The original purpose of West Virginia Archives and History News was to promote use of the Archives and History Web site. Back in 2000, Joe Geiger, then a historian and Webmaster for Archives and History, and Cathy Miller, recently retired library assistant and state documents collection guru, conned me into—excuse me, encouraged me to take on writing a monthly newsletter for the Archives and History section. The Web site was growing in content by leaps and bounds, but users were low in number. My colleagues thought a printed newsletter for those unfamiliar with the Internet, as most of our patrons were at that time, would serve well to guide patrons inside and outside the physical library to explore the Web site and to use its many resources for information on West Virginia history and genealogy.

As we begin to close out our 15th volume of the monthly print and online newsletter and switch to a quarterly e-newsletter, I thought it appropriate to focus again on our Web site. If you have problems with any of the links you will readily find the pages discussed using the “Explore Archives and History” links on the Archives and History homepage.

History of www.wvculture.org/history: Archives and History on the Web

The Archives and History Web site, part of the Division of Culture and History’s Web site, went online in June 1995. In the beginning the site had one page of links and a number of articles on various history and genealogy topics. In May 1998, Joe Geiger came on board as a historian and the new Webmaster. His first effort to organize the Web site was to create the “History Center” and “Genealogy Corner” sections. Geiger also switched the Webmaster’s focus from writing articles to placing primary sources online.

In an effort to bring people to the Web site on a daily basis, and to involve eighth grade students of West Virginia history, the “Daily Trivia” feature was added, http://www.wvculture.org/history/trivia/trivia.aspx. A natural progression from the daily questions on everything West Virginia-related was the development of “Quick Quizzes,” now grown to 198 different quizzes plus a county seats quiz. The Quick Quizzes are the primary means by which eighth graders study for the annual Golden Horseshoe exam (for more information "Web" continued on page 2

Greg Carroll to Discuss Slavery and Free People of Color on January 6

On Tuesday, January 6, 2015, Greg Carroll will present “Slavery and Free People of Color in Virginia” in the Archives and History Library of the Culture Center in Charleston. The program will begin at 6:00 p.m. and is free and open to the public.

Carroll will look at the political and legal lives of both slaves and free people of color. Slavery did not exist in western Virginia in anywhere near the numbers that it did in the east. In a few areas, such as the Eastern Panhandle and the Kanawha Valley, slaves were more numerous. The panhandle was primarily an agricultural area having more in common with its eastern neighbors than counties to the west. In the Kanawha Valley, slaves were mainly used in the salt industry and were the first to commercially mine coal in this area. Free people of color

“Carroll” continued on page 2
“Carroll” continued from page 1
were often freed slaves or mixed race people who were slowly being driven from the eastern Virginia counties by oppressive racial laws. This was especially true after Nat Turner’s Rebellion in 1831. These issues will be discussed and questions are invited.

Carroll has lectured on Native Americans, the Civil War, and slavery. A resident of Putnam County for 45 years, he worked as a historian at West Virginia Archives and History for 23 years before retiring in 2012. Carroll serves on the boards of West Virginia Citizen Action Group, the West Virginia Environmental Council, and the West Virginia International Film Festival.

On January 6, the library will close at 5:00 p.m. and reopen at 5:45 p.m. for participants only. 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 Greg Carroll.]

War Veterans’ Interviews Focus of Lecture
Eric Douglas presented the talk “West Virginia Voices of War: Oral Histories from West Virginia War Veterans” on November 6, 2014 (the Archives and History First Tuesday Lecture moved to Thursday due to Election Day). Douglas has produced a documentary entitled West Virginia Voices of War and written a book, Common Valor, on the same subject.

Anne Montague and “Rosies” Draw a Full House
A large and enthusiastic audience, including many students, attended “The West Virginia Rosie the Riveter Program: A Model for America” in the Archives and History Library on November 13, 2014. See photos of the Rosies and participants that evening at http://www.wvculture.org/history/workshops/2014novembergenclubB.html.

West Virginia Firearms
Jim Mitchell, West Virginia State Museum curator, showed 24 rifles and 15 pistols from the collection of the State Museum on November 21, 2014, during his presentation of “Firearms throughout West Virginia’s Early History.” With Clarence Craigo, also an employee of the Division of Culture and History, Mitchell discussed the characteristics and provenance of each piece as Craigo and several white-gloved assistants displayed the firearms. If you were not able to attend, you can view this and other West Virginia Archives and History presentations on our YouTube channel, https://www.youtube.com/user/wvarchivesandhistory.

“Web” continued from page 1
visit http://www.wvculture.org/history/wvmemory/goldenhorseshoe.html) and the annual West Virginia History Bowl competition (to learn more visit http://www.wvculture.org/history/historybowl.html).

