From the Editor:

HISTORY DAY at the West Virginia State Capitol is February 28. Organizations and individuals from throughout the state will be meeting in Charleston to demonstrate their dedication to recording, preserving and teaching the history of West Virginia. The Legislature will be in session and will be considering several issues important to the constituency represented on History Day. Please take the time to discuss your group’s display and participate in its presentation in the Capitol. Educate yourself on the needs of your county or your topic of interest, and also resolve to enlighten your region’s state delegates and senators. Enjoy the camaraderie of being with like-minded people; celebrate those who are honored as 2002 History Heroes; enjoy the guest speaker, Dr. Barbara Christen, as she tells us about Cass Gilbert, the architect for our beautiful Capitol—and remind your representatives of the importance of saving and protecting the places and objects that hold the unique history of West Virginia.

CASS GILBERT AND THE WEST VIRGINIA CAPITOL

The West Virginia Department of Education and the Arts and the West Virginia Division of Culture and History will present a lecture, “Cass Gilbert and the West Virginia State Capitol,” on Thursday, February 28, at 7:00 p.m. in the West Virginia State Theater of the Cultural Center, State Capitol Complex, Charleston.

The guest speaker will be Dr. Barbara Christen, co-editor of the recently published book, Cass Gilbert, Life and Work: Architect of the Public Domain (W. W. Norton & Company, 2001). Dr. Christen will present slides of Gilbert’s original color presentation drawings, discussing her research on Gilbert as an architect of public buildings and focusing on his work on the West Virginia State Capitol. She will discuss Gilbert’s careful positioning of the Capitol within the city of Charleston, as well as the differences between Gilbert’s original vision for the building and the final product.

The lecture, which is free and open to the public, coincides with West Virginia History Day at the Legislature, and will be followed by a reception in the Great Hall of the Cultural Center. Dr. Christen will be available to sign copies of her books.

An architect with an international reputation, Cass Gilbert was commissioned to design the West Virginia State Capitol in 1921. Born in Zanesville, Ohio, in 1859, Gilbert studied architecture at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. In 1912, Gilbert designed the world’s first skyscraper, the Woolworth Building in New York City. His other works include the state capitols of Minnesota and Arkansas, and the U.S. Treasury Building and the
Cass Gilbert, Jr. Materials Acquired for the West Virginia Archives from Butterfields

As you probably followed through the newspapers, a collection of material from Cass Gilbert, Inc., the architectural firm of Cass Gilbert and his son, came up for auction through Butterfields in May 2001. With a combination of state funds and private donations, the portion of the documents, drawings and blueprints relevant to West Virginia’s Capitol and State Capitol Complex were purchased for the West Virginia Archives collection. After Cass Gilbert, Sr., the architect for the current Capitol building, died in 1934, his son, Cass Gilbert, Jr., continued with the firm and designed several additional projects for West Virginia. Following are brief descriptions of some of the Butterfields purchase that may be of interest to the general public:

- **Correspondence**, including 1940 and 1941 letters regarding Capitol dome problems and roof leaks, as well as a riverbank treatment.
- **Specifications** for State Office Building #1, a parking building, and State Office Building #3.
- The **1921 agreement** between the Capitol Building Commission and Cass Gilbert for the design and construction of the current Capitol.
- **Photographs** of the development of the Capitol grounds in 1946, the parking building in 1952-53, the main Capitol building (undated), and of Building #3 (current DMV building) in 1951.
- **Drawings and blueprints** for possible sites for the main Capitol building, the Capitol building itself, and exterior scale details for the Capitol.
- Negative photocopies of **sketches** for the interior of the Capitol, most dated 1929.
- **Blueprints** for stairs, doors, stair railings, entryways, door and window details, etc.
A selection of these materials are currently featured in the Cultural Center display entitled “Cass Gilbert and the West Virginia State Capitol.” Included in the Great Hall level display are the shovels used by Governors Morgan and Conley for groundbreaking ceremonies, a program from the June 20, 1932 dedication of the Capitol, and drafting tools typical of the time period.

