

West Virginia Archives & History NEWS

VOLUME VI, No. 11 JANUARY 2006



WEST VIRGINIA
DIVISION OF
CULTURE & HISTORY

From the Editor:

Since the Archives and History Library is located in Kanawha County, public libraries in this area have wisely chosen not to duplicate materials and effort in genealogy collections that they know we already have. Consequently, people who want to research Kanawha County come to us, making them a larger portion of our patronage than people who want to research any other single county. Consequently, our staff probably is more familiar with the content and quirks of Kanawha County microfilmed records than we are for other counties' records, resulting in more frequent mentions of Kanawha records in the newsletter. If you are aware of problems and oddities with records in your county, please contact me with the details. I'll be very glad to write about them.

Kanawha County Marriages Microfilm Problems

Depending on the time period and the preservation of county records over the years, a marriage or intent to marry potentially could be recorded in three ways: marriage bond, marriage license and marriage return. A note from a parent or guardian giving permission for a person to be married, either attached to or loosely inserted in the appropriate pages of the marriage record book, may also be found. At

Although Kanawha County marriage records are confusing enough in themselves, what with overlapping or missing documents, and at least one mis-labeled register, errors made in the organization of materials for

filming at the Kanawha County Courthouse in 1967 further complicate locating records on the resulting roll of microfilm.

*A Register of Free Negroes was
Continued on the next page*

*Kanawha County Marriages
GSU Microfilm Reel 521719,
West Virginia-2, Roll 7,
Kanawha County Box 88,
County Microfilm Collection,
West Virginia Archives and
History Library*

least one type of marriage record, usually the minister's return (a statement by the minister that he performed the marriage between said bride and groom on what date) appears to have survived for all Kanawha County marriages.

Certified Historic Preservation Community Program Initiated

The West Virginia Division of Culture and History has announced a program that will enable cities, counties and towns throughout the state to become certified historic preservation communities. The West Virginia Certified Historic Preservation Community designation is for communities that have taken steps to ensure the preservation and promotion of historic resources. To be eligible for the honorific designation, a community must demonstrate involvement in heritage education through its historic resources; have a local preservation plan, historic landmark commission or design review ordinance; and demonstrate promotion of its historic assets.

For additional information or an application packet for the program, contact Chris Knorr, State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), (304) 558-0240, Ext. 156. Applications also may be printed from the *Historic Preservation Forms and Applications* page of the SHPO Web site at <http://www.wvculture.org/shpo/forms.html>. SHPO will review the completed applications and will forward successful applications to the West Virginia Archives and History Commission for final approval. A similar program for the arts, West Virginia Certified Arts Community (CAC), has been created as well. For

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mistakenly included with the group of marriage records, and was not listed in the roll's contents during or after filming. Most problematic is that the *Register of Free Negroes*, itself in two parts with a separate index for each section, was mixed with parts of *Marriage Records, 1794-1826*. I hope to lessen the confusion of the user by first identifying the actual records filmed on the roll, then listing the records, or portions of those records, in order of appearance on the roll. The title pages inserted by the Genealogical Society of the Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter Day Saints (GSLDS) are identified, and record titles are in bold type.

Records Filmed

- **Register of Free Negroes**, Entries numbered 1 through 149, dated 1829-1857.
- **Index to Register of Free Negroes**, for entries numbered 1 through 68.
- **Index to Register of Free Negroes**, for entries numbered 69 through 149.
- **Marriage Records, 1794-1826**, minister's returns, with index.
- Typed transcriptions of **Marriage Records, 1794-1826**, and its index.
- **Marriage Records, 1816-1850**, minister's returns, with index. Note: Ledger itself is stamped 1816-1843.
- **Marriage Records, 1850-1867**, both licenses and returns, with no index. Note: **Colored Marriages, 1866-67**, are recorded at end of this volume.
- **Marriage Records, 1867-1875**, both licenses and returns for 1867 through 1872, and licenses only for 1873-75, with no index. Note: only *one* entry for 1875.
- **Loose note** reporting the finding of **stray hogs**, including their description and appraised value, to the County Clerk, a requirement for

subsequent intent to keep unclaimed stray livestock found on one's property.

