

West Virginia Archives & History NEWS

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WEST VIRGINIA
DIVISION OF
CULTURE & HISTORY

From the Editor:

With the arrival of spring, people may be clearing out their basements and attics. While you may realize that the papers of your neighbor's Aunt Ellen could be worth preserving, does your neighbor, who is throwing out "that old stuff," know that? What about the records of the business that operated in town for decades but has closed? One of the most important things that historical groups can do is to promote preservation of the records that tell the history of the area or state and its people. A few local societies have suitable facilities to store records and staff/volunteers to process them for researcher use, but if your group isn't one of those, please encourage people to contact Archives and History before they toss old documents in the trash. We can't take everything, but we are always on the lookout for original letters, diaries, ledger books, etc., about West Virginia in any time period up to the present.

Former First Lady's Papers Come to State Archives

By Mary Johnson

On March 21, 2011, former First Lady Gayle C. Manchin was in the Archives and History Library for the announcement of her donation of materials both to the State Archives and to the State Museum. "I had many life changing experiences," Mrs. Manchin remarked in discussing her six years as West Virginia's first lady. According to the former first lady, her collection showcases West Virginia.

This is the first extensive collection of first lady papers to come to the West Virginia State Archives. A small group of materials regarding Hovah Underwood and Sandy Wise are included with their husbands' gubernatorial papers, but this is the first time the State Archives has acquired a sizeable quantity of papers documenting the activities of a governor's wife.

The First Lady Gayle C.

Manchin Collection (Ar1995) at the West Virginia State Archives consists of 24 boxes of papers and 1 box of photographs. It includes correspondence, scheduling files, speeches, and Christmas cards, as

well as a few notebooks, programs, and miscellaneous materials. In addition to the box of photo prints, there are several CDs and a DVD containing more than 12,000 images.

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Archives and History's Genealogy Club Offers Help for Beginners

By Mary Johnson

Do you want to know who your grandparents or great-grandparents were but don't know how to research and where to start? If so, check out Archives and History's weekly Thursday evening Genealogy Club. The weekly club is designed to help beginners learn basic research techniques and offers attendees personal attention from library staff. Those who come for the club meetings can stay and research until the library closes at 8:00 p.m.

In a day when many people assume that "it's all on the Internet," some beginning family researchers think they can push a button, and their family tree will miraculously appear. (These "miracles" are not limited to the Internet; some people assume their complete and accurate family tree must be available for the asking in the Archives and History Library.) To the contrary, while there is an increasing amount of valuable

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 primary resource material online—such as Archives and History’s Vital Research Records Project databases—everything is not on the Internet, or otherwise pre-packaged. And, even if they do find a family genealogy, people still need to know how to do primary research and determine whether the secondary information compiled by someone else is reliable.

Library Assistant Elaine Gates, who has been leading the Genealogy Club, generally spends the first part of the meeting talking about a specific type of record that may be new even to the old pros. Then, while those who already have more experience with family research work on their own, she works with those who need individual attention to learn the basics.

The Genealogy Club meets every Thursday evening, except the second Thursday of the month, from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. in the Archives and History Library. On the second Thursday, a genealogy lecture program is held in the library. For more information about the weekly or monthly gatherings, contact Robert Taylor, library manager, at (304) 558-0230 or bobby.l.taylor@wv.gov.

Genealogy Club

**Archives and History
Library**

**Every Thursday Evening
6:00-7:00 p.m.**

**Once a month,
on the second Thursday,
there will be a special
program with a speaker.
6:00-7:30 p.m.**

Recent Additions to the Collections

By Debra Basham

In recent months, the West Virginia State Archives has received several collections that are available to researchers. The papers of Senator Carte Goodwin (Ms2011-001) include copies of his daily schedules, meetings, materials from the Congressional Record, and some subject files of issues that were pending during his term of office. Two boxes of materials remain closed to researchers because of privacy concerns for the individuals involved. Appointed on July 16, 2010, after the death of Robert C. Byrd, to fill the unexpired term until a special election could be held, Goodwin served from July 20, 2010, when he was sworn in, until November 15, 2010, when Governor Joe Manchin, winner of a special election, was sworn in to replace him.

The State Archives also was able to acquire papers of State Senator

Joseph S. Lewis (Fayette County, 1919-1921) which are catalogued as Ms2011-002. The collection includes correspondence to and from Lewis and members of his family. The Archives has been actively seeking papers of former state legislators in recent years and the Lewis papers join other collections such as Mike Greer, Charles Haden, C. N. Harman, Robert Holliday, Judith Herndon, John Q. Hutchinson, Margaret “Peggy” Miller, Anthony Rader, Ted Stacy, and Roger Tompkins.

