

# THE WAG\*

Harrison County WV  
Historical Society  
123 West Main St  
Clarksburg, WV

HCWVHS  
Po Box 4695  
Bridgeport, WV 26330

## Washington Irving H.S. 100 Years of Education

### DIAMOND JUBILEE FOR SCHOOL

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

### SCHOOL DAYS, GOOD OLD GOLDEN RULE DAYS

Harrison County Remembers  
school day and landmarks

Continued on Page 2

### JACK SANDY ANDERSON

### MEMORIES OF HIS SCHOOL DAYS AT WYATT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

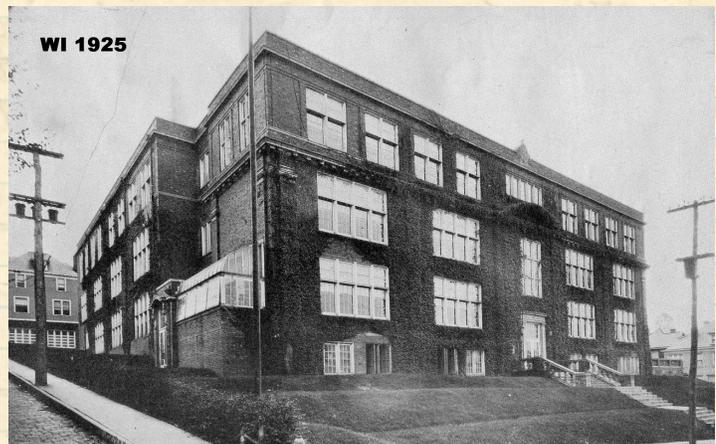
CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

### HARRISON HISTORY SPEAKS

Announcing a series of lectures and  
programs on the culture and history of

Harrison County

Continued on Page 8





## HARRISON COUNTY COUNTS LANDMARK ANNIVERSARIES

### *HOW WOULD YOU DO ON THE GOLDEN HORSESHOE TEST???*

It is difficult to imagine that Harrison County is 230 years old this year, 2014. The Assembly of the Commonwealth of Virginia declared it so in 1784. The following year, 1785, the “town of Clarksburg”, selected as “a healthy and convenient place”\* in north-western Virginia, was officially recognized. Harrison County would eventually splinter off into 18 other counties. In the earliest years the Commonwealth of Virginia was eager to establish culture and legitimacy in its farthest regions. The influence of Thomas Jefferson and his determination to separate church and state encouraged the establishment of an academy for the superior education of young men.

Dorothy Davis, *History of Harrison County*

TRY THE WEST VIRGINIA HISTORY QUICK  
QUIZ: [http://www.wvculture.org/  
history/trivia/quizindex.aspx](http://www.wvculture.org/history/trivia/quizindex.aspx)

**WASHINGTON IRVING SCHOOL** will celebrate its Diamond Jubilee this coming **August, 23**. A complete itinerary can be found as time goes by on the website: [www.wicentennial.com](http://www.wicentennial.com) and <http://www.hackerscreek.com/upload/files/reservation.pdf> for reservation form. Lots of activities are planned and some activities require reservations while social gatherings do not. Here is a brief itinerary of the activities.

#### **August 23, 2014**

**8:30-10:30 am, Tours of Washington Irving**  
**11:30am-2:30pm, Picnic at the VA Park,**  
adjacent to the VA Hospital.

A reservation table will help you to get your bearings. Bring a dish or food to share. Drinks, tableware, meatballs & bread will be provided, Donation Jar will help cover costs.

