

Officers for 2019-2020:

Neil Richardson - President 727-5972 (2018-2020)
Denise Cyrus - Vice President 206-1974 (2019-2021)
Patty Swango - Vice President Fund Raising & Special Events 549-4100 (2018-2020)
Ellen Mills-Pauley - Secretary 757-7189 (2019-2021)
Vickie Harrison - Treasurer 610-8382 (2018-2020)
Neil Richardson - Editor

Website: (18 pages with numerous photos and history) www.stalbanshistory.com

St. Albans Historical Society
Facebook Page, Search for : St. Albans Historical Society.

Visit our web site at: <http://stalbanhistory.com>

We have 18 separate pages on this site to include everything from our Calendar of Events, Morgan's Kitchen, Books for Sale, Founders Day, Pictures, Newsletters, Contact information, etc.

St. Albans Historical Society
404 Fourth Ave.
St. Albans, WV 25177

St. Albans
Historical Society
Newsletter - Spring 2021



Stay Connected: The Historical Society has a *Facebook* page for sharing news and history. Like us on: *St. Albans Historical Society*.

Open House:

The St. Albans Historical Society Building is open every 1st Saturday of each month.(10-2 pm). Keven Bragg has been doing this for the past 6 years !

2021 Calendars

We printed 250 vintage 2021 calendars to sale. this year and they have sold out ! Grace is working on 2022 calendars already. (Thanks Grace !)

Morgan's Kitchen Summer Open House

We will be open every Sunday this summer for Open House from 2-4 pm. We will be calling later for volunteers.

The 18 Annual Morgan's Kitchen Fall Festival

will be on Saturday, **October 9**, at historic Morgan's Kitchen. Activities include apple butter making, cabin tours, pioneer re-enactors, arts and crafts, and old time music. Baked goods, drinks and hot dogs will be available by the St. Albans Ladies Club..

Dues are Due: Dues are due at our April 11 meeting. (\$15 family and \$10 individual). Make a check out to "St. Albans Historical Society" and give to Vickie Harrison, our treasurer.

New Project: We will be having an **Escape Room** at *Morgan's Kitchen* this spring & summer. Organized by Denise Cyrus, this is for the entire family. Participants will work in groups to solve 6 puzzles in an hour. Recommended for ages 8 and older. The cost is \$15 a person. Visit eventbrite.com and search for "The Treasure of Morgan's Kitchen Escape Room."

Historical Society Building now

being rented: We are now renting the Historical Society building to groups for showers, birthday parties, reunions, family gatherings, etc. We rented the building 14 times last year with great results. We charge \$35 for 4 hours and a \$35 deposit. Contact Denise Cyrus if you know someone who would like to use the Historical Society Building.

St. Albans Founder's Day: The 15th annual festival will be held on Saturday, **September 18, 2021**, from 10-4 pm on Main Street. It has been moved to the fall this year. Numerous activities are planned. There will be lots of vendors, food booths and entertainment. Sponsored by the Founder's Day Committee of the St. Albans Historical Society. Call one of the society officers to be on the committee to help. They will be meeting every couple of weeks

See photos also on your phone: The easiest way to discover about the history of St. Albans is to go to this web site (or download the app). www.theclio.com . We have added over 40 sites around town with photos, history, (some have vintage videos) and all have a map to its location. This works anywhere in America also when traveling.

April Meeting. Their will be a meeting of the Historical Society on *Sunday, April 11*, at 2:00 pm. Denise Cyrus will be speaking on "Vigilante Justice: the Only Recorded Lynching in St. Albans, WV". She has previously emailed all members if you wish to watch it by ZOOM.

Election: There will be an officer's election at the April Meeting. Running are: Neil Richardson - President; Patty Swango - Vice President Fund Raising & Special Events; Vickie Harrison – Treasurer. Terms ends 9-2022

John Peter Salley - Founder of Coal River By: Neil Richardson, 7-2020

(Continued from November 2021 Newsletter)

Besides Sally's journal, he also made a map of their journey. They reached the Mississippi River on June 7, 1742. On July 4, 1742, they were captured, while eating breakfast on the river bank, by 70 Frenchmen and 20 Indians and Negroes. They were eventually taken down river 350 miles to New Orleans. Before their capture they reported that they had met with several Indian villages. The fleet of French had come down river from Illinois in a schooner and several small boats.

