If you have been used to visiting the Archives and History Library on certain state holidays, be sure to check our newsletter calendar, e-mail or call us to see if we will be open on a particular holiday. Beginning in February 2010, the Library will be closed on most holidays. We are currently scheduled to be open on May 11, Primary Election Day, but we suggest you confirm with us before visiting. We continue to be open on Thursday evenings until 8:00 p.m., and on Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

“Going Back Before 1850: Genealogical Strategies for Early American Research” on March 2

Archives and History Library research specialist Jaime Simmons will present “Going Back Before 1850: Genealogical Strategies for Early American Research” as the First Tuesday Lecture/Workshop on Tuesday, March 2, 2010, from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. in the Archives and History Library in The Culture Center. Simmons will focus on the resources available for family history research prior to the 1850 federal census (the first census to list the names and ages of everyone in a household) and to the advent of birth and death records in 1853. Ms. Simmons said, “Many beginners who may have been fortunate to trace their families back to 1853, using West Virginia Vital Research Records, census records and other online resources, find themselves stranded in the mid-19th century, not knowing how to begin the real process of genealogical research.”

The lecture will focus on records available in the West Virginia Archives and History Library that are not available online. Topics will include: county formation and its implications for locating records, immigration within western Virginia, and the importance of structuring research around multiple events within each generation. An introduction to other records, such as tax records, wills and deeds, will be included. A question and answer period will follow, but specific research assistance will not be possible during the evening. Ms. Simmons, of course, is available during regular Library hours, with or without an appointment.

For a list of upcoming First Tuesday events, offered the first Tuesday of every month, visit http://www.wvculture.org/history/archivesnewsroom.html to view photos of attendees and displays in the Capitol. Information about and photographs of the 2010 History Heroes will be posted at http://www.wvculture.org/history/histhero.html as soon as the photographs are available. Mark your calendars now for History Day next year on February 24, 2011.

From the Editor:

History Day 2010

History Day at the Legislature on February 18, 2010, was well attended and enjoyed by many. Visit the Archives and History Newsroom at http://www.wvculture.org/history/archivesnewsroom.html to view photos of attendees and displays in the Capitol. Information about and photographs of the 2010 History Heroes will be posted at http://www.wvculture.org/history/histhero.html as soon as the photographs are available. Mark your calendars now for History Day next year on February 24, 2011.
Hoot Owl Night on March 26

The Mining Your History Foundation and West Virginia Archives and History will be sponsoring the 11th Annual Hoot Owl Night in the Archives and History Library on Friday, March 26, until the morning of Saturday, March 27. The Archives and History Library will close to the public at 5:00 p.m. on Friday, and reopen to only Hoot Owl participants at 6:00 p.m. Participants can perform genealogical research all night until 8:00 a.m. Saturday morning. Experts in West Virginia genealogy from around the state will be available to assist researchers with both beginning and advanced family history strategies and problem-solving. Behind the scenes tours of the West Virginia State Archives collections will be conducted. Participation is limited to 50 people. Registration is $25.00 per person and due by March 12. (Late registration, if space is available, will be $35.00.) A confirmation of registration with additional information will be sent, by e-mail when provided. Free snacks and beverages will be provided in the Archives conference room, and the traditional midnight pizza order will be placed for those who chose to contribute a few dollars. For more information or to print a registration form, visit http://www.wvculture.org/news.aspx?Agency=Archives&Id=1245, or contact Joe Geiger, (304) 558-0230, ext. 165, or Wes Cochran, (304) 422-1774, wescochran@juno.com. To learn more about Mining Your History Foundation or to become a member, contact Wes Cochran. You may also call Archives and History, (304) 558-0230, and request a Hoot Owl brochure be mailed to you.

Volunteer Opportunities at Archives and History

In the Archives: Many of you tell us you would love to work in the Archives. Here’s your chance, via a great volunteer opportunity. We need a volunteer to process the speeches, press releases and statements from the Senator Jennings Randolph Collection. Work involves removing paper clips from papers, placing materials in acid-free folders, labeling the folders, and typing the folder titles into a text document.