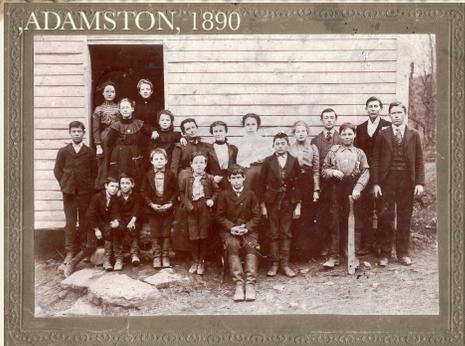
#### **6 - 7pm, Dinner & evening program**

**Reservations a Must** Dinner will be at the Robert C. Byrd High School. \$15 for single, \$25 for couple.

You're invited to send names of outstanding students or school officials and personnel for a Wall of Fame. Also recognition of WI veterans of any of the US wars will be made. For more information write: **WI CELEBRATION**

**P.O. BOX 4411**

**CLARKSBURG, WV 26301**



### WHAT HAVE WE LEARNED?

In 1780, The Commonwealth of Virginia wanted to develop its uppermost northwestern territory. It was to be expected that the ties to the southeastern aristocratic lineage would be sown on the frontier. Harrison County, established in 1784, would follow the philosophy envisioned by Thomas Jefferson. The citizens would have an agrarian economy. Culture would be enriched by traditional classical education, based on the ideals of the newly established tax-funded school of William & Mary. Jefferson's concept of the best education should be secular, without any influence by the church.

The Randolph Academy was established in 1789, and was located in the vicinity of the future Towers elementary and Central Jr. High schools. Clarksburg was selected as a "healthy and convenient place" to locate the school to be administered by the Rev'd George Towers and staffed

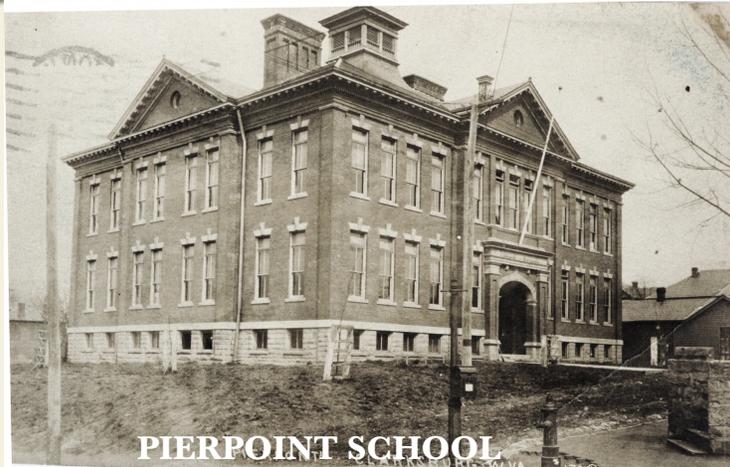
by "professors" required to take "The Oath of Fidelity to The Commonwealth." "The academy was to be free from church control." According to Dorothy Davis, author of *The History of Harrison County*. The schools would be influenced, in governance and education, by a series of prominent Methodist affiliated educators. The academy would teach "Latin, Greek languages, English Grammatically, Arithmetic and Geography". However, without easy access and limited transportation to the small frame school plagued the struggling academy for decades. These struggles, as well as financial, would follow the school for the next 100 years and more.

In the meantime, northwestern Virginia was welcoming the wave of Methodism sweeping all of the northeast. With a wink to the Commonwealth and Jeffersonian ideals, the trustees, in 1843, hired the Rev'd Gordan Batelle as principal. By 1845 the school had 70 students, 4 boarders,

and 3 teachers. The prevailing academic ideology was classical and Methodist.

The original frame building had given way to a fine brick structure by 1845. By 1850, the census indicates that Harrison County had 71 teachers, 71 schools, enrolling 330 students; expenses by public funds were \$820 and \$900 in "not public monies". Out of a total of 11,728 individuals in the county, only 360 could read. Subscriptions schools were established by private individuals in the rural pockets of the county. The academy, now called "The Northwestern Academy," offered the more classical education that would enable its graduates to continue to a higher level of learning. Nathan Goff, Jr. who attended the school until the war began, wrote that the academy was a "fine classical institution".

Methodist trustees continued to establish schools in the region, including Parkersburg and Fairmont. It was recognized



PIERPOINT SCHOOL

that girls should have educational opportunities, and by 1856 a new department with 99 females was added to 130 males, for a total of 229 students and 5 teachers. War was imminent by 1860 and the encampment of over 5000 Union soldiers, thousands of horses and mules, and the rail yard used as the supply depot altered the sleepy town of Clarksburg. In 1861-62, the academy's building had been turned into a Union barracks, prison and hospital.

