I hope your New Year’s resolutions or goals for the year 2014 include continuing education for yourself, particularly learning more about your family and about the times and places in which they lived. The West Virginia Archives and History Library and the Archives and History Web site (http://www.wvculture.org/history) provide many resources to help you achieve that goal. You can learn all about West Virginia Statehood, featuring the online exhibit of text and photos, “A State of Convenience.” Enjoy browsing through numerous historic photographs online, including Archives exhibits and collections. Visit the Archives Library and read local newspapers on microfilm or browse the contents of a Manuscript or Special Collection relevant to your interests. We guarantee you will not only learn something new but be thoroughly entertained in the process.

Positive Images of the State from the 1930s and 1940s to be Focus of January 7 Lecture

On January 7, 2014, Betty Rivard will present “The ‘Other’ West Virginia: Positive Images of the State from the 30s and 40s” at the Tuesday evening lecture in the Archives and History Library in the Culture Center in Charleston. The program will begin at 6:00 p.m. and is free and open to the public.

Rivard will present a sample of the photographs from her book New Deal Photographs of West Virginia, 1934-1943 (2012). The mission of the book is to show the predominately positive images that were produced by ten professional photographers who visited the state as part of the Farm Security Administration Project. Rivard, editor of the book, Continued on the next page
For Your Reference

A monthly column discussing the Reference Collection of the West Virginia Archives and History Library

West Virginia Blue Books

A full set of the eponymous West Virginia Blue Book is a staple of the Archives and History Library Reference Collection. First produced in 1916 in a blue cover, the comprehensive manual of West Virginia government was properly titled West Virginia Legislative Hand Book and Manual and Official Register until 1933 when the manual was officially given what had been its unofficial name for years, West Virginia Blue Book. Print volumes were published mostly annually up through Volume 90 in 2008. It was not published in 1932, 1988, 1990, 2009 and 2010. Volume 91 was published 2011. Two editions were issued the first year, the initial one in April 1916 and the other, a revised edition containing results of June 1916 elections, in October 1916.


Each Blue Book includes all local, county, state and federal office holders, employees and appointees, as well as statewide institutions and organizations. Other helpful information includes the state and federal constitutions, postal directories (and place names that are not post offices), county and municipal information, election results, statistics, historical data, census figures, broadcasting...

Continued on the next page
and print journalism directories, and much more. The official state bird, flower, tree, etc., are identified, beginning with the state flower, the *rhododendron maxima*, or Big Laurel, in Volume 1. Historical sketches of various aspects of the state are scattered throughout the set. One can find photographs of office holders and biographies of the executive, judicial and legislative branches of West Virginia state government, plus the United States president, members of the U.S. Congress representing West Virginia, and federal judges in odd-numbered years. While not all categories are covered in every edition, each volume is a font of knowledge about West Virginia that was current in its time but has become historical as time has passed.

Two other manuals are shelved with the *Blue Books*, but are not part of the series. One is the *Manual of the State of West Virginia for the Years 1907-1908*, issued by the Secretary of State, C. W. Swisher, in 1907. The format and information included is much the same as in the legislative manuals that followed almost a decade later. The other is a 1915 *Hand-Book of West Virginia*, edited by George Byrne, “compiled and published under the direction of the West Virginia Panama-Pacific Exposition Commission” in 1915. The *Hand-Book* is not as comprehensive concerning the political offices and government within the state, but as its subtitles declare, it describes “The State’s Wonderful Development, Its Natural Resources and Industrial Advantages,” and “Biographies of Prominent Citizens and Stories of Leading Business Institutions.” Even earlier versions of a legislative manual were included as part of legislative journals published after each session of the legislature, but not as separate books.

*Blue Books* have always been treasured by West Virginians and their descendants, both as snapshots of the state in a particular year, a guide to most things West Virginia, and as a resource for personal information on government officeholders and employees, even for simple listings of themselves or relatives in the staff directory portion of more modern editions.

