate in Serbia. Thanks to an artifact found in our collection, we do know that Madame Grouitch kept in touch with at least one local Harrison County citizen over the years: Emma Hume Hornor, wife of Congressman Lynn S. Hornor. Mabel Grouitch died of leukemia on August 13, 1956 at a Georgetown hospital in Washington, D.C., and is buried with her husband in Summerville, South Carolina.

By: Crystal Wimer

The Untold Story of Laura Jackson Arnold

Stories of women whose lives didn't follow the typical ways of womanhood in the 19th century are often forgotten or purposefully overlooked. This is the case for Laura Jackson Arnold. Laura was born on March 27, 1826, in Clarksburg, Virginia to parents' Jonathan Jackson and Julia Beckwith Neale Jackson. The day before her birth her father and sister, Elizabeth, died of typhoid fever. Her mother was left with three children, infant Laura and her older brothers, Warren and Thomas. In 1830, Julia married Clarksburg attorney Blake Woodson. Shortly after, the three children were sent to live with family members with Laura and Thomas going to live with the Jackson family at Jackson's Mill in Lewis County and their older brother Warren going to live with his mother's family. Soon after the children left, Julia died. Over the years, Laura and Thomas became very close, especially after the death of Warren in 1841. On September 1st, 1844 18-year-old Laura married 42-year-old Jonathon Arnold in Beverley, Virginia. Jonathon was a wealthy man who had gained most of his money from land speculation.

Laura and Thomas remained close as he attended the U.S. Military Academy at West Point and fought during the Mexican American War. In the years leading up to the civil war, Laura and Thomas corresponded often while he was an instructor at the Virginia Military Institute. Once the war began their close bond would end. As her brother rose in the ranks of the Confederate army and would gain his nickname "Stonewall" Laura remained steadfast in her Unionist views. They would not talk after the war began and when Thomas was killed Laura seemed depressed, but said she would "rather know that he was dead than to have him a leader in the rebel army."

During the war, she housed many Federal soldiers in her home and acted as a nurse with one union soldier stating "her fragile form was almost ubiquitous in the hospitals, and with her own tender hands she soothed the aching temples of many a dying soldier boy, far away from the loved ones at home."

Her Unionist views did not go over well with her husband. While initially Whig in views Jonathan grew to sympathize with the southern cause. Her husband and she fought about her views and his dislike of soldiers being housed in their home. Some of her neighbors also didn't approve of her enthusiastic support of union saying "Mrs. J. Arnold--sister of Gen. Jackson--went off with the Yankees. Arnold stayed at home says he is a good southern man, that his wife is crazy but Hell he says, could not govern a Jackson".

After the war, their relationship continued to decline and Laura filed for divorce in the fall of 1866 after Jonathan refused to



Laura Jackson Arnold ca. 1865 Courtesy of West Virginia Regional History Center

provide funds for her to take care of herself and their two youngest children.

The historical society has copies of a letter from June 1867 that Laura wrote to her cousin Caroline Moore Jackson in Clarksburg, speaking about her divorce. Laura said she would end the suit if her husband would give her money to support herself but her husband "void of love for family ... suffers this disgraceful suit to go on". She also worries that her husband may have disgraced her with the judge because she had "found that result in places her husband went". She writes Caroline asking for help. She states that she hid the problems in her marriage that gave Arnold the advantage during the divorce. She asks Caroline to write a letter about how she and her sick children were left by her husband in 1864 for three months with no money.

During the divorce, both Laura and Jonathan had support in court. Jonathan had multiple people testify to have seen Laura in compromising positions with multiple Union soldiers, including finding her in bed with a one. During this time in US law there were only a few ways to be granted a divorce. One reason was infidelity, but only if it could be proven. Laura was able to provide evidence that she would not have had affairs because she could no longer enjoy intercourse. A doctor testified that he had done an exam on Laura and state that she had "ulceration of the uteri" and that her uterus was "very inflamed and very tender." The doctor would go on to state that this condition would destroy her drive for sex and render intercourse painful. Other testimony included union officers calling Laura "highly refined lady, pious and modest."

