

Hampshire County Historical Society

1994

Newsletter

First Quarter

DENVER SCHOOL

By Robert A. Smith

Denver School, a one-room school of frame construction, is located on the west side of the Augusta-Ford Hill Road, approximately 6-1/2 miles south of Augusta, WV and 4-1/2 miles north of Kirby, WV.

By order of the Board of Education of Sherman District, Hampshire County, WV made July 8, 1893, a schoolhouse was to be built on the lands of J.W. Pepper in Sub-District No. 21. The order gave very detailed specifications pertaining to: the size of the structure; the kinds and dimensions of lumber to be used; the number of and placement of windows; the size, construction, and installation of the door; the kind of roofing; and the construction of the flue. The order also specified: the number and arrangement of the seats and desks; the provision of a bench and desk for the teacher; the provision of a blackboard (to be painted on the wall); as well as the provision of a water bench. The building was to be completed by the 1st of November 1893 and to be paid for by January 1, 1894.



On the 18th day of August 1893, Lemuel P. Emmart and Philip Malick contracted to build the school house for the sum of \$150. These two gentlemen had also bonded themselves to the Board of Education of Sherman District in the amount of \$300, should they fail to comply with the terms of the contract.

According to a story passed down through the generations, the school was given the middle name of the first student to arrive at the school on opening day. That student was Oza Denver Swisher, the son of Asa and Mattie Swisher who lived nearby.

Denver School was closed in March 1952, when the present Grassy Lick School opened - consolidating Denver Kirby (Bethel), and the old Grassy Lick Schools. Soon after closure, Denver Schoolhouse was offered for auction by the Hampshire County Board of Education. A group of former students and patrons of Denver School purchased the schoolhouse, formed a community organization, and renamed the building the Denver Community Center. The three original

(See Denver School on Page 2)

GENEALOGY CORNER

Janice M. Carper, 4918 Sudley Road, Cathaprin, VA 11018 seeks information on the BRINKER family of Hampshire County, WV. Many members are located in Frederick County, VA. She will exchange information with anyone on this family.

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*Anyone who has genealogical information or can assist these researchers in any way, please contact them at the address given.*

## ACQUISITIONS

Mrs. Anna Hite of Bloomery, WV has presented to the Hampshire County Historical Society a 1920 Pleasant Grove school register. The Society thanks Mrs. Hite for her gift and plans to exhibit the item at various occasions.

*Turn Your Eyes Toward  
TEXAS in 1994 . . .*

**NATIONAL  
GENEALOGICAL  
SOCIETY  
CONFERENCE  
IN THE STATES**

**June 1 - 4, 1994**

*hosted by*

**CLAYTON  
LIBRARY FRIENDS**

P.O. Box 271078  
Houston, TX 77277-1078  
Host Society Chairman  
Trevia Wooster Beverly  
713/864-8692

## DENVER SCHOOL

*(Continued from Page 1)*

trustees of the Denver Community Center were Mrs. Claude (Anna) Pepper, Mr. Leldon L. Loy, and Mr. Clatence L. Smith, Sr. A lease for the use of the land on which the school-house stood, was negotiated with Mr. and Mrs. Claude Pepper, owners of the land at that time.

Denver Community Center was the site of a homecoming and festival on August 30, 1952. The event featured: a softball game; country music by Curtis Spaid and group; the showing of slide pictures of Death Valley and other historical spots in the United States by Mr. Robert Tintile; and the sale of refreshments of soup, hot dogs, hamburgers, pies, cakes, lemonade, coffee and soft drinks. Proceeds from this event were used to repair the building and improve the grounds. These festivals were repeated just a few years and then discontinued.

The Denver Skyrockets 4-H Club, which had been organized at the school before its closure, continued to meet at the Denver Community Center and also assumed upkeep of the building and grounds. This continued until the early 1980's.

In July 1985, a small group of former students of Denver School got together and planned a reunion of former classmates, teachers and patrons of the School. This reunion was held September 17, 1985 at Denver School and consisted of a short program followed by a covered dish luncheon and lots of reminiscing by 27 former students and 2 former teachers. There have been similar reunions held each year since 1985. The 1994 Denver School Reunion will be held at the school on Saturday, September 17, 1994.

There is no record of who the first teacher of Denver School was, or all the previous teachers. Some of the teachers remembered by former students were: Arthur Keller, Wilbur Park, Charlie Shanholtzer, Anna Poland Pepper, Henry Michael, Maude Hockmen, Estella Kaylor, Agnes Hielt, Cora Davis, Love Hockman, Jim Emmart, Clyde T. Shanholtzer, Clyde Tutwiler, Raymond Martin, Henry Harnes, Lee Whistler, Waldo Hockman, Lincoln Cox, Ellis Wolford, Dawson Shanholtz, Nelda Harmison, Randall Martin, Harold Haines, Fred Snyder, and Helen Haines Moreland (last to teach at Denver). Most of the teachers are deceased. Those still living are Lincoln Cox, Nelda Harmison, and Helen Moreland.

