

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 2020



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 5 years !

History and Mystery Tour We will have the 3rd annual Tour on Saturday, **October 17** from 5-9 pm. It begins at the Historical Building and will go around town to several interesting homes and buildings, This years theme is "The Civil War in Coalsmouth". Thanks to Denise Cyrus and friends for organizing this very successful event !

2020 Calendars

We printed 200 vintage 2020 calendars to sale. this year and they have sold out ! Grace is working on 2021 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 17 Annual Morgan's Kitchen Fall Festival

will be on Saturday, **October 10**, at historic Morgan's Kitchen. Activities include apple butter making, cabin tours, pioneer re-enactors, arts and crafts, and old time music by John and Wilma Kidd and friends. Baked goods, drinks and hot dogs will be available by the St. Albans Ladies Club..

Dues are Due: Most paid at our February meeting. (\$15 family and \$10 individual). If you were unable to pay then...make a check out to "St. Albans Historical Society" and mail to Vickie Harrison, our treasurer.at: 11 Beachview Dr., St. Albans.

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 \$30 for 4 hours and a \$30 deposit. Contact Neil Richardson 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, **May 9, 2020**, from 10-4 pm on old Main Street. 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.

Weimer Elem. History Lessons: For the 7th year, the St. Albans Historical Society has been teaching 4th graders local history. Neil Richardson and Denise Cyrus present 10 lessons, one per week. We started in January at Weimer Elementary on Thursdays. Some topics were: early native peoples, early explorers and settlers, Ft. Tackett, early churches, schools and transportation, Coal River history, and Morgan's Kitchen. We stopped after 7 lessons in March after the virus closed schools but feel we made an impact on these young minds.

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.

St. Albans Historical Society - 2020 Meeting Dates

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)

January - December 2020 - Historical Bldg. Open House, 1st Saturday, 10-2 pm

February 9, 2020 - Regular Meeting (Dr. Hatfield "Battle at Hurricane Creek")

April 5, 2020 - Regular Meeting (Easter is 2nd Sunday) Old Churches in St. Albans (CANCELED)

May 9, 2020 - Founder's Day on Main Street (2nd Saturday) (Tentative)

June 7, 2020 - *Sunday* Picnic, 2 p.m. at Morgan's Kitchen

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

September 13, 2020 - Regular Meeting

October 10, 2020 - Morgan's Kitchen Fall Festival (2nd Saturday)

November 8, 2020 - Regular Meeting

December 12, 2020 - Christmas Historic Homes Tour, (2nd Saturday), 5 - 8 p.m.

1st Minutes of the Historical Society - November 12, 1971

The St. Albans Historical Society met on November 12, 1971 in the mayor's chamber. The charter was read by Bennett Burgess and was voted on and carried unanimously. The charter was signed by all present.

Temporary officers were nominated and elected.

Chairman - Hallie Turley

Secretary - Phyllis Roberts

Treasurer - Mrs. Van (Barbara) Bacon

It was brought up that the offer had been made to buy the Morgan Museum (not Kitchen) for \$2,500 and the animals (stuffed) would be donated. It was discussed that we would try to find a location to temporarily house the collection (of Sid Morgan) if we could get a loan. It was ruled that we could not use the Civic Association Building (old Greentree Nursery).

Ben Burgess said he could contact Fred Haddad for a donation for the Society. Nan and Buck Rogers and Hallie Turley are going to take inventory of the Morgan Museum.

Mayor Ramsey moved for the chairman to negotiate a contract with Sid Morgan with a contract not to exceed \$2,500 and to authorize and accept the gift of animals.

Respectfully submitted

Phyllis Roberts, Secretary

Present:

Mr. & Mrs. Hallie Turley

Mayor Avril Ramsey

Bennett Burgess

Mrs. Jarrett

Van and Barbara Bacon

Buck and Nan Rogers, Mrs. Phyllis Roberts

George Washington's battle sword and scabbard, later owned by Samuel T. Washington, George's nephew. Samuel lived in Coalsmouth and attended Bangor Parish and is **buried in Bangor Cemetery**. Samuel also inherited Benjamin Franklin's gold headed cane from his uncle. Samuel was known to take these items to several local get-togethers and show them. He presented both to Congress in 1843. Today they are on display at the Smithsonian Institute in Washington, D.C



GLENN'S SLINGSHOT By: Glenn T. Miller (stories from around 1918-20), "*St. Albans History*", pg. 173.