### Parkersburg in the Civil War to be Discussed at January 23 Lecture

On January 23, 2014, Dr. Michael Workman will present “Parkersburg: Guardian of the Union” at the Thursday evening lecture in the Archives and History Library in the Culture Center in Charleston. The program will begin at 6:00 p.m. and is free and open to the public.

Workman will discuss the Civil War history of Parkersburg and Little Kanawha region. He will explain the key role that the town and its political leadership played in the statehood movement and then focus on guerrilla warfare in the Little Kanawha Valley. The B&O Railroad’s Parkersburg Branch formed the approximate border line between North and South in northwestern Virginia, so sentiment was divided in the Little Kanawha Valley. Rather than being a colorful sideshow, as it is often portrayed, this border war between Union forces and Confederate guerrillas was the war itself for most western Virginians.

Michael Workman earned a bachelor of arts degree in political science and his masters and Ph.D in history from West Virginia University. A historian for the Institute for the History of Technology & Industrial Archaeology at WVU for a number of years, he has been an assistant professor at West Virginia State University since 2010. Workman has written and published on labor, industrial, and West Virginia history. His latest manuscript is a study of the Civil War as it impacted Parkersburg and the Mid-Ohio Valley.

For planning purposes, participants are encouraged to register for the program, but advance registration is not required to attend. To register in advance, contact Robert Taylor, library manager, at Bobby.L.Taylor@wv.gov or at (304) 558-0230, ext. 163. Participants interested in registering by e-mail should send their name, telephone number and the name and date of the session. For additional information, contact the Archives and History Library at (304) 558-0230.

[This article originally was prepared by Mary Johnson for the Archives and History Web site based on information provided by Michael Workman.]
History Day at the West Virginia Legislature is February 13, 2014

Please join West Virginians from all over the Mountain State as they gather to celebrate and share the history and culture of the state with the West Virginia Legislature and the public on February 13, 2014, at the State Capitol Complex. The 2014 History Heroes will be honored in the Norman L. Fagan State Theater in the Culture Center in the morning, while historical and genealogical societies, preservation groups, historical house and museum supporters and others have displays in the State Capitol from 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. and costumed re-enactors roam the halls. View photos of History Day 2013 online at http://www.wvculture.org/history/archivesindex.aspx. Information on past History Heroes is posted at http://www.wvculture.org/history/hisher2013.html.

New Titles

- The Lost Village of Barboursville: Jeanette M. Rowsey, 2013.
- The Story of Woodbine Farm: W. D. Zinn, 1931.
- Folk-Songs of the South: John Harrington Cox, 2013, c1925.
- Out of Peel Tree: Laura Long, 2014.
The Birds of Pendleton County West Virginia: J. Lawrence Smith, 1970.
Kanawha Valley Ornithology & Handlan Chapter History: J. Lawrence Smith, 2002.

Gifts of William D. Wintz Family


Lincoln in the Telegraph Office: Recollections of the United States Military Telegraph Corps During the Civil War: David Homer Bates, 1907.

History’s Greatest War: A Pictorial Narrative: S. J. Duncan-Clark, 1919.

Gifts of John Lilly, Goldenseal Magazine
Shepherd University: Dorothy E. Hively, 2013.


Gifts of Mining Your History Foundation
The Name IS the Game: Onomatology and the Genealogist: Lloyd de Witt Bockstruck, 2013.
A Twentieth Century History of Trumbull County Ohio: A Narrative Account of its Historical Progress, Its People and Its Principal Interests: Volume I and Volume II (bound as one): Harriet Taylor Upton, 1909.
History of Summit County with an Outline Sketch of Ohio: William Henry Perrin, 1881.
Almost Heaven: Tales from the Good Old Days in Western West Virginia: (Hometown Memories series), compiled and edited by Todd Blair and Karen Garvey, 2013.