Other holes were poked in the stories of officers testifying against her and on August 27th, 1870 Laura was granted a divorce and \$400 in alimony a year. It is unknown why the judge ruled that way since his opinion was not recorded in court records but it was a complete victory from Laura.

After the divorce, Laura Buckhannon and Jonathan remained at their Beverly home. When her Buchanan home burnt down, Laura moved back in with Jonathan who was being taken care of by their son. After this period, Laura's life is harder to track. She eventually moved to Shepard Sanitarium in Columbus, Ohio. She kept busy as she was active in visiting Union army reunions in Ohio for the last years of her life. A newspaper article from the annual reunion of the Great Army of the Republic was quoted saying "Though she did not hold a musket in the strife, she rendered as great service as any hero in the ramp or Cabinet. She gave up her, elegant home... and turned it into a hospital for wounded soldiers and watched and tended them with unwearied care." In 1897, she was named an honorary member of the Assembled Society of the Army of West Virginia. In 1905 she went to a gathering of the 5th West Virginia Cavalry, who resided in Beverly after the Battle of Rich Mountain. The veterans gave her the title of Mother of the Regiment due to the medical attention she gave to their wounded comrades.

In 1910, she returned to Buckhannon where she died on September 24, 1911. She was buried in the Heavener Cemetery outside Buckhannon. None of Laura's obituaries mention her work helping the Union cause or her divorce from Jonathan. All do however include some variation of the headline "Stonewall's Sister".

By: Sydney Stapleton Preserve WV AmeriCorps Member

Winning and Losing in the Civil War: Essays and Stories
<https://www.civilwarwomenblog.com/laura-jackson-arnold/>

<http://www.vmi.edu/archives/stonewall-jackson-resources/jackson-family-genealogy/>
<https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov>

Other Harrison County Women

Julia Walker Ruhl was born in Groton, Connecticut but made a big impact on Harrison County and the rest of West Virginia. Julia Walker graduated from Mt. Holyoke College and moved to Clarksburg to teach at Broadus College in 1881. As she taught over the next four years she realized that her students had no access to a library facility in Clarksburg. In 1885 Julia left Clarksburg for six years but returned in 1891 after marrying Clarksburg businessman, John Ruhl. When the Young Women's Auxiliary of the YMCA was formed in 1902, Julia was elected president and would continue to serve after it reformed at the Women's Civics Club in 1906. After their first meeting as the Civics Club, it was agreed that they would create a Reading Room and Library, which would open on April 19, 1907, in the D.W. Jacobs building on W. Main and S. 3rd St. in Clarksburg with 1080 books.

Julia would continue her civil engagement and go on to serve as president of the West Virginia Equal Suffrage Association from 1917-1919. This was the pivotal time between the state referendum and the national ratification campaigns for the 19th amendment. After the victory of woman suffrage, she joined the West Virginia League of Women Voters as a charter member. Julia died June 2, 1956 at the aged of 94 and is buried Elkview Masonic Cemetery in Clarksburg.

Dr. Susan Dew Hoff, who in 1884, became one of the first women to be licensed as a doctor in West Virginia. Susan was born in Hampshire County November 24, 1842, to Dr. William Henry Harrison Dew and Jane Davis Dew. Both her father and brother, Dr. Rush H. Dew, practiced medicine in Harrison County. Her medical education was self-taught as she grew up assisting her father in his practice and utilizing his medical library. She traveled alone to Wheeling to take the day and a half state medical exam. She defied the odds when she passed on her first attempt at age 42. Dr. Hoff maintained her medical practice for 50 years in West Milford until her death at age 90 on January 2, 1933. Today, there is a free health and dental care clinic in West Milford named after her which was established in 2001.