My family lived on B Street, near the mouth of Coal River, in St. Albans. At around 10 years old I had become a pretty good marksman with a slingshot. In those days we made our own. First we cut a V branch which was used as a handle, and then two rubber strips cut from an old inner tube were attached with a small piece of soft leather which held a pebble. I had been trying to shoot a bird without any success, until one sunny day I discovered a flock of birds in a fruit tree. There was a fence nearby which I climbed upon, standing straight up I could get a better shot. Well - I killed a little sparrow and became so excited I fell to the ground and broke my right arm just below my elbow. I began to cry and pray. I said "Dear Jesus, I will never kill another bird." I am 85 years old now and to this day I have never killed another bird. My mind tells me the next day I dug a little grave and buried that little sparrow and I said another little prayer.

THE MARBLE GAME ON MAIN STREET

By: Glenn T. Miller (stories from around 1918-20), "*St. Albans History*", pg. 173

I was an industrious lad and with my little wheelbarrow (which I built myself) I would pick up wet wash for people and take it to the laundry which was located just behind the old Lewis home on B Street. This was a weekly chore and my customers paid me. I had a regular route and this was how I made my expenses for the big marble game held each Saturday on Main St. We played on a vacant lot between Dr. Blair's Drug Store and Nick and Albert Coreys' Confectionary. The game lasted practically all afternoon. I would stick (play) Bud Morgan (a black boy) who was one of the best marble players in St. Albans. I would show up around 11:00 AM with the money I earned during the week. My lunch was two cheese-on-rye sandwiches at 5 cents each with plenty of mustard and a big orange for 5 cents. Corey's always had hot peanuts in the machine in front of the store for a nickel a bag. That peanut machine is on display in the window of Coal River Insurance office. I even had money left to go to the movie on Saturday for 11 cents. Those were happy days and I often think about them. As I remember I had a 50 lb. lard can full of "aggies" in my collection at that time.

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*” (\$50)

“*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*” (\$25)

“*Upper Kanawha Valley Cemeteries*” (\$30)

“*History of St. Albans*” (DVD Video) (\$20)

“*Coal, Steamboats, Timber and Trains*” (\$40)

HOBOES AT THE MOUTH OF COAL RIVER

Around the age of 8 or 9 years old, around 1920, I would visit the Hoboes when they would congregate at the mouth of Coal River to take a much needed bath and also wash their clothes. They would cook up a beef stew of "slumgulleon". First they would detail someone to go to Miller's Meat Market on Main Street and get a large soup bone, a few chunks of beef and some suet, as well as a 50 pound lard can. They bought several cans of vegetables and all the stale bread available there. I would make my contribution by going home and sneaking potatoes, onions and anything I could get away with. They always needed salt. I had to supply my own spoon. They served the stew in tin cans. I thought it was the best I had ever eaten, which was not true. The novelty of it was an experience I will never forget.

By: Glenn T. Miller (stories from around 1918-20)
“*St. Albans History*”, pg. 173.



U.S. Senator William Edwin Chilton (1858-1939)

Born March 17, 1858 in Coalsmouth, Va., U.S. Senator William Edwin Chilton became an important businessman in Charleston. He attended Shelton College in St. Albans. He was a teacher, politician and a lawyer. He expanded the electric streetcar system in the Kanawha Valley and became publisher and editor of the Charleston Gazette. He attended Shelton College in St. Albans, WV.