Check out Archives and History’s YouTube and Facebook Pages
http://www.youtube.com/user/wvarchivesandhistory
http://www.facebook.com/pages/West-Virginia-Archives-and-History/168933289812323

Archives and History Staff Changes
Congratulations to Debra Basham, Archives and History archivist, who now also serves as assistant director. Basham has been with the State Archives for 29 years. She will shepherd the 2014 West Virginia History Bowl competition this year as part of her duties.

Matthew McGrew was an Archives and History temporary employee before entering graduate school. In December we welcomed him as a cultural program coordinator. He will oversee the West Virginia Historical Highway marker program. McGrew will be assisting with the History Bowl in 2014, then assuming responsibility for it beginning with the 2015 event.

We are also happy to have Matthew Dailey, a volunteer for several months, as a new part-time employee. He will be scanning and microfilming documents.

Research Request Letters to the Archives Library
The West Virginia Archives and History Library accepts research requests by regular mail on a limited basis for a fee. A researcher may write a letter requesting two searches for specific records, obituaries, etc., for a non-refundable search fee of $15.00 for out-of-state residents or $5.00 for in-state residents, with each fee including the first $2.50 in copy costs ($.25 per photocopy and $.50 per microfilm copy). Fees for any oversize copies or state certificates will be added. Requests submitted without the required fee will be returned. Requests that are beyond the scope of our staff’s limited time will be returned also. Please allow four to six weeks for our reply, but feel free to check on

Continued on the next page
Karl Dewey Myers, W. Va.'s First Poet Laureate

The Winter 2013 issue of Goldenseal magazine, edited by John Lilly and published by the West Virginia Division of Culture and History, contains an article entitled “Remembering Karl Dewey Myers, West Virginia’s First Poet Laureate,” by Cindy Karelis. The West Virginia Archives and History Library has copies of one of his two published books of poetry, The Quick Years, West Virginia Publishing Company, 1926. Several of the poems reflect on war and the men who fought, especially those who gave their lives for the cause, such as “The Badge Paramount.”

Now these who wear no silver shoulder-bar,
Nor Croix de Guerre, nor silken ribbon, red,
Who only followed on where duty led,
Not spurring on the quest of sash and star,
What have these left, who sleep so very far?
Crosse of honor guarding each low bed,
And stars of gold, whose gleam, sublimely shed,
Shall fall consoling where life’s shadows are?

Nay, more than these; wherever springtime skies
Smile, and love’s emblematic gardens flower;
And children laugh through every golden hour,
And women walk with quiet in their eyes,
No more dishonored and no more afraid—
There is their laurel and their accolade.

Karl Dewey Myers

A Bit about Virgil A. Lewis, First State Historian and Archivist

Virgil Anson Lewis was the primary force behind the creation of the West Virginia Department of Archives and History in 1905, and was the first State Historian and State Archivist. Debra Basham, current assistant director/archivist, said of Lewis that the State Archives “was his life.” Author of a number of books and articles about West Virginia government and history, he had begun writing a semi-centennial history of West Virginia to celebrate and record the state’s first fifty years when he suffered heart problems in 1912. The following article appeared in the Huntington Herald-Dispatch on September 5, 1912.

SLIGHT IMPROVEMENT
Is Reported in Condition of Virgil A. Lewis, Who Has Been Very Ill For Some Time.