From your location: Even more of you tell us you would love to volunteer, but you don’t live in Charleston or are unable to come during our working hours. Here’s your opportunity also. We have a project you can work on from your home or other location outside the Culture Center. We need a volunteer to type the text of newspaper articles about the 1960 presidential campaign in West Virginia to be placed online on the Archives and History Web site. This is a time sensitive project for an online exhibit that will premiere by the first of May 2010. We will provide photocopies of the newspaper articles. Our volunteer will need a computer with either Word or WordPerfect, and the capability either to send the finished documents by e-mail or to physically deliver them on a storage device such as a flash drive.

For more information, contact Joe Geiger, Archives and History director, at (304) 558-0230 or joe.n.geiger@wv.gov.
Genealogy Club Now Meeting Weekly

The Tuesday Morning Genealogy Club and Workshop, a weekly gathering sponsored by the West Virginia Archives and History Library, which held its first meeting on Tuesday, January 19, continues to meet in the Library Reading Room in The Culture Center. The purpose of the free club is to provide personalized help to people wishing to learn genealogy research techniques and use of the Archives Library resources in order to better record their family history. Archives and History staff will be on hand to get people started and to help them navigate their way through the process. Most Tuesdays we will offer a brief program regarding a record group or search strategy, such as Vital Records, family history books, the Veterans Memorial Archive, Native American research, newspapers, etc. Check our Web site, http://www.wvculture.org/news.aspx?Agency=Archives&Id=1255, to see scheduled topics and speakers. Also, we invite representatives of genealogy societies to introduce themselves and talk about their services. Anyone interested in learning more about the West Virginia Archives and History Library or joining the Genealogy Club may contact Bobby Taylor at bobby.l.taylor@wv.gov or call (304) 558-0230. If you are in the Charleston area on a Tuesday morning, feel free to drop in and join us.

Updated E-Mail List

The new e-mail addresses for Division of Culture and History employees are now posted on the Culture and History Web site at http://www.wvculture.org/agency/stafflist2.html and in the Archives section at http://www.wvculture.org/history/contactus.html. Our job descriptions/titles have been updated on the Culture and History page, and a little more explanation of our fields of expertise are provided on the Archives and History page. When you are not sure who you need to contact in Archives and History, you can call us at (304) 558-0230. You may also e-mail Joe Geiger, joe.n.geiger@wv.gov, or for library-related matters, e-mail Bobby Taylor, bobby.l.taylor@wv.gov. Please note that the West Virginia Office of Technology will no longer forward e-mails from our old addresses to our new addresses after March 1, 2010.

New Titles

Direct Routes and Trails of the Clark Family History: Deanna Dee Thomas Clark, 2009.
Herman P. Dean Firearms Collection at the Huntington Galleries: Huntington Galleries, 1980.
Leisure Time Activities of Rural Children in Selected Areas of West Virginia: Ella Gardner and Caroline E. Legg, 1931.
Thurmond: Dodge City of the East: Melody Bragg, [1992].

Grave Creek Mound Lecture Series

Grave Creek Mound Archaeological Complex in Moundsville, operated by the West Virginia Division of Culture and History, has launched a new monthly lecture series to be held in the 136-seat auditorium in the Delf Norona Museum. Topics will have a common theme relating to current archaeology and historic preservation activities in West Virginia and the surrounding area. The programs are being held in conjunction with the Upper Ohio Valley Chapter of the West Virginia Archaeological Society. The lectures begin at 7:00 p.m. and are free and open to the public. To learn more about the Complex, visit http://www.wvculture.org/museum/GraveCreekmod.html. For more information on the lecture series, contact Andrea Keller, (304) 843-4128, andrea.k.keller@wv.gov.
New Titles

Amateur Reporter: Charleston Central Jr. High, issues for March and September 1922.