The West Virginia Film History Project, creators of West Virginia, A Film History, a 6½ hour documentary, and The West Virginians, a half-hour film about individuals who have contributed to the history of the state, found themselves with a vast body of visual resources after the documentaries were completed and shown on West Virginia Public Television in 1995. In 1998, the Project and the State Archives made an agreement for the Archives to create an online finding aid for the approximately 2,000 historic still and moving picture images obtained from individuals and repositories throughout West Virginia, the United States and several foreign countries that were reviewed for inclusion in the project. Some 36 interviews and much scenic footage shot in West Virginia were part of the collection. Mary Johnson came on board to bring the database to life. The wealth of material ended up requiring three databases entitled Images, Transcripts and Inventory (http://www.wvculture.org/history/wvmemory/filmint.html).

The placement online of documents and photographs from the John Brown portion of the Boyd B. Stutler Collection (http://www.wvculture.org/history/wvmemory/imsintro.html) was a major achievement for Archives and History. The West Virginia State Archives acquired the collection of Boyd B. Stutler (1889-1970), a historian and John Brown collector, in 1977. In 1998 a National Leadership Grant was awarded to the Archives by the Institute of Museum and Library Services, enabling digitization of documents and images and creation of a searchable database for them.

“Web” continued on page 3
Genealogy Research Strategies To Be Focus of January 15 Program

On January 15, 2015, Randy Marcum will present “Genealogy Research Strategies” at the Thursday evening lecture in the Archives and History Library of the Culture Center in Charleston. The program will begin at 6:00 p.m. and is free and open to the public.

West Virginia Archives and History is filled with exciting collections from all over the state. Marcum will take family researchers beyond the three main records—birth, death, and marriage—which shed light on major events in a person’s life but only reveal part of that life. He will suggest ways of using the myriad other collections at Archives and History to fill in the blanks of family history. This lecture is an introduction to the 2015 West Virginia Archives and History Library Thursday genealogy evening workshops that will be presented on evenings other than the monthly Thursday lecture.

Marcum has lived most of his life in West Virginia; his family has lived in the Tug River Valley since the early 1800s. Tracing his family roots and associations along with their westward movement has been a lifelong passion. He is a graduate of the University of Rio Grande, Rio Grande, Ohio, and works at West Virginia Archives and History, where he is a historian. Marcum takes care of the map collection and also assists with the preservation cataloging of the Mountain State Railroad and Logging Association collections. He previously worked for the Records Management Preservation Board on the county records preservation project.

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 Randy Marcum.]
"Web" continued from page 3

statehood explained with narrative text, images, and links to primary documents and other resources available within the Archives and History Web site.

As a West Virginia Sesquicentennial Project, Child of the Rebellion (http://www.wvculture.org/history/wvmemory/index.html) went online in 2013, featuring a timeline of news and events for every day from January 1861 through May 1865. Terry Lowry, Archives and History historian and well-known Civil War writer and speaker, provided a bibliography of Civil War manuscripts, special collections and archival holdings on the Civil War (http://www.wvculture.org/history/sesquicentennial/archiveswholdings.html), and an annotated bibliography of selected Civil War books and pamphlets in the Archives and History Library.

In conclusion, the Archives and History section of the West Virginia Division of Culture and History Web site is a vital part of the services provided to all who would like to know more about all things West Virginia. The Web site has continued to grow, adding both new content to older categories and introducing new features. In conjunction with Archives and History’s online public access library catalog (http://archives.lib.wv.us/), the collection listings on the State Archives page (http://www.wvculture.org/history/wvsamenu.html), and the searchable databases in the Memory Project (http://www.wvculture.org/history/wvmemory/index.html), users have an expansive guide to the resources of the State Archives and the Archives and History Library.

[This article was written based on information provided by Joe Geiger, Debra Basham and Mary Johnson, and the West Virginia Archives and History Web site, www.wvculture.org/history.]

WVVRR Rolls Up 1914 Births and 1964 Deaths

The West Virginia Vital Research Records (VRR) database on the Archives and History Web site adds another year of searchable digitized birth and death records every January 1. Birth records are withheld from the Internet for 100 years, and death records for 50 years determined by the year of issuance.

On January 1, 2015, county birth records up through December 31, 1914, county death records and state death certificates through December 31, 1964, will be available. County marriage records do not have a withholding requirement and are available up through the last year microfilmed in each county (see “County Court Records,” http://www.wvculture.org/history/countrec.html). Date ranges of records included are posted by county on the search page for each type of record for your reference.

