

# West Virginia Archives & History NEWS

VOLUME V, No. 12 FEBRUARY 2005



WEST VIRGINIA  
DIVISION OF  
CULTURE & HISTORY

## From the Editor:

*Beginning in 1869, three successive historical societies were formed with the intent of recording the history of West Virginia and preserving the associated artifacts and documents of its formation. Although their efforts were laudable, none were able to sustain the task. "This, these organizations could not do, for only the strong arm of the State can accomplish that work; but they rendered an excellent service by arousing and keeping awake an interest in historical research and investigation on the part of the people."* [Virgil A. Lewis, *First Biennial Report of the Department of Archives and History*, 1906.] On February 18, 1905, an act providing for the establishment of a State Bureau of Archives and History and for the appointment of a state historian and archivist was passed by the Legislature and on February 21, 1905, was approved by Governor Albert Blakeslee White. **Happy 100th Birthday, West Virginia Archives and History!!**

## 2005 History Day at the West Virginia Legislature

Local groups with an interest in history or genealogy will be participating in the ninth West Virginia History Day on Thursday, March 17, 2005, at the State Capitol Complex during the first regular session of the 77th West Virginia Legislature. Local historical groups in attendance will be providing displays and conducting reenactments in the Rotunda of the state Capitol. Historians, genealogists, educators, preservationists, veterans, fraternal organizations, librarians, ethnic groups and families with an interest in West Virginia's history will provide exhibits featuring historical documents, photographs, artifacts and publications. Other attractions will include reenactments of events in the state's history, music, storytelling, and a "History Hero" ceremony honoring citizens from across the state who have made recognized contributions to the history of West Virginia.

Authorized by the legislature, West Virginia History Day com-

memorates local groups' efforts to preserve, protect and promote the study of the Mountain State's past. The West Virginia Division of Culture and History joins the Archives and History Commission, West Virginia Historical Society, West Virginia Historical Association, Preservation

Alliance of West Virginia, Inc., West Virginia Association of Museums, West Virginia Humanities Council, and the Mining Your History Foundation as sponsors of this year's events. All West Virginia History Day events are free and open to the public.

### Terry Lowry to Speak About West Virginia Adjutant General Papers, 1861-1865

Terry Lowry, well-known Civil War historian, author and West Virginia Archives and History staff member, will speak in The State Theater of The Cultural Center on March 16 at 7:00 p.m. The topic will be the *West Virginia Adjutant General Papers, 1861-1865*. These Civil War-era papers of the state Adjutant General in the collection of the West Virginia State Archives, which make up one of the largest and most significant collections of Civil War documents in the state and possibly in the country, consist of over 19,800 pieces of

correspondence, muster rolls, order books and miscellaneous records of the West Virginia regiments and the West Virginia Union militia. Although largely Union in origin, the collection contains a few scattered Confederate documents. One can also find letters from Clara Barton, General Joseph A. J. Lightburn, John Muir, Waitman T. Willey, Kellian V. Whaley, Nathan Goff, and others. (*West Virginia Archives and History News* will provide more information on these and other Civil War documents in a future issue.)

## Is Your Organization on the List?

Preservation Alliance of West Virginia is working to update the list of historical organizations in West Virginia. If you are a member of, or know of, a preservation, historical, genealogical, museum, or heritage organization that did not receive a separate History Hero mailing recently, please send contact information, including full name of the

group, mailing address, telephone and e-mail address to PAWV, P. O. Box 3371, Charleston, WV 25333. You may also send this information by e-mail to [cwilliams@wvdo.org](mailto:cwilliams@wvdo.org).

If an organization did not receive the recent History Hero mailing, then that group is either not on the mailing list, or does not have a correct mailing address on the list.

---

**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.

---

## MYHF Sponsors Sixth Annual *Hoot Owl* Research Night in the Archives

Mining Your History Foundation (MYHF) is once again sponsoring *Hoot Owl* Research in the West Virginia State Archives. Registered researchers will be “locked in” the Archives and History Library in The Cultural Center from 6:00 p.m. on Friday evening, April 1, until 8:00 a.m. on Saturday morning, April 2, 2005. *Hoot Owl* events include tours of the Closed Stacks and Processing areas of the Archives, as well as advice and assistance from recognized West Virginia genealogy experts. Although food and drink are not allowed anywhere in the Library and Collections areas, light refreshments, coffee and soft drinks are included in the \$25.00 registration fee and will be available in the staff conference room, plus a late night pizza delivery is usually arranged for those who care to contribute toward the cost.

Hoot Owl night offers participants an opportunity to meet and talk with other West Virginia researchers, many of whom live out-of-state or who live in-state but seldom travel to Charleston. A prize will be given to the person travelling the farthest. For more information and for a registration form to print and mail in, visit the MYHF Web site at <http://www.rootsweb.com/~myhf/>

[hootowl.html](http://hootowl.html). The event is limited to fifty participants, who must register by March 17, 2005. (If spots are available, late registration will be accepted with a \$35.00 fee.) If you do not have access to the Internet at home, we suggest you visit your local public library. You may also call Pat Pleska at (304) 558-0230, Ext. 116.