Darby’s Universal Gazetteer

The full title of this reference book by William Darby is Darby’s Universal Gazetteer, or, A New Geographical Dictionary: containing a description of the empires, kingdoms, states, provinces, cities, towns, forts, seas, harbours, rivers, lakes, mountains, capes, &c. in the Known World; with the Government, Customs, and Manners, of the inhabitants; the extent, boundaries, and natural productions of each country; and the trade, manufactures, and curiosities of the cities and towns. The West Virginia Archives’ copy is “The second edition, with ample additions and improvements,” published in Philadelphia by Bennett & Walton in 1827. Following are excerpts from the full entry for the state of Virginia, with spelling and punctuation unchanged, and with emphasis on the western mountainous region of the state. Deviations from the exact text and the Editor’s notes are enclosed in brackets.

Virginia, state of the U.S.; bounded by the Atlantic Ocean E., N. C. and Ten. S., Kent. W., Ohio river or the state of Ohio NW., Penn. N. and Md. NE. . . From its great extent, and from being so much intersected by mountains, Virg. presents a very marked diversity of soil and climate. It possesses the main southern nucleus of the Appalachian system, spreading also into the widest base, upon which that system rests. . . In point of soil, Virg., like Md., presents three distinct tracts. The first, that of the alluvial sea sand inland to the falls of the rivers, and generally to the head of tide water. This region is flat and in part marshy along the sea coast, but rising imperceptibly inland, into the second or hilly tract. The latter again merges gradually into the third or mountain section. . . The middle section of Virg. is remarkable for its rich scenery, and generally for good soil, and the production of excellent grain. The narrow zone between the Blue ridge and Alleghany mountain, is generally considered as the most productive region of Virg.

[The article lists the counties to be included in each section, with No. I identified as “Eastern or alluvial Virginia” and No. II as “Middle Virginia.”] No. III.–The surface of West Virg. is still more broken than that of West Penn. In one aspect the two sections are equal; the air and water of both are pure and healthful. Strenuous exertions are making by the legislature and the people of Virg., to open an uninterrupted water communication from Jame’s river to the Great Kenhawa, and down that stream to the Ohio. Should such an undertaking be carried into effect, and nature appears to have opposed no obstacle insuperable to genius, wealth, and industry to remove; then will a new and most important commercial line be added, to connect and cement the two opposing slopes of the Ohio river and the Atlantic Ocean.

Politically, West Virginia is subdivided into the cities. of: [from chart] Broke, Cabell, Giles, Grayson, Greenbriar, Harrison, Kenhawa, Lee, Lewis, Mason, Monongahela E. and W.*, Monroe, Montgomery, Ohio, Nicholas, Preston, Randolph, Russel, Scott, Tazewell, Tyler, Washington,
Wood, Wythe. [Note: Berkeley, Hampshire, Hardy, Morgan, Pendleton, and Pocahontas were placed in Middle Virginia. *See July 2009 Archives and History News issue for entry for “Monongalia, or Monongahela” County. Although the entry for the county itself makes no mention of being divided into distinct East and West districts, the designation appears again later in the Virginia entry with a reference to “the two Monongalias,” yet when statistics are given the two sections are listed with a single total.]

[Eastern Virginia consisted of 8,875 square miles and a population of 262,524, averaging 30 people per square mile. Middle Virginia consisted of 24,297 square miles and a population of 655,266, averaging 27 people per square mile. West Virginia consisted of 28,130 square miles and a population of 147,514, averaging five people per square mile. Randolph County had only one person per square mile, Nicholas had two, while Cabell and Kanawha each averaged two and a half. Brooke County had by far the densest population at 44 per square mile, with Ohio County coming in second at 20 per square mile. Monongalia had 16 and Monroe had 13. All the rest of the modern-day West Virginia counties averaged well under ten persons per square mile. Interestingly, all of the Middle Virginia counties averaging under ten people per square mile were counties destined to become or to border counties of the state of West Virginia: Bath, Hampshire, Hardy, Morgan, Patrick and Pendleton. Almost all of the other counties designated as Middle Virginia had much higher population averages.]