## BOOK REVIEW *(Continued from Page 4)*

### HAMPSHIRE COUNTY DEATH RECORDS

1866-1922

This data was extracted from the Hampshire County, WV Death Records as they appear in County Death Records I and II. The alphabetical listing contains the date and place of death, age, sex, race, father, mother, consort, burial place, informant and designation of the informant as available.

\$27.00 (P/H included)

### SPRINGFIELD DIST. CEMETERIES OF HAMPSHIRE CO., WV

map - 174 pages - over 3600 listings

This book contains a listing of 32 public and private cemeteries in the Springfield Magisterial District of Hampshire County, WV. The District includes the towns of Three Churches, Levels, Points, Green Spring, Springfield. A color-coded map is included showing cemetery locations.

\$16.50 (P/H included)

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

A new year has begun and we WELCOME new officers and directors. We also have exciting news. At last the Society is going to have a permanent home/headquarters.

Members have voted to purchase a two-story log house. The house will have to be moved to a new location, centrally in the county.

This is a long range project - a big one for us. However, the time has come for us to act on this opportunity.

We are going to have a busy year and we ask your understanding and support. We will still be working on our other projects and activities. Please, join in any which interest you. Your assistance will be appreciated, study the Calendar of Events thru July and come on out!

We wish to thank our supporters of the annual ornament. Sales were good and the funds will go to future projects.

Our thanks also go to Mr. Robert A. Smith for his article on the Denver School.

The film GETTYSBURG will be released on video in March by Turner Home Entertainment. The movie has already grossed \$12 million and is still playing around the country. I recommend seeing it!

*Enjoy this issue and feel free to contribute any material  
you feel will appeal to our members.*

~ Brenda Hielt

## LAMBERT WINS ORNAMENT CONTEST

First place in the annual Christmas Ornament Contest sponsored each year by the Hampshire County Historical Society was won by Diane Lambert. The top entry was a hand-painted Christmas ball with the lettering WVA on one side and a rural scene on the opposite side. Second place was claimed by Patty Hott. Patty's entry was a very creative pine cone Santa. Third place went to Elizabeth Ayers for her cross-stitched angel ornament. Other ornaments deserving mention included dried apple man and woman, and a peanut reindeer, among others.

The Hampshire County Historical Society sponsors the contest each year and urges all county residents to participate. The ornaments become the property of the society and are used to decorate the Christmas tree at the courthouse. A fifty dollar 1st prize; a twenty-five dollar 2nd prize and 3rd prize consisting of a historic Christmas bulb are awarded annually. Look for the entry specifications in the *Hampshire Review* and enter the contest.

<< May be ordered from:

**Vicki Bidinger Horton**

HC 86, Box 50B, Green Spring, WV 26722

## SOCIETY ERECTS SIGNS

Our group is endeavoring to place signs at historic spots throughout the county. Just before Heritage Days, the Society erected two new signs at the Mytinger House in Romney. Another has been completed for the Shaffer House, but will not be placed until spring. A sign has also been completed for the Stone Fountain on Cooper Mountain and will be placed later.

Members of the group met on November 14, 1993 to erect a sign at the Civil War Trenches near Romney. The history was written by member Tom Stump, a descendant of the original landowners.

The sign states, "The Trenches - These earthworks, known locally as the "trenches", constitute the inner and outer defenses used to safeguard Union artillery during the early years of the Civil War. These guns served to protect a large Union encampment of the 4th Brigade 1st Division 8th Army Corps located northwest of here just above Rt. 50; and to harass Confederate movements through Mechanicsburg Gap to the west and across the South Branch of the Potomac River to the east. Sketches made by Lucian Gray, Sergeant Major of the 1st Virginia Volunteer infantry, Union Army, show the surrounding area devoid of trees, offering Union gunners a clear view in all directions."

The Society has also obtained permission from the Department of Natural Resources to place a shadow box with sketches at the base of the sign. The box will be installed later and both the sign and box will be maintained by the group.

## CALANDAR OF EVENTS

### MAR. 9, Wed. 4:30 p.m.

HCHS will be viewing the log house we are purchasing. Any members interested may meet at Jolin Concrete on Rt. 50, Shanks to car pool.

### MAR. 20, Sun. 1:30 p.m.

HCHS will meet at the Romney Sheetz' Store. The group will be installing a sign at Shaffer's Funeral Home. We will be traveling to Nancy Mayhew's home for our business meeting.