He became chairman of the state Democratic Party in 1892 and helped engineer the election of his friend, William A. MacCorkle, as governor. MacCorkle then appointed Chilton to WV secretary of state (1893–97). Chilton was U.S Senator from 1911-1917. He lost in the Senate elections of 1917, 1924 and 1934. He ran the Gazette after his loss in 1917. His birth home still stands today; called the Chilton House, it is home to a fine restaurant, Angela's on the River (ca. 1857) and it was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1977. It was moved that year to its present location when the Post Office was constructed.

“WV Encyclopedia” and Charleston Gazette, March 10, 2020

Abraham Lincoln Facts:

- He disliked being called “Abe” He preferred being called “Lincoln”
- He did not have a law degree, though he practiced law. He only had about 18 months of formal law schooling.
- He was an accomplished wrestler as a young man. He is in the National Wrestling Hall of Fame.
- He was the first elected president to be born outside of the original 13 colonies. (Hodgenville, Ky).
- Lincoln was also a patent holder and bartender. He once owned a business called the Berry & Lincoln General Store and Tavern in Illinois.
- He was the first president with a beard.

Alban Theater placed on the WV Historic Theater Trail

The Alban Arts and Conference Center (Alban Theater - ca. 1937) has joined 27 other WV historic theaters. It was placed on this list in 2018. All of the theaters are on the National Register of Historic Places. The trail is a statewide thematic tour encompassing both cinemas and/or live performance venues. The trail promotes the recognition, rehabilitation and continued operation of our state's historic theaters for the enjoyment of the public.

The Alban Arts and Conference Center is one of 27 building on St. Albans Main Street Historic District. It is eligible for historic funding through several agencies and is owned by the City of St. Albans.

The first movie to play there in 1938 was "Ebb Tide". The movie house was advertised as "a new and modern theater entirely in keeping with the progressive spirit of St. Albans". It features neoclassical styling inside and out and at the time offered 500 seats. In 1970, the theater became part of then Cinema South chain. It stopped showing movies in the late 1970's. It served as a church for the Jehovah Witness for 20 years. They kept it in excellent condition and in 2007 it was purchased by the City of St. Albans for \$175,000, and with some renovation it became The Alban Arts and Conference Center. It was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2000 by the St. Albans Historical Society.

Today, the nonprofit center puts out a half dozen community productions every year. It also conducts the Alb an Arts Academy, offering children's classes on a number of subjects. We appreciate Adam Bryan and Marlette Carter and their fine board of directors for an excellent job

See more about the WV Historic Theater Trail at www.wvhistorictheaters.com



"Historical Society to Build Headquarters"

By Ben Calwell, from the Metro West, November 13, 1996

Construction started on the William P. Burdette Memorial Building next to the train depot in St. Albans. The new building, which will be completed sometime in December, will be the headquarters of the St. Albans Historical Society.

William Burdette, a former high school teacher and pharmacist for St. Albans, died in 1994. His widow, Bettie Burdette, donated \$45,000 to the society for the new building. The 24' x 40' structure will have a meeting room, kitchen, storage room and a restroom, said Carol Graley Graley, vice president of the society. Through the years, the society has been without a home. It has met at the St. Albans Public Library, at the home of various members, and recently at the renovated train depot. Burdette's donation will fund the entire cost of the building. The new building will be located on the site of the old freight warehouse. It will look pretty much like the depot.

Burdette said the building will be a tribute to her husband, who had an interest in St. Albans history and was a member of the society. "I really wanted to do something in his memory. He'd shudder if he knew I was spending that money, but this is my money, and I'll do what I want to do." Mrs. Burdette said with a smile.

Once the building is finished and the society's files are moved in from various member's homes, it could become a research center. "School children and others can come there and research St. Albans history," Graley said. The building will house historical materials and photos, related to St. Albans and donated to the society.

"We have a lot of things that people have given us or that each of us (members) has collected, but they are at my house, your house or their house," said society president Mary Ann Lewis. Graley hopes that interested citizens will donate other items, such as tables, chairs, refrigerator, stove and maybe a computer. "We don't have a budget. Our only fund raisers are the Christmas Homes Tour and the "St. Albans History" book," she said. The Society is planning a dedication ceremony after the building is finished.

Note: Grand Opening was held in April, 1997.