At wars' end, West Virginia had established a free school system and the school, under the district school system, had a Methodist Conference appointed board of trustees acting in conjunction with the township's district commissioners. The old academy was renovated, costing apx. \$4000-\$5000. Rev'd Connor was hired to head the restored 250 student school. District school systems would function in the future development of Harrison County's educational progress. In 1867, on the corner of Main and Ferry Streets, "a school for Negro Children was opened [it would be] the second school for Negroes to be opened in the state". Harrison County went on to finance an institution to create normal schools and certification to assure trained teachers. Harrison County was one "of only 8 of counties to finance institutions on its own".

The free schools for the children of Harrison county had a term of 3 months. The first such school was begun in a frame building located on Sycamore near West Milford. Instructors were paid an average salary of \$45 with first grade certification. Clarksburg High School, the old northwestern academy, graduated a first class in 1888. In 1894, the building was declared unsafe and abandoned. Henceforth classes were taught in 2 separate rooms, one over the former Methrel Store room, instructed by a Mr. Trottrier; and one room in the house of M.A. Nusbaum, instructed by Mrs. Smith. The land on which the academy had stood in one form or another would then become Towers School, and next to it would be Central Jr. High School.

In 1912 the citizens in Clarksburg Independent District voted on a bond issue to construct a high school on the site of the "old Parr mansion" and across from Judge Lynch's home on Lee Avenue. There was opposition to the site location due to the lack of public visibility. Masonic Order Grand Master Charles W. Lynch laid the corner stone on November 12, 1913, according to the Clarksburg Daily Telegram. The school would cost \$200,000, despite contractor and labor problems. On November 18, 1914 the public was invited to tour the new facility. Central Junior High School would open in 1922, for grades 7-8. Washington Irving

High School was considered one of the finest schools in the state. Mr. Orié McConkey was principal until 1946. ( editor's note: I lived next door to Mr. McConkey on South 7th St. for about 3 years, while my father was in the Navy.)

1865....."free school" system established in West Virginia  
1865.....first frame school built on Sycamore Creek, near West Milford

1866.....teacher certification and normal school training  
1866.....first Parochial School opened by Miss M. White,  
1867....."Negro School" established

1872.....Sisters of St. Joseph opened school

1875.....Broaddus Female College

1881.....Salem Public School, Salem Normal School/College,  
1887

1888..... Clarksburg High School Graduated its first Class

1894.....Shinnston Public School

1895.....Towers School

1901.....Kelley Miller School, remodeled in 1927

1914.....Washington Irving High School

1920.....Wyatt Elementary School

1920.....Victory High School

1922.....Central Junior High School

Throughout the first half of the 20th century grade schools

were established in and near most small communities. One room schools were maintained for years but by mid century were slowly fading away. By 1930 there were 12 high schools in the county: Bridgeport, Bristol, Lost Creek, Lumberport, Roosevelt Wilson, Salem, Sardis, Shinnston, Unidis, Wallace and, of course, Washington Irving.

I know that I have excluded the dates and names of many county schools. Using The huge *History of Harrison County*, by Dorothy Davis, this is the general information that I reduced from thousands of words. School closings, consolidation with new school construction usually on the outskirts of communities has greatly altered the previous 150 plus years of Harrison County educational history.

Our Harrison County has changed dramatically. So has our school system. Some communities disappeared, population grew and declined, with fewer children. As the economic base changed, so has the county's "challenge of free education" for all children. In the support of this mandate, the culture of education, the closeness of schools to family homes, the support of parents to local schools and teachers has shifted to the business of education. Distance and

transportation is still a problem. At this time I estimate there are 25 public schools in Harrison County.

\*\*\*\*\* We the people hold our history and culture to be the sum of the people of Harrison County, West Virginia. The continuity of education has come full circle, from wishing for the best of culture and classical education with little money and no easy access in 1784, to the years of bussing, computers and "core curriculum" in 2014.

Harrison County is still struggling to create the best education for our young people.

If you have school day memories or photos, the HCH Society would love to have copies or originals of your past education. To date we have collected over 30 historic school photos.

