

Hampshire County Historical Society

1996

Newsletter

Forth Quarter

THE REV. CHRISTY SINE

Christy Sine was born July 5, 1798, in York County, PA. He died April 14, 1858, on Timber Ridge. He was the son of William and Margaret Christy Sine.

Christy Sine was a pioneer preacher for the Disciples Church in Hampshire and Frederick County, VA. He started preaching in the late 1820's. In 1821, he was ordained a deacon and on April 29, 1822, he accepted the call to the ministry.

Sine first came to Hampshire County in 1823. He walked 17 miles from Alleghany County, MD, to Springfield, VA (now WV). His first sermon was at Springfield. This sermon was interrupted by a Methodist preacher, Mr. Newman. The next morning, he escaped to Peter Aller's home on Branch Mountain.

The next day Sine walked fifteen miles to the home of 'Brother Hawkins' on Sandy Ridge. The next Sunday, Sine preached at the meeting house on Sandy Ridge. This was the beginning of the Disciples of Christ and Christian denominations in the area. A year later the meeting house was called the school house on Sandy Ridge. It was located near the top of Sandy Ridge where Cold Stream Road crosses the mountains between Capon Bridge and Slanesville, WV.

In this early time, church services were often held in private homes on any day of the week. His favorite meeting places were at Abraham Kackley's, just east of Smokey Hollow and George Kerns' in Frederick County. Rev. Sine wrote in his journal that the home of Abraham Kackley was the most congenial home in eastern Hampshire County. The house still stands today on Route 50 about one mile east of Capon Bridge.

Sine founded many places of worship in Hampshire County. Among them were: Concord Meeting House near Yellow Spring (on C.C.C. Retreat Road at Lehew, WV); Christian Meeting House of Timber Ridge (now the Timber Ridge United Church of Christ); Rogers schoolhouse at Bear Garden Mountain near Bloomery; and the meeting house at Parks' Valley.

In the 1820's and 1830's, he was an itinerant preacher. Since he had no fixed income, he depended on the generosity of the local residents for lodging, and possessions. He usually walked from commitment to commitment. Sometimes, however, for longer trips he would borrow a horse.

On August 22, 1823, he held a camp meeting on Timber Ridge, in Hampshire County. This campground was later known as 'Larricks' and was in a grove of trees east of the Timber Ridge Christian Church.

In 1825, he went to Winchester Courthouse to get a license to perform marriages. He was licensed as a minister of the Christian Church and posted a bond of \$1,500 to the governor of Virginia. He was the second person to be licensed as a Christian denomination preacher. The first was Rev. Joseph Sidebottom on July 3, 1809.

(See REV. SINE on Page 2)

GENEALOGY CORNER

PATRICIA A. PITTMAN, of 6131 N. 8th Ave., Phoenix, AZ 85013-1405 is searching for ancestors in the Hampshire County area. Family names listed are See, Barrett, Jacobs, Hart, and Fogel. Contact Patricia if you have any information.

DEBBIE DRIVER of 104 Massie Lane, Stephens City, VA 22655 is trying to contact descendants of Thomas and Margaret Racey. Debbie would be grateful for any assistance.

BOB BOWMAN of 2133 42nd St., N.W., Rochester, MN 55901 has relatives in Hampshire County. Some family names include Arnold, Barnes, Corbin, French, Pownell, Sheetz, and Ruckman. He would like to exchange information on these families.

KARL J. PARRISH of 3211 Romilly Rd., Wilmington, DE 19810-3435 sent a query to us; it is as follows: Joseph Parrish paid taxes (in Hampshire County) in 1782. Joshua Parrish paid taxes in 1788. In 1783 and 1793 a Joseph and Joshua Parrish were in the Bedford County PA Militia. Were they related and are they the same people who paid taxes in this county in 1782 and 1788? If you have any information on this, please contact Mr. Parrish.

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

THE REV. SINE

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Rev. Sine preached all over the counties of Loudoun, Frederick, Morgan, Shenandoah, Fauquier, Rockingham, Monogalia, Brooke and others of old Virginia. He made trips to Maryland and Pennsylvania. His traveling companions were Enoch Harvy and Rev. Robert F. Ferguson and later Rev. Simon Ward.

He practiced tolerance in a period when many people were intolerant.

Rev. Sine was one of the most influential ministers in this area. He dedicated 35 years to the service of God. His last years as minister were spent at Ebenezer Christian Church, Gore, VA.

The Rev. Sine married three times. His first wife was Margaret Kackley, daughter of Abraham and Christina Whissen Kackley. They were married on May 15, 1825. Margaret was born May 16, 1805, and she died December 25, 1839, probably of childbirth. Both she and Rev. Sine are buried at Timber Ridge Christian Church. They had seven children.

Second, Rev. Sine married Nancy Murphy on June 25, 1840. She was the daughter of Thomas Murphy. She was born March 11, 1815, and died November 15, 1851, probably of childbirth. They had seven children.

Third, he married Cassandra Fletcher, daughter of James and Catherine Ullery Fletcher. They were married on June 6, 1852. Cassandra was born June 29, 1823, and died December 27, 1914. She is buried at Ebenezer Christian Church, Gore, VA. They had three children.