Phyllis Curtin was born Phyllis Smith in Clarksburg, West Virginia in December of 1921. She graduated from Wellesley College in Massachusetts with a bachelor's degree in political science. Throughout her life, she took vocal lessons, and while at Wellesley only music majors could study voice, but an exception was made for her. After graduating college, she made her operatic debut. In 1946 Phyllis Curtin began her career with the New England Opera Theater until 1953 when she began performing with the New York City Opera where she sang both classical and modern repertoire. By 1961 she had made her debut with the Metropolitan Opera Company and listed by the Associated Press as one of its Women of the Year. In 1968 she was the Charleston Gazette-Mail's choice for West Virginia Woman of the Year. In 1976 Phyllis performed for President Gerald Ford at a White House dinner honoring West German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt. She taught at the Berkshire Music Center and Yale University before she retired from public singing in 1984 and served as dean of the Boston University School of the Arts from 1983 to 1991. In West Virginia, she received a Lifetime Achievement Award at the 1999 Governor's Awards for Culture, History and the Arts. She was also inducted into the West Virginia Music Hall of Fame in 2008. Phyllis died at her home in Great Barrington, Massachusetts on June 5, 2016, aged 94.

These Preserve AmeriCorps positions made possible through Preservation Alliance of West Virginia grant from Volunteer WV, the State's Commission for National and Community Service, and the Corporation for National and Community Service. Opinions and points of view expressed in this document are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the position of, or a position that is enforced by, CNCS or the AmeriCorps program.

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2017 Financial Report

2017 has been a busy year for the historical society. Each year our expenses as well as fundraising to support our mission has increased. The first year of reorganization our total expenses were \$7,916.62. This has risen steadily and in 2017 expenses were \$52,842.49. These increases have been the result of increased programming, cost of archival materials and equipment, grant matches to repair the Stealey Goff Vance House, AmeriCorps grant match and recently a paid executive director. The organization has increasingly challenged itself toward aggressively reaching our goals. This year is no different as the porch repair moves forward. We are committed to raising roughly \$35,000 in additional funds for 2018. All contributions are welcome whether it is your time, membership, or supporting upcoming fundraisers such as our VeteRun 5K, online auction, Keeping History Alive Bingo, book sales or vocal support. We extend a heartfelt thanks to all who supported us in 2017. - Sherri Heavner - Treasurer

Expenses

Administrative- \$1,191.64	Payroll- \$23,251.08
Adverting- \$163.38	Postage & Delivery \$325.62
Association Fees- \$115	Printing & Reproductions- \$867.84
Building Maintenance- \$476.75	Taxes- \$9,411.70
Education- \$3641.55	Utilities- \$3,315.81
Fees & Charges- \$39.76	Professional Membership Fee \$214.77
Fundraising- \$15	Security- \$457.98
Grant Match- \$6,270.17	Prof and Legal Fees- \$450
Insurance- \$2,323	Total Expenses - \$52,842.49
Meal & Entertainment- \$51.03	

Income

Donations- \$59,395.98
Fundraisers- \$2,197.85
Grant- \$650
Interest- \$ 4.45
Memberships- \$815
Royalists- \$422.03
Other Income
Total Income- \$63,684.20
In-Kind Donations- \$4,384.64
Volunteers Hours- \$7,709.25

Members In Good Standing

This is the list of those who are up-to-date for their 2018 membership. If you don't see your name below, we have yet to receive your 2018 dues. Dues can be paid via mail by sending them to P. O. Box 4695, Bridgeport, WV 26330, or through our website at www.harrisoncowhisoricalsociety.org/join

Because your dues help us publish The WAG*, you will no longer receive it if we haven't gotten your dues by the next edition.

Mr. & Mrs. Robert V. Allen
Edward Allman
James D. Ashley
Joan Atha
Belinda J. Biafore
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Brown
Ronald Rogers
Ruby Casto
Nancy Jane Cheshire
Betsy Davis
Dr. & Mrs. Robert B. Davis
Laura Davis
Ann Davisson
Mary & Joan Deem
Patrick & Allison Deem
Dick & Norma Duez
John & Leota Folsom

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Membership Dues Reminder

\$20 Single

\$30 Family

\$5 Student

\$15 Senior

\$250 Corporate

Send dues to P.O. Box 4695
Bridgeport, WV 26330 or go to
harrisoncowhisoricalsociety.org/join

The HCWVHS is lacking archival treasures and memories from the last half of the 20th Century, 1940's through now. We invite your consideration of passing on to us special items and remembrances for preservation and future research. Walk down memory lane, downtown Clarksburg, Shinnston, Salem, Lumberport, etc., and all our wonderful county streets.