In the alluvial and middle counties enumerated in sections No. I. and II. there were by the census of 1820, free whites, 452,930, and slaves and free coloured persons 424,370. In the counties of West Virginia, there were by the census of 1820, 6728 male and 6568 female slaves, amounting to 13,296. There were free persons of colour, 531 males, 487 females, amounting to 1028. The slaves and free persons of colour united, making an aggregate of 13,296, and leaving free whites 132,790. . . The actual commercial relations of Virginia may be seen by reference to the articles Alexandria, Norfolk, Petersburg, and Richmond, its four principal ports. The most valuable staples of this state are wheat and tobacco, but a considerable quantity of cotton is cultivated in the SE. cities. Small grain, fruit, and pasturage abounds, where due attention has been paid to agriculture. Iron, lead, gypsum, salt, and mineral coal, are its most valuable and abundant metallic productions.

### Evening Workshops and Lecture Schedule

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<td>April 6</td>
<td>Dr. Paul Rakes</td>
<td>The Combat Scenario: Early West Virginia Coal Mining's Culture of Danger</td>
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<td>May 4</td>
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*Registration for these free workshops is helpful but not required.
Call our office at (304) 558-0230, or e-mail bobby.l.taylor@wv.gov.
Workshops are held 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. in the West Virginia Archives and History Library, The Culture Center, Charleston, West Virginia.
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.

**KANAWHA VALLEY HERITAGE FAIR, March 6:** Kanawha Valley History Center, Rand Community Center, Rand. For more information contact Linda Hoskins, (304) 925-2438, kvhc06@yahoo.com, or visit http://kvhc.tripod.com.

**THE WASHINGTON FAMILY IN JEFFERSON COUNTY,** March 8: Walter Washington and Betsy Wells, speakers, Shepherdstown Men’s Club and Jefferson County Historical Society, Shepherdstown. For more information, visit http://jeffersonhistoricalwv.org/events.html or call (304) 724-7008.

**MOTHER JONES: A LIVING HISTORY PERFORMANCE,** March 23: Karen Vuranch, re-enactor, Erma Byrd Higher Education Center, Beckley. Coal Culture of West Virginia Lecture Series, sponsored by Concord University and The Coal Heritage Highway Authority. For more information, contact the Beckley Center of Concord University, (304) 256-0270.

**SOME RECENTLY REPORTED STONE CAIRNS IN WEST VIRGINIA,** March 25: Roger B. Wise, speaker, Grave Creek Mound Archaeological Complex, Moundsville. For more information, contact Andrea Keller, (304) 843-4123, andrea.k.keller@wv.gov.

**11TH ANNUAL HOOT OWL NIGHT AT THE ARCHIVES,** March 26: Mining Your History Foundation and West Virginia Archives and History Library, The Culture Center, Charleston. For more information, call (304) 558-0230.

**LEGEND OF JOHN HENRY AND MORE,** March 30: Ken Sullivan, speaker, Erma Byrd Higher Education Center, Beckley. Coal Culture of West Virginia Lecture Series, sponsored by Concord University and The Coal Heritage Highway Authority. For more information, contact the Beckley Center of Concord University, (304) 256-0270.

**LIFE IN A RALEIGH COUNTY COAL CAMP,** April 6: Thurman Miller, speaker, Erma Byrd Higher Education Center, Beckley. Coal Culture of West Virginia Lecture Series, sponsored by Concord University and The Coal Heritage Highway Authority. For more information, contact the Beckley Center of Concord University, (304) 256-0270.

**FESTIVAL OF NATIONS,** April 10: Sponsored by Weirton Area Museum and Cultural Center, Weirton. For more information, visit http://www.weirtonmuseum.com/ or call (304) 723-2346 or (304) 723-5200.