For anyone who would like to read the unpublished journal of Rev. Christy Sine, it can be found at the library in Winchester. It tells of his ministry, gives names of residents of Hampshire and Frederick Counties, and gives descriptions of weather and distances between residences.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Tuesday, February 18 • 7 p.m.

HCHS meeting at Capon Chapel Church.

March 22

12:30 pm Food Licn lot Romney
Foxes Hollow field trip scheduled for March with Earl Doman as guide and narrator.

Sunday, April 13 • 12 noon

North River field trip - meet at the swinging bridge at 12 noon. We will be visiting Civil War graves, Sedan School and community, North Texas School and Coffman's Grove and having a snack at Rio. Eldora Parks will be a narrator.

LOCAL ARTIST DEBUTS CIVIL WAR PRINT

Holly House Graphics, with artist Dennis Shoemaker, is pleased to announce a new pen and ink print of various structures in and around Romney as viewed by General Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson and his "Stonewall Brigade" when they took the town January 14, 1862. Most of these buildings and structures are no longer standing, and Jackson would find Romney greatly changed after one hundred and thirty-five years.

The print, measuring 18" x 23-1/2", shows "Stonewall" Jackson astride his horse "Little Sorrel" in a center oval. Below this large oval is a ribbon banner with the print title and two crossed cannons and swords with a cannonball stack. At the very top of the print is "Stonewall" Jackson's Headquarters. It was built in 1860 by John B. White after his mansion burned in 1857. Jackson stayed there after he and his troops marched into Romney and today this lovely home is called "Liberty Hall".

Also featured are:

The Keller Inn which was constructed after 1800 as a tavern building for travelers and even served as a military headquarters for Jackson. It was torn down in 1913.

(See LOCAL ARTIST on Page 3)



MANY THANKS & THE WINNER IS....

I would like to extend my thanks to all who helped with the tables at the county fair and the craft show at Capon Bridge, and to our friends and neighbors who showed their support at these functions. The last of the chances for the homemade quilt was sold at Capon Bridge. The drawing was held December 15, 1996. The winner was WESLEY CORBIN of Springfield, WV.



Bob Smith Placing Bows



Festooning the Balcony



Decoration of 1996 Christmas Tree

CHRISTMAS AT THE COURTHOUSE

Hampshire County Historical Society members met at the Courthouse on Friday evening, December 6, 1996, for the annual "hanging of the greens" and decoration of the Christmas tree. Vice-President Bob Smith, assisted by member Paula Nesmith, supervised the placement of greenery, pine cones, and red velvet bows along the stairways, while President Karen Ripoli, assisted by other members, decorated the Christmas tree. Junior members, Adam Hiatt and Jennifer Ripoli, directed by member Martha Bloom, draped greenery and bows on the wrought iron balcony on the upper level. Wreaths of fresh greens crafted by Helen McCracken festooned the double doors and photos were taken by a roving reporter/member.

A table, well laden with several goodies, materialized to feed this hard-working group of elves. The Christmas spirit along with the scent of mulled cider permeated the Courthouse as the Society members continued the tradition of "Christmas in Olde Hampshire".

LOCAL ARTIST

(Continued from Page 2)

The Wirgman Building, which was built by William Vance in 1825 to house the Bank of the Valley of Virginia, served as the home of every bank established in Romney until it was demolished in 1965. It was often used as a military prison during the Civil War, and in 1862, Lt. John Blue, who often served as a spy for Jackson, escaped from this building by knocking out his guard, donning a Union uniform, and calmly walking westward out of town to safety.

The Brady House, which was beside the Wirgman Building on Main Street, was constructed in the early 1800's by Samuel D. Brady and served in later years as the Department of Public Assistance and even as a gift shop before it was torn down in 1965.

The Presbyterian Church on Rosemary Lane was built in 1860 and was used as a hospital and stable during the Civil War.

The old Romney Courthouse was the second of three courthouses constructed on "Courthouse Square" and opened in 1833. The present courthouse was opened in 1922.

The covered bridge on the old Northwestern Turnpike helped visitors cross the South Branch of the Potomac and was built on or around 1830. The old sketch of troops during the war crossing this bridge to reach Romney served as a model for Mr. Shoemaker.

This limited edition print is available at the Alpine Cafe, Anderson's Corner, or by contacting the artist at Holly House Graphics, 566 W. Main Street, Romney, WV 26757.

Hampshire County Historical Society YEARLY MEMBERSHIP

Name _____

Street _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

\$10 Individual \$18 Couple \$35.00 Organizations

Members Receive Quarterly Newsletter, Field Trips and Tours



Troops at 1996 Cedar Creek Re-enactment

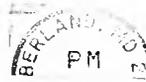


Cannon at 1996 Cedar Creek Re-enactment

MEMBERSHIP

Hampshire County has an abundance of historical facts and sites. The Historical Society is trying to assemble and record its history. We welcome new members to participate in this important undertaking. Check with friends and neighbors to see if they would like to become part of Hampshire County Historical Society.

**Hampshire County
Historical Society**
Post Office Box 549
Augusta, West Virginia 26704



**MEMBERSHIP DUE DATES WILL BE
DUE IN JANUARY OF EACH YEAR.**
HCHS, P.O. Box 549, Augusta, WV 26704
Thank you for your prompt attention.