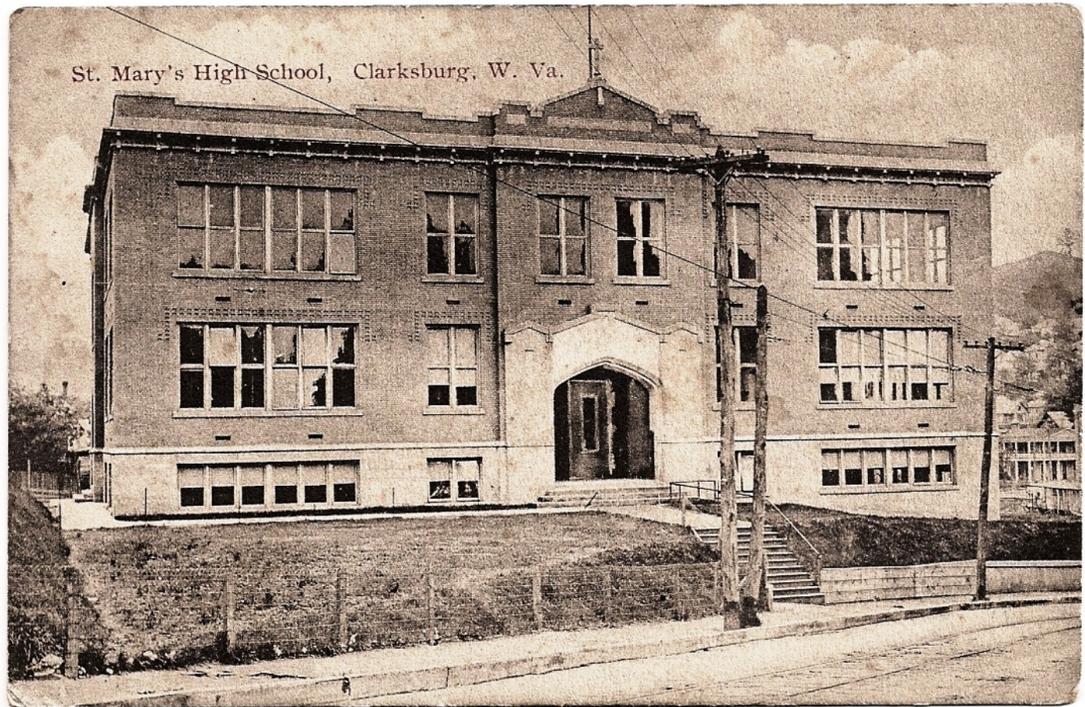
**photos from the collection of HCHS member, Dick Duez, from Bridgeport, WV.**

**TRY YOUR HAND AT A WV HISTORY QUIZ:**

<http://www.wvculture.org/history/trivia/trivia.aspx>



Kelly Miller



St. Mary's High School, Clarksburg, W. Va.

St Mary's High School



**LANDMARK WYATT SCHOOL DESTROYED IN JANUARY 27th 2014 FIRE.**

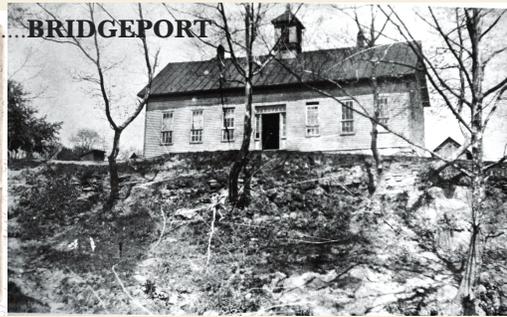
**Jack Sandy Anderson** cannot remember a time when he wasn't interested in history. Born and raised in the old Isaiah Shinn log house in Pine Bluff, he enjoyed the love of history instilled in him by his Grandmother, Cora Martin Sandy. Schooled in the Pine Bluff and Wyatt schools, Jack graduated as class secretary and Salutatorian of Shinnston High School. A graduate of Fairmont State he stayed to teach for 31 years in Marion Co. schools. Jack was a founding member of the HCWVHS and has recently retired from our board of directors. We hope he will continue his contributions such as his following short remembrance.