The French thought that they were English spies and confiscated Sally's journal and map. The New Orleans French governor, LaMoyne Bienville, interrogated the five explorers and sent them to prison in New Orleans. After one year in a prison cell, the new governor of New Orleans, Pierre Vandreuil, asked permission to send them to France. In December 1774, Vandreuil reported that three of the men had been sent to France. One of these was John Howard. The three explorers did not actually reach France. On their way, their ship was intercepted by an English ship and the three Virginians were taken to London. There is no record of John Howard or the other two ever returning home.

Meanwhile, John Salley and another captive made their prison escape in October 25, 1744, after 27 months in jail. He reported that while confined they were given 1 lb. of rice and 1 lb. rice bread per day and one quart of bear's oil per month. With the help of a file and a rope, provided buy a dissatisfied guard, they escaped their cells and let themselves down the prison walls. It is thought the other escapee was John Patteet, also from Augusta County, Virginia, a traveler with Salley from the start. After several days, they received help from some priests and later they acquired a gun and shot two bulls and made a bull boat from their hides. A French man, who had been traveling with them, led them to his father's house. They were also helped by some Indian tribes. Salley said there was an order sent throughout the territory to shoot them on site and a great reward was offered. Their travels took them through Alabama, Mississippi, Georgia and the Carolinas. Some of their travels were by rivers and some by land. The two escapees arrived in Charles Town (Charleston, South Carolina) on April 1, 1745, after traveling over 5 months through the wilderness. After finally arriving in more friendly territory, Salley met with South Carolina governor, James Glenn, and shared with him a copy of his journal that he had rewritten from memory. The governor refused to give it back, but offered them passage on a small vessel bound for Virginia.

Shortly after leaving Charleston Harbor in the small vessel, they were taken by French pirates and robbed and put in a small boat several miles from the shore. After two days at sea, they arrived back at Charleston. They again left for Virginia, 500 miles away, by the kindness of a sea captain who gave them guns and a sword. They set out for Virginia, not by sea this time, but by land. The two travelers arrived home to Augusta County, Virginia, on May 17, 1745, after having been absent 3 years and 2 months. Salley estimated he had traveled 4,606 miles. It is unsure if he ever received his promise of 10,000 acres of land. He owned 400 acres before his journey. In 1747 he had his lands re-surveyed and made several real estate transactions. John Peter Salley died in 1755 in Augusta County, Virginia, and left his land to his two sons, George and John. They sold the land in 1762 and moved with their families to North Carolina.

Although John Peter Sally is known for his daring travels, he is best known for helping to discover and then to name the Coal River in Kanawha County, West Virginia. It is interesting to know that fourteen years later, in 1756, Samuel Cole, a soldier traveling through this area, re-discovered this river and named it Cole River, after himself. This name did not stick, however. That name can still be seen on old maps and documents. George Washington referred to his land at present day St. Albans as the "Cole" River tract.

By: Neil Richardson, 7-2020

St. Albans Historical Society - 2021 Meeting Dates (tentitive)

All meetings are at the Wm. P. Burdette Memorial Building at 404, 4th Ave. 2:00 p.m

(Regular meetings are on 2nd Sundays unless otherwise stated)

April 11, 2021 - Regular Meeting

June 6, 2021 - Sunday Picnic, 2 p.m. at Morgan's Kitchen

June – August - Morgan's Kitchen Open House, Sunday, 2-4 pm

September 12, 2021 – Regular Meeting

September 18, 2021 - Founder's Day on Main Street

October 9, 2021 - Morgan's Kitchen Fall Festival (2nd Saturday)

October 23, 2021 – History and Mystery Tour (tentative)

November 14, 2021 – Regular Meeting

December 11, 2021 - Christmas Historic Homes Tour, (2nd Saturday), 5 - 8 p.m.

TWIN CITY SHOPPING GUIDE - April 7, 1987

City Hall to be Nomination to Historic Register

The city of St. Albans and the St. Albans Historical Society, acting together in a joint venture, have contracted with historical consultant Michael J. Pauley of Charleston to get the St. Albans City Building listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Pauley will research, document and prepare a National Register Nomination for the building, which will be submitted to the WV Department of Culture and History and, ultimately, to the Federal government for approval.