You will find the VRR database at http://www.wvculture.org/vrr/va_select.aspx. We recommend you read the Guide to Vital Research Project linked to the main search page to make the best and most efficient use of the database. You will also find “Quick Guides” to West Virginia birth, death and marriage records posted under Research Guides on the State Archives page, http://www.wvculture.org/history/wvsamenu.html. These guides are updated every January.

If you have questions about the VRR database or have trouble searching for a record, call the Archives and History Library Reference Desk at (304) 558-0230, ext. 168. If you find an error in a record or the transcription of a record for the database, use the link at the bottom of every page to e-mail Debra Basham with a description of the problem, or call her at (304) 558-0230, ext. 702. The Archives cannot change the record itself, even if it is incorrect, but it can cross-index the record in the database so a search will bring up both the original and corrected versions. It also will correct handwriting misinterpretation and typographical errors for the names, dates and transcription pages in the database.
History Day 2015

West Virginia History Day at the Legislature is February 19, 2015. Officially designated by the West Virginia Archives and History Commission and held annually during a session of the West Virginia Legislature, History Day is a celebration of the history of the Mountain State that brings together participants from all over the state. Representatives of historical, genealogical and preservation societies, as well as educational groups and historical sites, bring displays and literature to share with legislators, the public and each other. Many show historical photographs and artifacts, and others dress in period costume. Historical re-enactors strolling through the Capitol halls in character are always a highlight.

While most organizations in West Virginia are on the History Day mailing list and have already received a Display Space Reservation Form, it’s not too late for new organizations to participate. You will find a form on the History Day Web site at http://www.wvculture.org/history/historyday/historyday2015announcement.html. Whether for new or for returning organizations, the deadline for submission is January 26, 2015, with space assigned on a first-come, first-served basis. Don’t forget to include the name and complete contact information for your organization’s History Day contact person.

History Day is a fun and informative time for both participants and attendees. Networking is the word of the day for the organizations. Students of all ages, home-schoolers in particular, enjoy a day of history “made real” and of opportunities for hands-on, face-to-face learning. For more information about History Day, contact Mary Johnson, Archives and History, (304) 558-0230, ext. 133, mary.e.johnson2@wv.gov. If your organization has already sent in an application, but not received an acknowledgment from Johnson, contact her immediately.

**“From the Collections of the State Archives”**

The framed and captioned photographs hung in the Culture Center’s north hallway off the Great Hall, the West Virginia Archives and History Photo Gallery, are chosen from the Photograph Collection to follow a theme, sometimes a very specific one and sometimes a more loose one. The exhibit rotates on a three-to-six month basis, but may be displayed longer, particularly if the theme is relevant to anniversaries of historical events celebrated over an extended period. When the exhibit is changed, digital images of the old display are placed on the Archives and History Web site for all to learn and enjoy. Currently available in the online gallery:

1. John Brown
2. Schools
3. 1960 Primary
4. Civil War, 1861
5. Pic of the Week*
6. Mountain State Forest Festival
7. Civil War, 1862
8. Outdoors
9. Statehood
10. J. J. Young
11. Black History Month
12. Sports

*“Pic of the Week” is an Archives and History Web site feature that isn’t a regular weekly feature on the Web site, but archival photographer Ed Hicks frequently does choose an image to be posted on the Web site with an eye for good photography, historical interest, and unique or unusual subject matter. His choice is often spiced with his delightfully wry sense of humor. While there are 45 images in the Gallery display, including many Archives and History staff favorites, you can find these and 60 more at http://www.wvculture.org/history/picoftheweek/picsoftheweek1.html. More images will be added as time warrants.

Permission to reprint articles from West Virginia Archives and History News is granted, provided:
(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.
**Travelin’ West Virginia Audio/Video Clips Online**

More than 50 segments from the WCHS-TV News feature *Travelin’ West Virginia* with Sherri Solochek from 1983-1985 are available on the West Virginia Archives and History Web site at http://www.wvculture.org/history/recentsourcesonline.html. Solochek traveled around West Virginia, recording interviews with West Virginians who had interesting stories to tell and items to share. She also visited stores, hospitals, community centers and other sites with their own tales to tell. As they say about eating potato chips, you can’t watch just one! You’ll be eager to watch them all as the wide range of personalities, activities, history and culture to be found in West Virginia are revealed.

Interested in additional clips from news footage, documentaries, travel films, interviews and more? Visit our full library of online audio/video clips at http://www.wvculture.org/history/av.html. Other topics include clips of 1979 public service announcements from WPBY, such as “Soupy Sales for Highway Safety” and one about the speed limit featuring a “Smoky and the Bandit” spoof.