**Wyatt School. "THE THREE STORY RED BRICK STRUCTURE had not been used as a school for years but had been used for other purposes. Wyatt, a small country village once known as Goosetown, became a sizable mining community when coal mines (three mines served by one tipple) were opened, circa 1917 by Consolidated Coal Company. A large school was then necessary, and the structure was built in 1920 for grades one through twelve.**

The high school section was discontinued in the 1930's with grades ten, eleven, and twelve transferred to Shinnston High

School. The ninth grade remained at the Wyatt until 1945 when it, too, was transferred to Shinnston. Wyatt School then became an elementary school for grades one through eight. I attended the seventh and eighth grades, September 1944 to May 1946 at Wyatt and have many precious memories of the time spent there as a student. I and numerous other former students were saddened when we learned the old school building had burned."

**Do you have memories of your school days? Please write them down and send to us!**



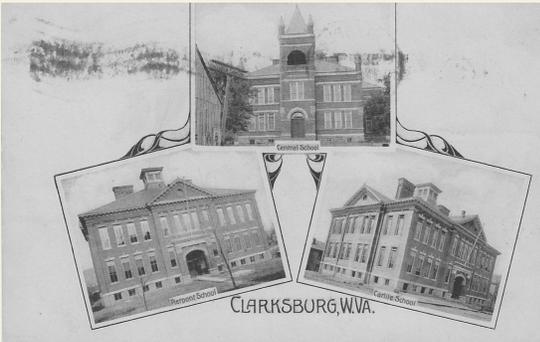
**HCWVHS has gotten the new year, 2014, off to a good start.** A grant of \$1000 has been awarded by the Clarksburg-Harrison Cultural Foundation to the Society for a series of lectures and workshops throughout the year. "HARRISON HISTORY SPEAKS" will feature programs about: a regional artist; area authors; how Harrison County records have been preserved and may be used for research; and a Harrison County History Roundtable, composed of some of our county's prominent historians and authors. Two summer workshops will highlight the art of painting a theorem and creating hand made paper and a bound book to encourage the importance of keeping a journal. *\*\*Dates and information will be announced by a separate mailing.*

**For two years, the Society has been concerned with the conditions under which our archival collection is conserved.** We estimate that there are many thousand photographs, letters, documents, maps, books, and countless pieces of ephemera that are stored in the SGV House. Working conditions are difficult to maintain. For over a year a Fairmont student intern and Society members worked in poor conditions to complete a box inventory. (to label box contents). Inventories need updated and digitized.

After much searching, the Society has been granted the free, one year use of a modern environmentally secure huge room in which to move our archives. The former Stonewall Jackson Hotel, Steptoe & Johnson

headquarters will allow us to house and work on a proper inventory, cataloging and conservation. The current owners' of the building, **OLYMBEC, USA. LLC**, has graciously allowed us the use of a modern, and secure room on the 8th floor of the building. The Society hopes to develop a permanent Repository for public use in the future.

A start-up fund of \$5000 has been gifted in the name of the **Neff-Hardesty Family** of Harrison County. The gift will begin to help us purchase proper archival storage materials and technical equipment to begin photographing, scanning and digitizing our collection for preservation. **Soon HCHS will be able to properly conserve new archival acquisitions. Please consider how you might let us save your paper history.**



**EARLY CLARKSBURG POSTCARD**

TOP TO BOTTOM:  
**CENTRAL SCHOOL**  
**PIERPOINT SCHOOL**  
**CARLILE SCHOOL**

TETER FAMILY COLLECTION

**BANKING SUMMARY 2013**

**INCOME**

Donation	\$7259.47
Fundraiser	3631.59
Grant	600.00
Harrison Co.	
WV Historical Soc.	54.00
Interest Inc.	2.24
Membership	1160.00
Other Income	50.00

**TOTAL INCOME \$12,757.30**

**EXPENSES**

Uncategorized	\$ 101.35
Administrative	887.34
Advertising [Business]	4774.75
Association Fees	50.00
Building Maintenance	609.35
Insurance [Business]	1285.53
Meals & Entertainment	
[Events]	1593.15
Postage & Delivery	
{Business}	54.41
Preservation	3000.00
Printing & Reproduction	
[business]	435.88