Order of Appearance on Microfilm Roll

GSLDS title page: Marriage Records

- [No document title page or other identifier.] An index to the second section of the **Register of Free Negroes**, for entries 69-149.
- [No document title page or other identifier.] **Register of Free Negroes**, entries 1-68, dated 1829-47.
- Handwritten title page: "**Register of Free Negroes, 1829 to 18__.**"
- Index page beginning with "Alistock, Michael, page 1." [This is the index to the first part of the **Register of Free Negroes**, entries 1-68.]
- [No document title page or other identifier.] Index page beginning with "add'l B" and "add'l C." [This is the index to **Marriage Records, 1794-1826**. The pages are not in proper order—these are "additional" entries.]
- **Marriage Records, 1794-1826**.
- Blank pages, followed by dark colored page, or possibly book board.
- [No document title page or other identifier.] **Register of Free Negroes**, entries 69-149, dated 1829-1857.
- Note regarding **stray hogs**.

GSLDS title page: Marriage Records,

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- (1) The reprint is not used for commercial purposes, and (2) the following notice appears at the end of the reprinted material: Previously published in *West Virginia Archives and History News*, [Volume and issue numbers], [Month, Year], a publication of the West Virginia Division of Culture and History.
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1794-1826

- Record book cover stamped "Kanawha County **Marriage Record, 1794-1826.**"
- Typed transcription of the index to **Marriage Records, 1794-1826**, beginning with "Alsbury, Thomas, page 2."
- Typed transcription of **Marriage Records, 1794-1826**.

GSLDS title page: Marriage Records, 1816-1843

- Ledger cover labeled "**Marriage Record, 1816-1843**, Kanawha County." Note: Records actually continue into 1850.
- First index pages that appear in this volume all have entries with higher page numbers, with highest page number entered being page 157. Beginning on page 157, entries of minister's returns, whether for one marriage or for several, are numbered by minister's report. The first list on page 157 is for 1845 marriages, mixed in with 1847 marriages. On page 171 is a note by the clerk stating: "The foregoing list is filed among the returns of 1850 recorded in New Book." Similar notes appear following most of the subsequent entries in this ledger.

GSLDS title page: Marriage Records, 1827-1902

[Note: No records follow this page, which was an error.]

- "Correction" notice page.

GSLDS title page: Marriage Records, 1850-1867

- Ledger cover labeled "**Marriage Record, 1850-67**, Kanawha County."
- **Colored Marriages, 1866-67**, recorded at end of volume.

GSLDS title page: Marriage Records, 1867-1875

- Ledger cover labeled "**Marriage Record, 1867-75**, Kanawha County."
- There is only one entry for 1875.

If you know of similar problems

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 with any microfilmed county records,
 please contact Susan Scouras, at
 (304) 558-0230, Ext. 742, or at
 susan.scouras@wvculture.org, with
 the details.

Carpet Installation in The Cultural Center

The carpeting in The Cultural Center
 is being replaced now through
 January 2006. We anticipate closing
 the Archives and History Library
 sometime in January for an as yet
 undetermined number of days. Most
 staff will be relocated elsewhere in
 the building during the installation
 but will be available by telephone and
 e-mail. Please check our Web site at
<http://www.wvculture.org/history> or
 call (304) 558-0230 before visiting to
 verify which facilities and offices will
 be open on a given date.

Correction

The December issue of *Archives and
 History News* mistakenly listed the
 2005 International Symposium on the
 History of the Oil Industry in the
 "Calendar of Events." The infor-
 mation printed was for the gathering
 held last April in Morgantown, not for
 the 2006 symposium. We regret the
 error.

Archives and History News
 is available on the
Archives and History Web site
[http://www.wvculture.org/history/
 ahnews.html](http://www.wvculture.org/history/ahnews.html)

"Certified" continued from page 1
 more information or to request an
 application packet, contact Richard
 Ressmeyer, Arts Section, at (304)
 558-0240, Ext. 721. Applications for
 CAC designation may be printed from
 the Arts Web site at [http://
 www.wvculture.org/arts/grants.html](http://www.wvculture.org/arts/grants.html).