_Archives and History Audio/Video clips are chosen by archivist Richard Fauss, and edited and prepared for the Internet by Allen Fowler._

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**Genealogy Corner and Genealogy Surname Exchange**

Genealogy Corner, http://www.wvculture.org/history/genealog.html, was one of the first features of the Archives and History Web site. The Corner has links to helpful pages on the Archives and History Web site, such as a chart of West Virginia County formations, a transcription of early Virginia marriage laws, various research guides and Vital Research Records, as well as links to other Web sites useful for family history research, such as the U.S. GenWeb site for West Virginia.

The link at the top of the list is the Genealogy Surname Exchange, http://www.wvculture.org/history/surintro.html, where you will find an extensive list of surnames being researched by one or more of the 3,426 researchers listed on the site (as of November 24, 2014) with their contact information. Look for the surname you are interested in, take note of the numbers of the registered researchers, then go to the appropriate researcher list to find the researchers associated with those numbers. If you are interested in adding yourself to the researcher list, you will find a form at http://www.wvculture.org/history/surnform2.html that you can mail to Archives and History at the address listed, or e-mail to Joe Geiger at joe.n.geiger@wv.gov.

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**“Teacher Resources”**

The “Teacher Resources” page (http://www.wvculture.org/history/teacherresources.html) on the Archives and History Web site brings together resources located elsewhere on the site and packages them in a way that we hope will be useful to the education community. The site hosts links to 11 categories of suggested study and research materials available on the Archives and History Web site, as well as a section with lesson plans and exercises for classroom use. The “Primary Resources” section provides links to digital resources for 8th-grade West Virginia Studies History Clusters. The “Lesson Plans and Exercises” section opens with the statement: _The philosophy of Archives and History is to provide teachers and students with primary source documents and the tools to use them to further their teaching and study of West Virginia and United States history._ “Online Resources by County” provides basic facts.

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**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

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**Be Wise!**

**Search Voyager®**

Archives and History Library’s Online Public Access Catalog

Click the “Voyager Online Catalog” link on the Archives and History homepage or go to http://archives.lib.wv.us/.
"Teacher" continued from page 6 about each county, links to primary resources online for that county, links to relevant Civil War materials, photographs, secondary sources, audio-visual clips, and to biographies of veterans from that specific county in the Veterans Memorial Archives database. All educators should find this site useful when teaching a West Virginia-related topic.

[Information provided by Mary Johnson.]

**West Virginia History Bowl 2015 Schedule Set**

The West Virginia History Bowl 2015 regional schedule has been set and can be found at http://www.wvculture.org/history/historybowl/2015/2015historybowlschedule.html. Participation is open to public, private and home school programs for eighth grade students only. If you are not sure what region your local middle school is in, check the chart found at http://www.wvculture.org/history/historybowl/historybowlapplications.html.

We encourage all students to try out for their school teams (each school may bring two teams of four to the regional meets), and we encourage their communities to turn out to watch local and regional competitions to root for their youngsters and their schools, just as they would for athletic teams and show choirs. For more information about History Bowl, visit http://www.wvculture.org/history/historybowl.html, or contact Matt McGrew, (304) 558-0230, matt.mcgrew@wv.gov.

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**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 DAY, January 1, 2015:** Archives Library will be closed.

**MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY, January 19:** Archives Library will be closed.

**DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF HISTORY DAY DISPLAY REQUESTS, January 26:** Submit to Archives and History.

**PRESIDENTS DAY, February 16:** Archives Library will be closed.

**HISTORY DAY AT THE LEGISLATURE, February 19:** Capitol rotunda and Culture Center.

**16TH ANNUAL HOOT OWL, March 27-28:** Archives and History Library. Sponsored by Mining Your History Foundation and Archives and History.

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

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**Reminder for Librarians, Society Secretaries and Regular Readers of West Virginia Archives and History News**

West Virginia Archives and History News will appear in print and online through February 2015, Volume XV, No. 12. The newsletter will then become a quarterly e-newsletter posted on the West Virginia Archives and History Web site, http://www.wvculture.org/history/ahnews/ahnews.html, in April (No. 1), July (No. 2), October (No. 3) and January (No. 4) for each volume. All issues of the newsletter are permanently posted there with title, subject and speaker indexes. Members of the West Virginia Archives and History e-mail list will receive an e-mail with a link for each quarterly posting of the e-newsletter, beginning with Volume XVI, No. 1, in April 2015. No issues will be mailed after the February 2015 issue.

If you are not currently on our mailing list you may sign up on the Division of Culture and History homepage at http://www.wvculture.org/history/ahnews/ahnews.html. Once you enter your e-mail address and click “Join,” you will be offered an opportunity to select which sections of the Division you would like to hear from. You may select Archives and History only, or you can select others that appeal to you as well.
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