**TAXES [Business]**

Taxes[Business]: Licenses [Business]	\$25.00
Taxes[Business]Local Tax [Business]	\$234.96

**TOTAL Taxes [Business] \$259.96**

**UTILITIES - BUSINESS**

Electric	\$854.44
Phone	498.05
Gas	607.21
Water	624.75

**TOTAL Utilities \$2584.45**

**TOTAL EXPENSES, 2013**

**\$15,636.17**

**OVERALL TOTAL - \$2,878.87**

**OVERALL TOTAL**

**Reflects Income minus Expenses.**

Direct donations in the amount of **\$1,930.22** have been recorded to date.

**HAVE YOU PAID YOUR  
 2014 DUES YET? WE NEED  
 YOUR SUPPORT**

**Proposed Budget 2014**

Attached is the spending for 2013. Below are the projected costs for 2014. This year our primary expenses will be centered around our archival project and publishing effort.

**Major outlays for 2014 will be:**

Utilities	\$3000	Insurance	\$ 700
Building Maintenance	700	Administrative	1000
Advertising (Events)	1500	Postage & Printing	450
Assoc. Fees	100	Archival Project	5000
Ameri-Corp Worker	3700	Webmaster	1200

**Overall Total..... \$17,350**

Last year our membership, fundraising, donations, and direct donations totaled \$14687.52. In all we are in a negative trend with spending and income. Considering we have completed 2 years under reorganization we feel that we have made significant progress in garnering support in the community while realizing those efforts need to be increased.

This year we are having a lecture series and will be doing our archival project. So far we have received a grant of \$1000 for the lecture series and \$5000 toward our archival project. Small donations and membership will come in throughout the year. Fundraising will continue with a Bingo Fundraiser and membership appeal. We will also be petitioning the city and county for funding.

