

The Historical Society  
Its recent outing and visit to  
Virginia points.

On Thursday morn-  
ing, June 13<sup>th</sup> a party the members  
of the Historical Society of Frederick,  
in imitation of its Secretary, whose  
intellectualty induced research,  
and whose abiding habit of be-  
stowing pleasure on others is pro-  
verbial, seized an opportune day  
to make an excursion to the  
valley of Virginia. The party consisted  
of Mrs Ritchie, Mrs Francis Hewish, Smith,  
Mrs Mackreiner, Mrs Cameron, Mr Charles  
H. Hoffman, Mr & Mrs Baker, Johnson, Miss  
Eleanor Potts, Mr Richard Potts, Mr Gill and  
Master Roger Nelson Ritchie. The conveyance used  
was a huge covered wagon, equipped with  
four handsome bay horses, two of which can  
frequently be seen in advance of Mr Hoff-  
man's carriage, traversing the County in  
search of Historic lore. Two skilled whips  
Mrs! Spenseller and Merkle, held the reins.  
The course towards Harper's Ferry was by the  
Jefferson road and there was much enjoy-  
ment in the contemplation of the beautiful  
views of that region, then in

the full radiance of the leafy month of June  
The route from Harpersville to the Ferry was  
especially beautiful, bounded on one side  
by an apparently, continuous village, teeming  
with busy life and on the other by the silver  
waters of the Potomac, with its wealth of romantic  
scenery. About midday the Ferry was reached,  
where a halt was made for luncheon and al-  
together the inspection of the collection of Wax relics  
and Curios of Mr. Albertus Spencer. Mr. Spencer  
had recently erected a special building on  
the Maryland side, for the accommodation  
of his treasures and here he always welcomed  
and entertains tourists with his accustomed  
courtesy and hospitality. After several hours  
spent at this point our tourists continued their  
course through Halltown, Charlestown (the coun-  
ty seat) and Lecton, winding up at "Rose Hill"  
the beautiful residence of Wm. H. Strader Esq,  
President of the Charlestown Bank where they had  
been especially invited. Mr & Mrs Strader with their  
family met the party at the foot of the lawn  
and a warm welcome was extended. The  
host and hostess were in the atmosphere  
of Virginia, hospitality were not the least des-  
serving at the formidable invasion of  
more than thirteen persons and the entire party  
soon found themselves comfortably installed  
in their attractive home. The following morn-  
ing after a most substantial breakfast the party  
started again on their historical re-visit  
passing the old Hapwell Mill property with  
its famous dam, and finally reaching the "Powers"  
with its superb entourage. The residence of the Ox-  
bridge family, the surrounding land at one pe-  
riod has been owned by General Adam Stevens  
of Revolutionary fame, and the

homestead is still in possession of his descend-  
ant Mr. Samuel Parnell Dandridge. This spa-  
cious mansion for more than a century has  
been the centre of much hospitality and enter-  
tainment but with the disaster that has ac-  
tuated many old Virginia families, about  
a year since it was consumed by fire.  
Mr. & Mrs. Dandridge could not however  
be driven from the home of their ancestors,  
and the house has recently been re-built,  
the architecture of the old home being en-  
tirely preserved. The mansion stands on  
the banks of the Lopegan, and it is surrounded  
by a Park of many acres the mighty primeval  
oaks reminding one of some of the famous  
English estates. On the broad piazza that  
bright morning were gathered the family to  
welcome the travellers as in "ye olden times"  
and fair maidens dispensed refreshments with  
a grace for which Virginia has been noted  
far and near. It was a regret to leave this  
charming spot, but after taking photographs  
viewing the way was open to "Lecton," the former  
residence of General Charles Lee, whose strange ex-  
periences during the war of the Revolution had been  
the subject of much Historical Controversy.  
The house is an antique stone mansion  
now tenanted by a family named Watson,  
who attended every courtesy in their power.  
Among the curiosities still retained in the  
abode is a copy of General Lee's will, and  
peculiar traditions still honor around the  
abiding place of this remarkable man. A letter  
in the handwriting of General Charles Lee, dated  
Berkeley June ye 20<sup>th</sup> 1780 in which he depicts  
the Army being in South Carolina, with General

Her father Gates in command and is especially  
severe on Mrs Gates whom he designated as a  
"demoness" it is within the reach of the Histo-  
rial Society of Frederick, The home of Judge  
Balch, well remembered in Frederick was  
passed, and also an ancient grave yard  
where many of the family of the present gen-  
eration are distrest. The approach of the  
dinner hour now led the company back  
to Rose Hill where in true Virginia fashion  
the table groined with generous viands.  
After dinner the road was taken to Gravelers  
Rest the former residence of General Heratio  
Gates the hero of Saratoga and in 1780 had  
a command in South Carolina. This His-  
torical estate is the property of Mr Isaac H.  
Studer. The old stone mansion is situated on  
a knoll and though presenting the appearance  
of decided antiquity is in excellent repair. At  
the foot of the lawn fronting the house, was  
be found one of those copious springs of water  
so frequently met with in that vicinity. The  
family occupying the house were excellent  
in their attentions to their guests, and as it  
was "Flag day" the "Star Spangled Banner" was  
sung to the music of the piano. A return brought  
the guests back to supper, after which, after which  
the evening was spent in music, recitations and  
games. The following morning found us en-  
thusiastic tourists homeward bound over  
the Shepherdstown turnpike. A most lovely sunrise  
never gladdened the heavens, and after breakfast  
the party started, fresh, refreshed in spirit, and with  
greatful remembrances of kindness and hospi-  
tality every where shown in them, especially  
at the hospitable hosts of Rose Hill. Mr & Mrs Studer  
at Shepherdstown a brief halt was made to inquire  
further about the first steamboat that was  
at afloat there by James

Remsey. Soon after leaving the porch the  
the approach to the Antietam National Cemetery  
was reached and its wealth of beauty thoroughly  
enjoyed by all. While there walking in its velvet  
success attention was directed to the singular & the  
memories of the Park in their displays with  
wonderful business high in the heavens.  
Later a stop was made at Brown's bridge  
to refresh the horses and a further on the party  
lunched at the Cool Spring on the slope of  
South Mountain, from the beautiful prodigious  
was supplied by the hostess of Rose Hill.  
Last but not least the mountain home of  
Mrs Pahlgren was reached where the party  
was received by Mrs Pahlgren with  
her accustomed grace. Near by is a  
Chapel which might justly be consid-  
ered an adornment in any metropo-  
lis which was created by Mrs Pahlgren  
with a view to devotional exercises.

Then as the way was sped over the  
mountain each and all in the con-  
templation of a speedy return to his  
penoted a vote of thanks went forth  
"uttered not, but comprehended" to the  
projector of this charming outing,  
to Mr Charles W. Hoffman our efficient  
Secretary, whose chief happiness  
consists in dispensing pleasure to  
those around him.