



WEST VIRGINIA Archives and History NEWS

From the Editor:

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January 2015

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

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
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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
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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 Craig, also an employee of



the Division of Culture and History, Mitchell discussed the characteristics and provenance of each piece as Craig 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>.

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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/imlsintro.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.

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Mary Johnson assumed leadership of the project and Allen Fowler assisted with scanning for digitization. The first documents went up in December 1999. Since then, more than 20,000 pages of material have been placed online, as well as 100 of John Brown’s original letters and manuscripts, around 100 Brown family letters, and more than 300 letters by Brown’s associates and biographers.

In 2005, in recognition of the centennial of the West Virginia State Archives, “On This Day in West Virginia History” premiered with daily postings of events in West Virginia history for every day of the year, <http://www.wvculture.org/history/thisdayinwvhistory/thisday.html>. Each day’s event has an image, explanation of the event, references to additional resources, links to document

images and/or transcriptions, as well as discussion questions for classroom use for some.

In August of 2005, West Virginia Archives and History became one of the first repositories to make available a free online searchable database with links to actual record images through the “West Virginia Vital Research Records project” (VRR), http://www.wvculture.org/vrr/va_select.aspx, with archivist Debra Basham as administrator. Use of the Archives and History Web site soared and has stayed high as family history researchers search for their family records. Most of the time if we are unaware that our Web site is down, or that VRR is not working properly, we hear first—and often—from the folks trying to use VRR.

VRR is primary resource. As such, academic researchers and historians

find the site of great benefit for many types of research projects. A researcher can compare the actual record to the transcription, and see the full record as it originally was written or typed, not just the parts chosen for indexing and/or transcription. The user can compare and interpret handwriting, review all the records for a single surname across the entire state, or for a single county or time period. Searches can be configured in many ways to help find records entered under variations of spellings and names, incorrect or misinterpreted entries, etc.

Archives and History will continue over time to add birth, death and marriage records to fill in the gaps left by records not yet digitized, unreadable images on the original microfilm, etc., to correct incorrect transcriptions and typographical errors, and perhaps add new categories of records if funds and staffing allow. Meanwhile, a new year of records will appear in the database as death records pass the 50-year mark and birth records pass the 100-year mark, until we reach the end of records available to us. On January 1, 2015, county birth records for 1914, county death records for 1964, and state death certificates for 1964 will become available in VRR, bringing hordes of genealogists to the site to search for records of their family members.

A State of Convenience: The Creation of West Virginia was added in 2006 as an online exhibit, <http://www.wvculture.org/history/statehood/statehood.html>, adding a wealth of primary resource documents, newspaper articles, *West Virginia History* journal articles, maps, photographs and other images to the Web site. This history of a very complex mix of politics, economics, personal moral beliefs and loyalties is organized in 16 chapters, with each chapter covering a significant event or issue leading to West Virginia

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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.]

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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/archivescwholdings.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

Online A&H Exhibits

West Virginia Archives and History has online historical exhibits at <http://www.wvculture.org/history/exhibits.html>. Currently you may view:

1. Taking the Oath: 150 Years of Gubernatorial Elections
2. Robert C. Byrd, 1917-2010: A Photographic Tribute
3. Battleground West Virginia: Electing the President in 1960
4. "His Soul Goes Marching On": The Life and Legacy of John Brown
5. A State of Convenience: The Creation of West Virginia
6. *U.S.S. West Virginia*
7. Hope to See You Soon: A Collection of West Virginia Civil War Letters
8. "Shaping the Capitol Complex: Cass Gilbert, Inc."
9. Buffalo Creek
10. Celebrating Lives: A Glimpse at African-Americans in West Virginia

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

[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.]

WVRR 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

History Library.

We hope you will visit the Archives and History homepage, choose a link, and begin an exploration of the words and images of the Mountain State as preserved, interpreted and made accessible by the West Virginia Archives and History Web site. However, even though many digitized images and full transcriptions are available through the Web site, this information is just the tip of the iceberg. The Web site is only the appetizer course in the full banquet awaiting you in the Archives and History Library in the Culture Center in Charleston.

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.

Archives and History Evening Lecture Schedule

Date	Conducted by:	Subject
February 3, Tuesday	Russ Rollyson	"Land Grants in West Virginia"
February 26, Thursday	Randall Reid-Smith	"Opera in West Virginia"

For more information call our office at (304) 558-0230.

Lectures are held 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. in the West Virginia Archives and History Library, Culture Center, Charleston, West Virginia.

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.



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- (1) the reprint is not used for commercial purposes, and
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Travelin' West Virginia Audio/Video Clips Online

More than 50 segments from the WCHS-TV News feature *Travelin' West Virginia* with Sherri Solocheck from 1983-1985 are available on the West Virginia Archives and History Web site at <http://www.wvculture.org/history/recentaudiovisualonline.html>. Solocheck 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 "Smokey 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.

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>

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.

"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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"Voyager Online Catalog"
link on the
Archives and History homepage
or go to
<http://archives.lib.wv.us/>.*

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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.mcgreg@wv.gov.

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.

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.

WEST VIRGINIA
Archives
 and **History NEWS**

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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)
- Harold Newman Library Assistant (microfilming)
- Susan Scouras Librarian (cataloging, library collection, newsletter editor)
- Jaime Simmons Library Assistant
- 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