**THE MINE WARS’ IMPACTS ON JEFFERSON COUNTY,** April 12: Doug Estep, speaker, Shepherdstown Men’s Club and Jefferson County Historical Society, Shepherdstown. For more information, visit http://jeffersonhistoricalwv.org/events.html or call (304) 724-7008.

**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT OF COAL MINING,** April 13: Dr. Dave Matchen, speaker, Erma Byrd Higher Education Center, Beckley. Coal Culture of West Virginia Lecture Series, sponsored by Concord University and The Coal Heritage Highway Authority. For more information, contact the Beckley Center of Concord University, (304) 256-0270.

**MUSIC OF THE COALFIELDS,** April 20: Elaine Purkey, performer, Erma Byrd Higher Education Center, Beckley. Coal Culture of West Virginia Lecture Series, sponsored by Concord University and The Coal Heritage Highway Authority. For more information, contact the Beckley Center of Concord University, (304) 256-0270.
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.

BERKELEY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY GENEALOGY FAIR, April 24: Christ Reformed United Methodist Church, Martinsburg. For more information, contact the society at (304) 267-4713 or bchs@bchs.org.

“THE ART AND ARCHAEOLOGY OF THE ADENA,” April 29: Dr. Robert F. Maslowski, speaker, Grave Creek Mound Archaeological Complex, Moundsville. For more information, contact Andrea Keller, (304) 843-4123, andrea.k.keller@wv.gov.

ORAL HISTORY PRESENTATIONS, May 4: Erma Byrd Higher Education Center, Beckley. Coal Culture of West Virginia Lecture Series, sponsored by Concord University and The Coal Heritage Highway Authority. For more information, contact the Beckley Center of Concord University, (304) 256-0270.

HERITAGE DAY CELEBRATION, May 8: Berkeley County Historical Society, Belle Boyd House, Martinsburg. For more information, visit http://www.bchs.org/new.html or call (304) 267-4713.

PRIMARY ELECTION DAY, May 11: Archives Library will be open*.

“EVIDENCE FOR SIOUAN-SPEAKING NATIVE AMERICANS IN SOUTHERN WEST VIRGINIA BEFORE EUROPEAN CONTACT,” May 27: Darla I. Spencer, speaker, Grave Creek Mound Archaeological Complex, Moundsville. For more information, contact Andrea Keller, (304) 843-4123, andrea.k.keller@wv.gov.

MEMORIAL DAY, May 31: Archives Library will be closed.

WEST VIRGINIA DAY (SUNDAY), June 20: Archives Library will be closed.

WEST VIRGINIA DAY (HOLIDAY), June 21: Archives Library will be closed.

INDEPENDENCE DAY (SUNDAY), July 4: Archives Library will be closed.

INDEPENDENCE DAY (HOLIDAY), July 5: Archives Library will be closed.

LABOR DAY, September 6: Archives Library will be closed.

“THE JACKPOT ROCKSHELTER MYSTERY,” September 30: David N. Fuerst, speaker, Grave Creek Mound Archaeological Complex, Moundsville. For more information, contact Andrea Keller, (304) 843-4123, andrea.k.keller@wv.gov.

COLUMBUS DAY, October 11: Archives Library will be closed.

“THE EARLIEST AMERICANS: CURRENT PERSPECTIVES ON PALEOAMERICAN ORIGINS, ARRIVALS, AND LIFE WAYS,” October 28: Jerry N. McDonald, Ph. D., speaker, Grave Creek Mound Archaeological Complex, Moundsville. For more information, contact Andrea Keller, (304) 843-4123, andrea.k.keller@wv.gov.

*Only the Archives Library will be staffed—all other Archives offices will be closed.

The West Virginia Library Commission Library in the Culture Center is closed weekends and all holidays.
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.scouras@wvculture.org.
New e-mail: susan.c.scouras@wv.gov