The Archives and History Library display case will be featuring additional portions of the Cass Gilbert Collection sometime in the future. Interested in all of West Virginia’s Capitol buildings over the years? Visit “Capitols of West Virginia, Photographs of the” in the History Center section of our Website, http://www.wvculture.org/history.

REPLACEMENT KANAWHA COUNTY MICROFILM DONATED BY MYHF

The Mining Your History Foundation has donated new microfilm to replace heavily used rolls of these Kanawha County records:

**BIRTHS**
Index 1853-1931
Volumes 1 through 4, 1853-1919

**REGISTER OF FREE NEGROES**
NOTE: In the midst of these three brief volumes recording free Negroes living in Kanawha County are the handwritten marriage records for 1794-1826 that are also recorded in typed and abstracted form in the Marriage Records as indicated below.

**MARRIAGES**
Index–Males 1854-1933
Index–Females 1854-1933
Marriage Records 1794-1826, indexed/abstracted
Marriage Bonds/Minister Returns 1816-1843
Marriage Licenses/Returns 1850-1867
Marriage Licenses/Returns 1867-1875
Volume 1 1854-1884
Volume 2 1885-1898

Volume 3 1898-1904

**DEATHS**
Index 1853-1936

The Archives and History Library staff very much appreciates the continuing assistance of MYHF in improving the quality and quantity of materials available for researchers in our collection. If you are unfamiliar with this statewide not-for-profit group, please read the January 2002 issue of Archives and History News for more information. Patrons of the Archives and History Library Microfilm Room will find comment sheets on which to list hard-to-read microfilm for consideration by MYHF for replacement. If you or your organization would like to donate toward this on-going project, please be advised that libraries may purchase LDS microfilm for $30.00 a roll (they do not sell to individuals), but the Archives can purchase film for $20.00 per roll due to the our status as a donor. Donations to the Archives can be earmarked for the purchase of replacement county record microfilm.

**Archives and History News is on the Web**

If you usually read Archives and History News in your organization’s library or if you pick up copies in the Archives and History Library when you visit us in Charleston, you may not be able to read every month’s issue. Thanks to Joe Geiger, Archives and History’s Web master, you need not miss anything. Every month Joe enters the text of the Archives and History News on our Web site: http://www.wvculture.org/history in the “Archives” section. All back issues are on line for your reference. Because so many issues discuss West Virginia research topics, Joe has also listed Archives and History News under “Research Guides.”

**WHAT IS A GENEALOGIST?**

A full-time detective
A thorough historian
An inveterate snoop
A confirmed diplomat
A keen observer
A hardened sceptic
An apt biographer
A qualified linguist
A part-time lawyer
A studious sociologist
An accurate reporter
An hieroglyphics expert,
AND . . .
A complete nut!

Copied from RootsWeb Review, Vol. 5, No. 4, Jan. 23, 2002. (Thanks from RootsWeb Review to Andrew Billinghurst at billingh@rootsweb.com who says he saw it on the KENTL@rootsweb.com mailing list.) Editor’s note: If you would like to use this in your organization’s newsletter, be sure to identify RootsWeb Review as the source.

NEW TITLES

Maryetta United Baptist Church History: Eldean Ramey Doss Wellman, 2000.

Charleston West Virginia Renewal Community Application: Mayor’s Office of Economic and Community Development, [2001].
Following family history titles by James L. Lockhart, no dates:
Descendants of Michael O’Cain.
Descendants of Alexander, I Telford [cover title: Alexander Telford and Descendants (sic) from Scotland and America.]
Descendants of Presley Vineyard Sr.
Descendants of Christopher Rhodes, Sr. [cover title: Rhodes Family from Rockbridge Co., VA to Roane County West Virginia.]
Descendants of John Sheppard.
Descendants of Abraham Staats.
Descendants of Elijah Staats and Margaret Alkire. [cover title: Elijah Staats and Some of His Descendants.]
Descendants of George McElwain (Wayne).
Descendants of Thomas Philips, Sr.
Descendants of John Sims.
The Known Descendants of Baron Hugh ‘Roger’ De Rennes (Raines).
Descendants of Solomon Somerville.
Descendants of James Paxton.