The City Building, formerly the Bank of St. Albans, is, according to Pauley, "an outstanding example of Italianate commercial architecture. It was constructed after the Main Street Fire of 1906". Other buildings in St. Albans already listed on the National Register of Historic Places (*in 1987*) include "The Beeches" (Women's Club), The Chilton House, St. Mark's Episcopal Church and the William Mohler House (Covenant Presbyterian Church). Michael Pauley, with assistance from Neil Richardson of the Historical Society prepared this and several other National Register listing.

The City of St. Albans is committed to continuing efforts in Historic Preservation, according to Mayor Eddie Bassit. Working with the St. Albans Historical Society, the city is trying to get more historical markers, and is in the process of uncovering the Old Kanawha Terrace Trolley Lines. Society president Neil Richardson said that the Society hopes to promote other similar historical activities in the future.

St. Albans Historical Books Available

(Available at the *Village Sampler* and the *Coal River Coffee Co.*, both on Main St.)

“Coalsmouth Journal Selected Articles” – 1972-74” (\$5)

“St. Albans History” (\$40) (*reduced price*)

“The Battle of Scary” (1932) (\$5)

“A Historical Sketch of St. Albans, WV - 1938” (\$5)

“The Growing, Booming Years of St. Albans, WV, 1885 - 1910” (\$5)

“Early History of St. Albans” – 1950 (\$5)

“St. Albans Historic and Architectural Survey” (\$5)

“Bicentennial of the Burning of Fort Tackett, 1790 – 1990” (\$5)

“Coalsmouth Journal – 1982” (\$5)

“Tribute to Jennie Hughes” (\$5)

“The Last Dollar” (1909) (\$5)

“St. Albans Cemeteries” (\$20) (*reduced price*)

“Upper Kanawha Valley Cemeteries” (\$25) (*reduced price*)

“History of St. Albans” (DVD Video) (\$15) (*reduced price*)

“Coal, Steamboats, Timber and Trains” (\$30) (*reduced price*)

St. Albans QUIZ

1. What was St. Albans named after? (city)
2. What famous Union Civil War General built the Coal River Locks?
3. How many National Register sites are in St. Albans today?
4. What was the original name of St. Albans?
5. What local man was responsible for most of the work to move Morgan’s Kitchen to St. Albans?
6. Benjamin Franklin’s gold headed cane and George Washington’s battle sword belonged to what St. Albans pioneer and is now in the Smithsonian?
7. The first white child born in the Kanawha Valley was born to whom?
8. Who was the commander of the Confederate forces at the battle of Scary Creek and whose grandson was a famous WWII general?
9. What was the name of the St. Mark’s Episcopal Church before it was re-located to its present location on B Street?
10. Who discovered Coal River in 1742?
11. What was Rt. 60 called before it was called the Midland Trail?
12. What Confederate Civil War General was born in St. Albans? (*answers elsewhere in Newsletter*)

S. A. City Building Set For Historic Status



(left to right) St. Albans Mayor, Eddie Bassit; W. Neil Richardson, St. Albans Historical President and Michael J. Pauley, historical consultant.

Main Street Fire of 1906

On January 31, 1906, a fire of unknown origins started in the opera house. As St. Albans had no fire department, a fire engine was brought by train from Charleston, WV, but it was too late to help. On February 13 of the same year, the remainder of the business portion of downtown was destroyed when a fire started in a sleeping room above the Venable store, killing the occupant.