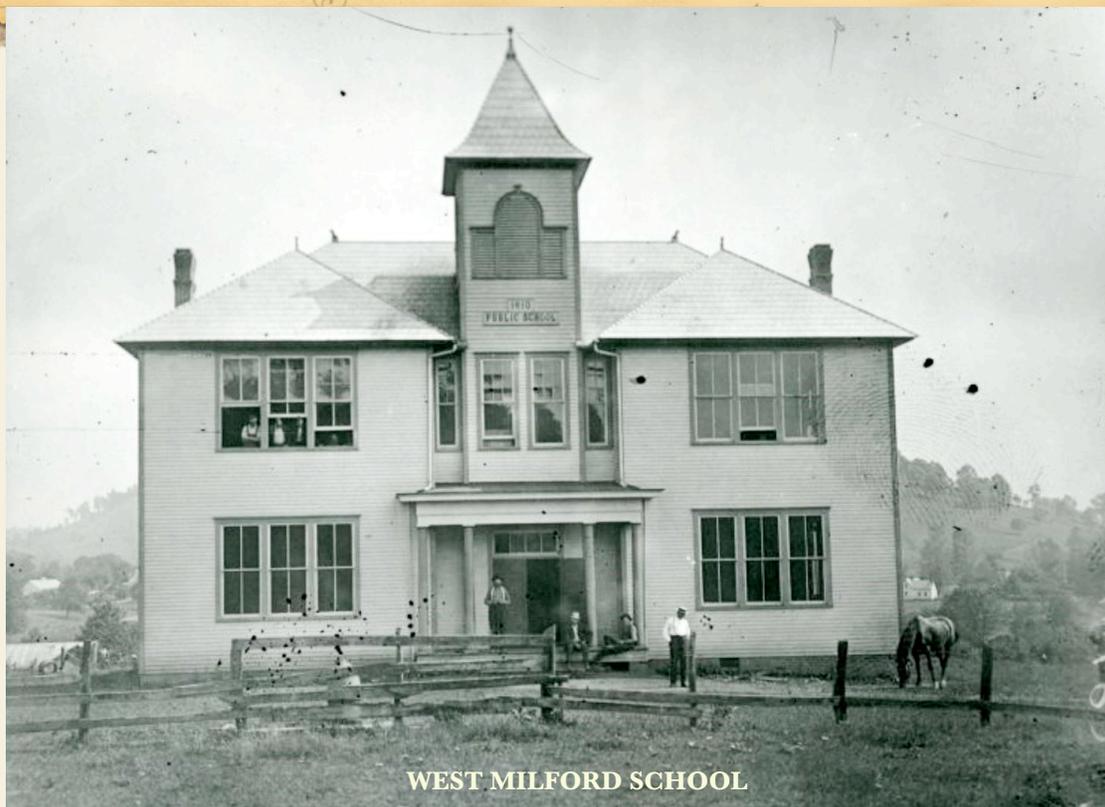
**PROJECTION TO DATE:**

Memberships	1000
Grant	1000 - received
Donations	5000 – received
Bingo	3000
Book Sales	2000
Direct Donations	2000
Membership Appeal	1000
Business Appeal	2000
City and County	3000

**Overall Total.....\$20,000**

We believe our goals are realistic based on last year’s success as well as \$6,000 already received. We have also received a substantial direct donation in the use of office space for one year currently being formally finalized. Actual value would be conservatively estimated at \$1000 per month. This January we decided to engage a webmaster to increase our visibility to reach out nationwide to past residents of Harrison County. We also hope to increase our base of volunteers with our online presence via our webpage and face book.

Should we fail to reach our goals we have \$26,000 reserve in the form of CDs. Our ongoing emphasis is to be in a positive cash flow situation in future years. We believe relevance in our community will garner the support we need to do that. Therefore the last two years we have sacrificed spending to step up interest and visibility. In that goal we have been successful and look to 2014 being a banner year for our organization. This project is a crucial part of moving our museum forward to those ends



WEST MILFORD SCHOOL

THE SOCIETY WISHES TO THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT IN THE PAST TWO AND A HALF YEARS. It's never too late to renew your membership and let us know of any address change.

Your co-operation in continuing your membership and volunteering is vital to our continuing success. Soon we will pack and move our archives to a temporary modern, climate controlled room to begin to inventory, catalogue, scan and digitize our priceless collection. **WE NEED VOLUNTEERS TO HELP US PACK!**

**\*\*UPCOMING:** "Harrison History Speaks" Lecture Series & Bingo Fund Raiser  
May 17... To be announced.

June 21...Harrison History Roundtable Discussion: 5 prominent local historians

June 29...Fund Raiser,BINGO FOR KEEPING HISTORY ALIVE,need ticket sellers

More activities to be announced in the next WAG\* More exciting things to come.

We are currently plastering and painting the hallway in the SGV House. With the archives moved, and asbestos removed from fireplaces we hope to refurbish the bedrooms and have the house in order for regular meetings. We will be posting new information regularly on our active website, in addition to mailings.

**WE NEED MEMBERS {JOIN NOW}** to help with phone & planning committees.

Please call Carol for more information, [carol@aagg.com](mailto:carol@aagg.com) or 304-842-4336



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Harrison County WV Historical Society  
PO Box 4695  
Bridgeport, WV 26330

**OR CURRENT RESIDENT**

***HARRISON COUNTY WEST VIRGINIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
1784 - 1863 - 21 ST CENTURY***

**P.O. BOX 4695, BRIDGEPORT, WEST VIRGINIA**

**[hcwvhs@gmail.com](mailto:hcwvhs@gmail.com)**

**[www.harrisoncowvhistoricalsociety](http://www.harrisoncowvhistoricalsociety)**

**2014 MEMBERSHIP WILL REMAIN IN EFFECT THRU DECEMBER 2014**

_____ \$20.00 Single	_____ \$15.00 Senior/Associate
_____ \$30.00 Family	_____ \$250.00 Corporate
_____ \$ 5.00 Student	_____ DESIGNATED \$ _____

**NAME** \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDRESS** \_\_\_\_\_

**CITY & STATE** \_\_\_\_\_ **ZIP** \_\_\_\_\_

**EMAIL** \_\_\_\_\_ **TELEPHONE** \_\_\_\_\_