Yearbooks continue to be added to the collection, including recent donations from Glenville State College and West Virginia Wesleyan College, as well as volumes from several different high schools around the state.

**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)**

Current Political Situation Not a First for West Virginia

By Debra Basham

The death of Senator Robert C. Byrd on June 28, 2010, set into motion a series of events that culminated in special elections for the unexpired terms of U.S. senator and governor. After Byrd’s death and for the next several months, the Archives and History Library hosted many researchers studying the 1863 and 1872 constitutional conventions, early legislative sessions, and the only other period in the state’s history when it found itself in a similar situation. In 1869, Governor Arthur I. Boreman, having been elected to the U.S. Senate the previous November, wanted to take his place in the senate before the March 4 gubernatorial inauguration of his successor William

E. Stevenson. Boreman resigned as governor on February 26, and Senate President Daniel D. T. Farnsworth became acting governor for seven days. Farnsworth had only recently been elected as senate president, replacing William E. Stevenson, the man who had been elected to the office of governor.

Staff members pulled numerous volumes of state documents materials, legislative journals, and constitutional convention proceedings, and directed researchers to microfilm holdings of Wheeling newspapers as researchers looked for any similarities to the current situation and any arguments made

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Mrs. Manchin also donated some audiovisual materials, which were transferred to the AV collection at the State Archives.

The collection represents Gayle Manchin's interests as first lady. A former teacher, Mrs. Manchin highlighted educational efforts and children's initiatives during her years as first lady, and these activities are documented in the collection, in photographs, speeches, Thank You cards from children, and other correspondence. Referring to the letters from children and mothers, Mrs. Manchin characterized them as "unforgettable" and "priceless."

Thanks to Gayle Manchin's donation, these materials will be preserved in the State Archives and available for researchers to view in



the Archives and History Library. The finding aid for the collection is available on the Archives and History Web site at <http://www.wvculture.org/history/collections/ar1995.html>.

History Day a Success

By Mary Johnson

In spite of rain, the Fifteenth Annual West Virginia History Day at the Legislature, held on February 24, was very successful. This year, 44 History Heroes were nominated by organizations from around the state for their efforts toward the preservation and dissemination of state and local history. The ceremony honoring them, which was held in the Culture Center theater, attracted a larger-than-usual crowd. Afterwards, the History Heroes went to the House of Delegates gallery and were recognized during the floor session. In the upper rotunda and foyer areas of the capitol, 66 historical, preservation, museum, and similar groups had displays that were well received. Brief summaries of the accomplishments of this year's History Heroes and photographs from the ceremony are available at <http://www.wvculture.org/history/hisher2011.html>. Views of History Day activities at the capitol can be seen at <http://www.wvculture.org/history/historyday/historyday2011.html>.

Mark your calendars! Next year's History Day is scheduled for Thursday, February 23. Groups that have participated in History Day, as well as all those included on our society list (<http://www.wvculture.org/history/histsocs.html>), will be mailed information and forms around the first of November. If the mailing information for your group is incorrect, please let me know by letter to Archives and History, phone at (304) 558-0230, or e-mail to mary.e.johnson2@wv.gov. If you have any comments or questions about the annual event, you may direct those to me as well. We look forward to seeing you at next year's History Day.

Evening Workshops and Lecture Schedule

Date	Conducted by:	Subject
April 5 Tuesday	Lloyd Lewis	<i>Logging and Shortline Railroads in the Mountain State</i>
May 3 Tuesday	Bobby Taylor	<i>West Virginia's Heritage Music</i>
June 7 Tuesday	Dick Fauss	<i>Archives and History Movie Night: Footage from the Collection</i>
July 5 Tuesday	Jim Mitchell	TBA
August 2 Tuesday	Travis Henline	<i>The Resurgence of Anikituahwa: Language and Cultural Revitalization among the Eastern Band Cherokee</i>

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.

Archives and History Acquires Microfilm of Out-of-State Civil War Era Newspapers

By Joe Geiger and Mary Johnson

Archives and History recently purchased microfilm of nearly one dozen Civil War era newspapers printed outside West Virginia. Most are papers that were published in nearby Ohio communities, while

two are Virginia newspapers. These newspapers were selected because it is believed that they contain news about or letters from soldiers stationed in western Virginia and will help with research on West Virginia.