LEGISLATION OF INTEREST IN THE CURRENT SESSION

SB20 and HB4313: Establishing Corrick’s Ford State Park.

SB125: Creating heritage preservation and tourism development fund.

SB242: Increasing criminal penalties for intentional cemetery damage.

SB312 and HB4172: Legislative rule relating to Capitol Complex parking.

SB386: Legislative rule relating to Records Management and Preservation Board.

SB415: Providing for clean-up of cemeteries using jail and prison labor.

SB472: Continues Capitol Building Commission.

SB472 and HB4235: Continues Records Management Preservation Board.

SB502: Permit municipalities to increase hotel tax up to 7%.

SB531: Proposes creation of hotel privilege tax to and development fund to promote tourism.

SB587: Requires tourism commission to promote heritage preservation tourism programs.

SB680: Would extend hotel occupancy tax to include library and educational facility construction.

SB686: Establish Coal Heritage Highway Authority to promote economic development related to Coal Heritage Trail.

SB701: Relating to powers of director of Division of National Resources to preserve historical integrity of Cass.

SCR20: Resolution requesting Joint Committee on Government and Finance Review, examine and study statutory means by which West Virginians of indigenous descent who do not meet current criteria for federal acknowledgment may be given formal recognition.

SR24: Recognizes achievements of Dr. Bickley and Dr. Ewen.

HCR No. 16: Commemorating 30th anniversary of Buffalo Creek disaster.

HB2572: Authorizing optical image media preservation of certain county records and CD-ROM technology for storage of county records.

HB4402: Creates procedures required to develop or improve private land if interments involved.
HB4557: Require DNR to develop and implement comprehensive program to preserve historical integrity of Cass.

HJR No. 102: Constitutional amendment to place on ballot to authorize license plates and revenue for Coal Miner Memorial Fund for coal miner statue on Capitol Complex and others.

HR18: Recognizing Native American Indian Federation as official intertribal tribe of W. Va.

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

_PLEASE CHECK OUR WEBSITE (http://www.wvculture.org/history) FOR GENEALOGICAL AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS, AND FOR MORE COMPLETE INFORMATION ON ACTIVITIES LISTED BELOW._

"WE HOPE TO SEE YOU SOON": A Collection of West Virginia War Letters. Archives and History Library Exhibit, The Cultural Center, Charleston.


*Only the Archives Library will be staffed--all other Archives offices will be closed. The State Museum will be open any time the Archives Library is open. The West Virginia Library Commission Library in the Cultural Center is closed weekends and all holidays._

**ARCHIVES AND HISTORY STAFF**

Fredrick Armstrong: Director
Debra Basham: Archivist (photographs, special collections)
Constance Baston: Researcher (Veterans Memorial Archive)
Greg Carroll: Historian (Civil War, Native American history)
Dick Fauss: Archivist (microfilm and moving images)
Elaine Gates: Library Assistant (microfilming and microfilm repairs)
Joe Geiger: Historian (Web page)
Ed Hicks: Photographer (archival photography, darkroom)
Mary Johnson: Historian (_West Virginia History_)
Terry Lowry: Library Assistant (Civil War)
Jaime Lynch: Library Assistant (records of the 1700's and early 1800's, Pennsylvania)
Cathy Miller: Library Assistant (WV State documents, periodicals)
Sharon Newhouse: Secretary
Harold Newman: Library Assistant (microfilming, Revolutionary War)
Pat Pleska: Manager (Veterans Memorial Archive)
Susan Scouras: Librarian (cataloging, Kentucky, library collection, newsletter editor)
Bobby Taylor: Library Manager
Nancy Waggoner: Office Assistant