If you are not a MYHF member, we hope you will consider joining. Mining Your History Foundation functions as a “Friends of the Library” group for the West Virginia Archives and History Library by providing both monetary and material donations, and by supplying volunteers who assist in many capacities. MYHF’s other goals include networking among genealogical societies in West Virginia, and dissemination of information pertaining to research in and about West Virginia. Annual dues of \$15.00 for either a society or an individual include the following benefits:

- *Mountain News* newsletter four times a year
- Submission of three queries per issue of *Mountain News*
- Notice of workshops and programs in West Virginia
- Publication of member societies announcements in *Mountain News*

- Distribution of member societies’ flyers and brochures at State and National genealogy conferences attended by MYHF representatives

MYHF’s Web address is <http://www.rootsweb.com/~myhf/>, and their mailing address is P. O. Box 6923, Charleston, WV 25362-0923.

### Web Site of Interest

**American Civil War Maps (1861–1865)** features maps from three outstanding collections: the Library of Congress Geography and Map Division, the Virginia Historical Society and the Library of Virginia. Most of the items presented here are documented in *Civil War Maps: An Annotated List of Maps and Atlases in the Library of Congress*, compiled by Richard W. Stephenson in 1989. New selections from 2,240 maps and 76 atlases held by the Library will be added monthly. The maps and an introductory essay on the history of mapping during the Civil War, found at [http://lcweb2.loc.gov/ammem/collections/civil\\_war\\_maps](http://lcweb2.loc.gov/ammem/collections/civil_war_maps), are part of the American Memory Collection, an on-line collection of the Library of Congress.

## 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.

### “SNAPSHOTS IN TIME,”

**January through March:** “A Photographic History of West Virginia,” an exhibit of photographs from the State Archives, Chief Logan State Park, Logan.

**ARCHIVES AND HISTORY NEW GUIDELINES AND FEES,** effective **January 15.**

### “PRESERVATION AND RE-DISCOVERY—AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY IN WEST VIRGINIA,”

**February through March 13:** The Cultural Center, Charleston.

### LINCOLN’S BIRTHDAY,

**February 11 [observed] and February 12 [actual]:** Archives Library will be open.\*

### CULTURAL HERITAGE SERIES LECTURE,

**February 16:** Ilene Evans portraying the History Alive character of Harriet Tubman, and Dr. Dana Brooks speaking on “Black Community Sports in West Virginia,” The Cultural Center, Charleston.

**PRESIDENT’S DAY, February 21:** Archives Library will be open.\*

### “SLAVES OF GREEN BOTTOM,”

**March 12:** Stanley Bumgardner, Jenkins Plantation Museum, Lesage.

### “WEST VIRGINIA ADJUTANT GENERAL PAPERS,

**1861-1865,” March 16:** Terry Lowry, The State Theater, The Cultural Center, Charleston.

### HISTORY DAY, March 17:

The Capitol and The Cultural Center, Charleston.

### HISTORIC PRESERVATION DEVELOPMENT GRANTS

**APPLICATION DEADLINE, March 31:** West Virginia State Historic Preservation Office, The Cultural Center, Charleston.

### “HOOT OWL” RESEARCH NIGHT,

**April 1-2:** Mining Your History Foundation, West Virginia Archives and History Library, The Cultural Center, Charleston.

**PETROLEUM HISTORY INSTITUTE 2005 INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM, ON THE HISTORY OF THE OIL INDUSTRY, April 6-9:** Morgantown.

(For more information visit

[http://karl.nrcce.wvu.edu/calendar/PHI\\_05\\_info.pdf](http://karl.nrcce.wvu.edu/calendar/PHI_05_info.pdf) or contact Larry Woodfork at [woodfork@earthlink.net](mailto:woodfork@earthlink.net).)

*\*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.*

## No Doubt About It: They Were Family History Researchers!!

From the *Charleston Daily Mail*, January 19, 2005: *The records room in the Kanawha County Courthouse will smell like smoke for awhile. A heating unit in the room in the county clerk’s office malfunctioned and filled*

*the main floor records room with smoke at about 12:30 p.m. Tuesday, said County Commission President Kent Carper. The entire courthouse was evacuated as Charleston firefighters responded to the call, but some patrons*

*did not want to leave, Carper said. . . . There was no major damage to the room, which houses the county property records, but it will smell for a while, Carper said.”*

## 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)
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 ( <i>West Virginia History</i> )
Terry Lowry .....	Library Assistant (Civil War)
Cathy Miller .....	Library Assistant (WV State documents, periodicals)
Sharon Newhouse .....	Secretary
Harold Newman .....	Library Assistant (microfilming, Revolutionary War)
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
Intern .....	Shari Haywood
Volunteers .....	Carolyn Conner, Bill Kelley, Angela Tolbert, Bob and Lucile Foster, John McClure, Carol de la Riva, Lorene Mullins, and Kellis and Virginia Gillespie