### APRIL 9, Sat. 8:00 p.m.

HCHS will be present at Heritage Conference, Hinkle Hall, Shenandoah University, Winchester, VA. The group will be selling publications and prints in the lobby. For more information, contact Alana McGuinness after 8:00 p.m. at 856-3805.

### APRIL 16, Sat. 2:00 p.m.

HCHS will meet on the Food Lion lot in Romney. The group will be viewing the old watering trough on the grounds of Hampshire High School and also the site of the toll house. Mr. Steve Haines, a local resident of the area will be tour guide.

### APRIL 23, Sat. 1:30 p.m.

HCHS will have a work day at the Stone Fountain on Cooper Mountain. We hope to install a sign at this time. Please feel free to attend, there is much to do and all are welcome.

### MAY 12, Thurs. 7:00 p.m.

HCHS will hold a general meeting at Capon Chapel Church in Capon Bridge. The group will be finalizing plans for Confederate Memorial Weekend.

### MAY 30 - JUNE 5

HCHS members will be placing flags on Confederate graves through the week.

### JUNE 4, Sat.

Opening Ceremonies for Confederate Memorial Weekend at Capon Chapel Church, Capon Bridge.

### JUNE 5, Sun. 1:30 p.m.

Guest speaker on Courthouse steps in Romney, followed by decoration of graves and monument at Indian Mound Cemetery.

### JULY 23, Sat. 4:00 p.m.

Our annual picnic will be held at the Ruritan Building in Yellow Spring. We ask everyone attending to bring their favorite picnic foods. We should have our Christmas ornaments to prepare at this time.

*(2) free civil war lectures will be presented at the Frank Center Theater, Shepherd College, Shepherdstown, WV on Saturday, March 5 & March 12 at 4:00 p.m. For more information, contact Brenda Hiatt at 856-2623.*

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MEMBERSHIP REMINDER

Dues are being accepted for 1994. Please check your mailing label on the front of your newsletter. The due date is on your label. You may mail it to the return address on the front of the newsletter with your fee.

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY YEARLY MEMBERSHIP

- \$10.00 Individual
- \$18.00 Couple
- \$35.00 Organizations

*Members Receive
Quarterly Newsletter,
Field Trips and Tours*

Name _____

 Street _____
 City _____
 State _____ Zip _____

BOOK REVIEW

We have decided to add a book review to the newsletter during the winter months, when it's a good idea to stay in out of the cold. It will not be a regular feature, but will appear on occasion.

HANGING ROCK REBEL

A well-known quarterly magazine covering the four state area is featuring Hanging Rock Rebel in the current issue.

Potomac magazine published in Hagerstown, MD, displays several pictures from the book, including a photo of Lt. Blue as a young Confederate soldier and a full color reproduction of the cover.

Excerpts from the book, which was published by Romney - based Ft. Pearsall Press, includes Blue's account of the last battle before he was captured.

"Our revolvers were empty and useless. With a sabre we were making a desperate, though vain effort to extricate ourselves from the living raging sea of blue that surrounded us. It was cut, thrust and parry; parry, thrust and cut. We were slowly carving our way back to the top of the ridge; the horde that surrounded us was much thinner. I now began to hope that some of us would be left to tell the tale."

Editor Dan Oacs in the magazine also

recounts how Blue started writing his now famous story in the Hampshire Review in the spring of 1898. The soldier continued on the front page of the newspaper for 16 weeks before stopping for "dog days."

After a few interruptions, Blue finished his story in the newspaper in April 1901.

Copies of the magazine can be found in various outlets throughout the area as well as the Hampshire County Library in Romney. Books may be ordered by writing to Ft. Pearsall Press, 206 East Main Street, Romney, WV or by calling (304) 822-4410.

We also have purchased four fully indexed, soft cover books compiled by Vicki Bidinger Horton:

ABSTRACTS FROM THE SOUTH BRANCH INTELLIGENCER

June 1837 - December 1839

Hampshire-Mineral-Hardy Counties
56 pages containing over 100 names,

Abstracts include Marriages (in some cases only remaining record), Deaths, Property Sales, Estate Administrations, Notices, Chancery Cases, List of Letters at Post Office, and Miscellaneous News Items.

\$10.50 (P/H included)

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY MINUTE BOOK ABSTRACTS

1788-1802

County Minute Books contain valuable GENEALOGICAL and HISTORICAL information. This 135 page book of Abstracts includes: Orders to Bind Orphaned and Poor Children (often mentioning complete families), Grand Juries, Indictments, Overseers of the Roads, Ordinary Licenses, Suits, Oaths of Offices, Militia Officers and More . . . These abstract are from four minute books 1788-1791; 1795-1798; 1798-1799; 1799-1802.

\$16.50 (P/H included)

(See Book Review on Page 2)

Hampshire County Historical Society

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