Calendar of Events

Please check our web site (<http://www.wvculture.org/history>)
 for genealogical and historical society meeting announcements,
 and for more complete information on activities listed below.

NEW YEAR'S EVE, SATURDAY, December 31:

Archives Library will be *closed*.

**NEW YEAR'S HOLIDAY, MONDAY,
 January 2, 2006:** Archives Library will be *closed*.

MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY, January 16:

Archives Library will be open.*

**2006 HISTORY DAY DISPLAY SPACE
 REGISTRATION DEADLINE, January 16.**

"DO SOCIAL ISSUE FILMS HAVE ANY INFLUENCE?,"

January 25: John Hoskyns-Abraham, Bullfrog Films, speaker,
 The Norman L. Fagan West Virginia State Theater,
 The Cultural Center, Charleston.

LINCOLN'S BIRTHDAY, February 12: No longer a
 West Virginia state holiday. All Archives and History offices and
 the Library will be open regular hours.

**"BEYOND THE RIVER: THE UNTOLD STORY OF
 THE HEROES OF THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD,
 THROUGH MUSIC AND WORDS," February 15:**

Ann Hagedorn, speaker, with music by Allen Schwartz,
 The Norman L. Fagan West Virginia State Theater,
 The Cultural Center, Charleston.

HISTORY DAY, February, 16, 2006:

The Capitol Complex, Charleston.

HISTORY HERO PROGRAM, February, 16, 2006:

The Norman L. Fagan West Virginia State Theater,
 The Cultural Center, Charleston.

PRESIDENTS' DAY, February 20: Archives Library will be open.*

**"WHEN MINERS MARCH: THE STORY OF COAL
 MINERS IN WEST VIRGINIA," March 22:**

William C. Blizzard, speaker, The Norman L. Fagan West Virginia
 State Theater, The Cultural Center, Charleston.

**Only the Archives Library will be staffed—all other Archives offices will be closed.
 The West Virginia Library Commission Library in the Cultural Center
 is closed weekends and all holidays.*

West Virginia Division of Culture and History
 The Cultural Center
 1900 Kanawha Boulevard East
 Charleston, WV 25305-0300

West Virginia
Archives & History
NEWS



We would love to hear from you.

Let us know what you find helpful in the newsletter, and what new topics you would like covered.

Contact *West Virginia Archives and History News* Editor Susan Scouras, (304) 558-0230, Ext. 742, or by e-mail: susan.scouras@wvculture.org.

Archives and History Staff

Fredrick Armstrong Director
Debra Basham Archivist (photographs, special collections)
Constance Baston Researcher (Veterans Memorial Archives)
Greg Carroll Historian (Civil War, Native American history)
Dick Fauss Archivist (microfilm and moving images collection)
Denise Ferguson County Records Archivist
Allen Fowler Special projects
Elaine Gates Library Assistant (microfilming and microfilm repairs)
Joe Geiger Assistant Director (Historian, Web page)
Ed Hicks Photographer (archival photography, darkroom)
Mary Johnson Historian (*West Virginia History*)
Terry Lowry Library Assistant (Civil War)
Cathy Miller Library Assistant (WV State documents, periodicals)
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Pat Pleska Manager of the Veterans Memorial Archives
Susan Scouras Librarian (cataloging, Kentucky, library collection, newsletter editor)
Jaime Simmons Library Assistant (records of the 1700's and early 1800's, Pennsylvania)
Bobby Taylor Library Manager
Nancy Waggoner Secretary
Volunteers Carolyn Conner, Bill Kelley, Shari Haywood, Angela Tolbert, Bob and Lucile Foster, John McClure, Carol de la Riva, Lorene Mullins, and Kellis and Virginia Gillespie

This newsletter is a publication of : The West Virginia Division of Culture and History