Community News, February 22, 1990

City seeks pictures of all past Mayors (1868-1989)

St. Albans Mayoral secretary Rosemary Zerkle has been assigned the task of locating and assembling pictures of all past mayors of the city and positioning them in a second-floor hallway outside the clerk's office. (1990)

1868-John P. Turner *-one year terms (Village of Jefferson);*

1869-Robert Brooks;

1870- F. B. Taylor, W. J. Miller;

1871-1873-W. J. Miller;

1874-1884-*Records missing;*

1885- Dr. D.D. Miller

1886- A. A. Rock; J. H. McConaha

1887- A. A. Rock;

1888-J. H. McConaha;

1889-1891- A. A. Rock;

1892-Dr. D. D. Miller;

1893- A. B. Lewis;

1894-L. A. Beckwith;

1895-Dr. J. H. Sutherland;

1896- W. D. Alford;

1897- 1898- Dr. C. A. Zerkle;

1899-1900- U. S. Jarrett;

1901- George C. Weimer;

1902- U. S. Jarrett;

1903- Dr. C. A. Zerkle;

1904- W. D. Alford;

1905- F. D. Burgess;

1906-R. R. McGregor;

1907-1909-U. S. Jarrett;

1910- Dr. J. H. Sutherland;

1911-Dr. W. H. Wilson;

1912- S. L. Webb;

1913- U. S. Jarrett;

1924- C. A. McClung;

1914- W. H. Miller;

1915- U. S. Jarrett, A. Selders;

1916-A. W. Wheaton;

1917- L. J. White;

1918- L. J. White

1919-1921- W. D. Davis;

1922- W. H. Miller;

1923- Asher Johnson;

1925- 1926- D. Burgess;

1927- W. D. Davis;

1928- R. F. Lipscomb;

1929- Claude L. Smith;

1930- Asher Johnson;

1931-1932- R. W. Melton;

1933- W. H. Miller (*Term changed to two years*);

1935- R. F. Lipscomb;

1937- Dr. H. M. Escue;

1939- G. H. (Dart) Ellis;

1941- W. J. Knapp;

1943-F. D. Burgess;

1945- R. F. Lipscomb;

1947- George W. Pride;

1949- Gregory L. Funk (*Term changed to four years*);

1953- Gregory L. Funk;

1957- Averil L. Ramsey;

1961- Frank E. Oliver;

1965- Averil Ramsey;

1973- Clyde Alford;

1977- James Randall;

1981- Averil Ramsey;

1985- A. Eddie Bassitt;

1989- A. Eddie Bassitt.

(Can you complete the list of mayors?)

News from our 2007 Newsletter

April Meeting (2007)

The April regular meeting will be on Sunday, April 15 at 2:00 p.m. at the Wm. P. Burdette Memorial Building (Historical Society Bldg.) Neil Richardson will show slides of the National Register nomination for the Main St. Historic District and Sally Blessing of the St. Albans Renaissance Group will speak on the progress of the organization and future plans for Main St. revitalization.

2nd Annual Founders Day Weekend (2007)

The 2st Annual Founders Day Weekend is in the planning stages and will be held on Saturday, October 13 this year. Margaret Bassitt is the chairperson and requests your help. Numerous activities are planned. This activity is sponsored by the St. Albans Historical Society, with cooperation from other groups.

1st Annual St. Albans History Day (2007)

We are planning a big day for Saturday, May 19 (2007). To be proclaimed "St. Albans History Day" by Mayor Calloway, some of the activities include:

- Membership Brunch at the Historical Society Building to invite previous and new members to re-visit us.
- Open House there also from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. to allow people to visit and view our photos, do some research, etc.
- 5th Annual Historic Sidewalk Walking Tour at noon of Main St. and Eighth Ave. (begins at Main St. & B St.)
- Photo Swap Day. Encourage people in the area to bring in their photos from around St. Albans for us to copy for our files. See Carol Graley to help us that day.

Quiz Answers

1. St. Albans, Vermont. Named by C&O Railroad lawyer H. C. Parsons for his hometown.
2. Wm. S Roscrans, then a captain in the U.S Army.
3. 12, including the 27 structures on Main Street.
4. Coalsmouth, Va.
5. Hal Turley
6. Samuel T. Washington, nephew of George and buried in Bangor Cemetery.
7. Kizah Tackett, who also escaped the burning of Ft. Tackett in 1890.
8. Cpt. George S. Patton
9. Bangor Parrish, near the cemetery at Walnut St. and Kanawha Terrace.
10. John Peter Salley, on his way to New Orleans.
11. James River and Kanawha Turnpike.
12. Brigadier-general Burkett Davenport Fry. He was a commander of one of the lead brigades during Pickett's charge on the last day of fighting at Gettysburg. A nephew of Philip Roots Thompson.