Mason City, W. Va., Sept. 4.—Physicians attending Prof. Virgil A. Lewis, state historian and archivist, who has been ill at his home here for the past two weeks or more, stated this morning that the condition of the patient is as favorable as can reasonably be expected and that he is
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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NEW YEAR’S DAY, January 1, 2014: Archives Library will be closed.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY, January 20: Archives Library will be closed.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DEADLINE FOR HISTORY DAY DISPLAY SPACE REQUESTS, January 22: Must be postmarked or hand-delivered to Archives and History by this date.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LIBRARY DAY AT THE LEGISLATURE, January 23: Capitol Complex, Charleston.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WINTER LECTURE SERIES: FRONTIER WOMEN, February 2: Debra Conner, presenter, Blennerhassett Museum of Regional History, Parkersburg.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HISTORY DAY AT THE LEGISLATURE, February 13: Capitol Complex, Charleston.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WINTER LECTURE SERIES: MATTHEW BRADY, February 16: Mark Holbrook, presenter, Blennerhassett Museum of Regional History, Parkersburg.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PRESIDENTS DAY, February 17: Archives Library will be closed.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WINTER LECTURE SERIES: HISTORICAL MUSIC JOURNEY, February 23: Scott Cain, presenter, Blennerhassett Museum of Regional History, Parkersburg.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6TH ANNUAL FESTIVAL OF NATIONS, March 15: Weirton Millsop Community Center, Weirton.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RITCHIE COUNTY GENEALOGY/HISTORY FAIR, March 29: Ellenboro.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Only the Archives Library will be staffed—all other Archives offices will be closed.</em></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The West Virginia Library Commission Library in the Culture Center is closed weekends and all holidays.

on a fair way to recovery. He rested well last night and is still a very sick man, but it is assured that he will recover fully if there be no complications, and such are not feared at this time.

All of Prof. Lewis [sic] trouble is with the heart, but its action today is considerably better than it has been for several days, and a continuous rest, with complete divorce from worry over business or professional matters are all necessary to a continuance of his improvement in health. But he has resigned himself to the charges made by the doctors and it is believed that he will follow instructions implicitly and within a few weeks will be permitted to return to the department at Charleston in which he takes so much pride.

Lewis was never able to return to work, and passed away on December 5, 1912. His occupation was listed as “State Historian, &c.” A portrait of Lewis and a quotation from his writings about the Archives are found at the head of the West Virginia State Archives home page, http://www.wvculture.org/history/wvsamenu.html. A bibliography of books and articles by and about Lewis that are available in the Archives and History Library are posted under his name in “Notable Individuals in West Virginia History,” http://www.wvculture.org/history/notewv/lewis.html. You may read the text of the Highway Historical Marker honoring him by entering “Virgil” and “Lewis” in the marker database at http://www.wvculture.org/history/wvmemory/hm.aspx.
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.c.scouras@wv.gov.
www.wvculture.org/history

Archives and History Staff

Joe Geiger ........................................................... Director
Debra Basham .................................................. Assistant Director/Archivist (photographs, special collections)
Jillian Barto ......................................................... Cultural Program Associate (county records preservation project)
Constance Baston ............................................. Cultural Program Associate (Project Access)
Kyle Campbell .................................................... Cultural Program Specialist (county records preservation project)
Matt Dailey ......................................................... Part time
Dick Fauss ........................................................ Archivist (microfilm and moving images collection)
Denise Ferguson ................................................ County Records Archivist
Allen Fowler ....................................................... Part time (special projects)
Elaine Gates ....................................................... Library Assistant
Ed Hicks .......................................................... Photo Archivist
Susan Holbrook ................................................ Secretary
Mary Johnson ................................................... Historian/Webmaster
Terry Lowry ....................................................... Historian (Veterans records, Civil War, Civil War medals)
Randy Marcum ................................................ Historian (map collection)
Matt McGrew ................................................... Cultural Program Coordinator (History Bowl, highway historic markers)
Cathy Miller ..................................................... Library Assistant (WV State documents)
Harold Newman ................................................. Library Assistant (microfilming)
Susan Scouras .................................................... Librarian (cataloging, library collection, newsletter editor)
Jaime Simmons ................................................ Library Assistant
Bobby Taylor ..................................................... Library Manager
Volunteers ........................................................ Carolyn Conner, Hayes Strader, Bill Kelley, James Wilburn, and Patricia Richards McClure

This newsletter is a publication of: The West Virginia Division of Culture and History
Randall Reid-Smith, Commissioner