OHIO

<i>Belmont Chronicle</i> , St. Clairsville	July 7, 1859–December 1863; January 7, 1864–July 23, 1868
<i>Cincinnati Daily Gazette</i> , Cincinnati	July–December 1862
<i>City Times</i> , Zanesville	August 4, 1859–December 27, 1862; January 3–November 7, 1863
<i>Columbiana Ledger</i> , Columbiana	July 18, 1862–December 1926 (scattered issues)
<i>Gallipolis Journal</i> , Gallipolis	July 5–November 22, 1855; October 14, 1858–September 6, 1860; August 1861–December 1863; January 14, 1864–December 27, 1866
<i>Ironton Register</i> , Ironton	October 6, 1859–December 26, 1861; January 2, 1862–July 14, 1864; July 14, 1864–July 5, 1866; July 12, 1866–September 3, 1867
<i>Marietta Register</i> , Marietta	July 18, 1862–March 28, 1867
<i>Pomeroy Weekly Telegraph</i> , Pomeroy	December 6, 1861–December 12, 1862; January 6, 1865–February 22, 1866
<i>Spirit of Democracy</i> , Woodsfield	November 7, 1860–June 24, 1863; July 1, 1863–December 27, 1865
<i>St. Clairsville Gazette</i> , St. Clairsville	March 8, 1860–December 7, 1865

VIRGINIA

<i>Richmond Enquirer</i> , Richmond	1861–1862
<i>Staunton Spectator</i> , Staunton	1860–1868

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at the time for or against Farnsworth and how he had performed his duties as acting governor. Several times, materials being requested had not made their way back to the closed stacks from the previous researcher, and, for a time, the most commonly requested materials were kept on a cart in the library manager's office since they were constantly being used. Farnsworth continued as senate president until 1871, when he left the senate, and later attended the 1872 Constitutional Convention.

Sesquicentennial Mondays

By Debra Basham

On March 7, the Division of Culture and History began a new monthly program, "Sesquicentennial Mondays." Marking the 150th anniversary of the Civil War and West Virginia's statehood, the programs will continue on the first Monday of each month in the West Virginia State Museum. The first event looked at Abraham Lincoln, who signed the Statehood Proclamation on April 20, 1863. Jim Mitchell, museum curator, had Lincoln-related artifacts from the museum on display, including a commemorative medal struck for the Grand Army of the Republic in 1909 to celebrate the centennial of Lincoln's birth. He also displayed a bust of Lincoln made by the U.S. Treasury in 1890 from greenback dollars shredded into papier-mache, as well as his personal collection of Lincoln pennies, first issued in 1909.

Charleston historian Stan Bumgardner discussed whether the Civil War was an "irrepressible conflict" as asserted by Lincoln's Secretary of State William Seward. He also examined the reaction of western Virginia to the confusion of the times and suggested that eastern

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Newspaper Archives Database Will Be Focus of April 14 Genealogy Club

Susan Hayden, adult services consultant for the West Virginia Library Commission, will introduce the *Newspaper Archives* database at the meeting of the Thursday evening Genealogy Club on April 14, 2011. The club meeting will be held from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. in the West Virginia Archives and History Library in the Culture Center in Charleston. Meetings of the Genealogy Club are free and the public is invited to attend.

Newspaper Archives, available to all state residents through WVInfoDepot, makes exploring history and genealogy easy. There are billions of articles from historical newspapers around the United States and the world. Fascinating news—including obituaries, birth announcements, comics, and other information to help you fill in the life stories you are interested in—can

be found in archived newspapers dating back more than two centuries. WVInfoDepot is a program of the West Virginia Library Commission provided with funds from the state legislature and the Library Services and Technology Act, administered by the Institute of Museum and Library Services, and is available at <http://www.wvinfo depot.org>.

Advance registration for the program is not required but is encouraged to help plan seating arrangements. To register in advance, contact Robert Taylor, library manager, by e-mail at bobby.l.taylor@wv.gov or by telephone at (304) 558-0230, ext. 163. Participants interested in registering by e-mail should send their name, telephone number and the name and date of the session. 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 upon information provided by Susan Hayden.]

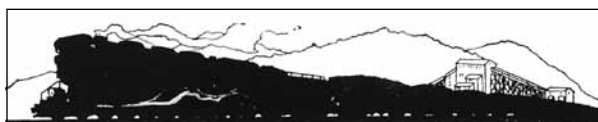
Lloyd Lewis to Discuss West Virginia Railroads at April 5 Program in the Library

By Mary Johnson

On April 5, 2011, Lloyd D. Lewis will present “Logging and Shortline Railroads in the Mountain State” at the monthly Tuesday evening lecture program in the Archives and History Library. The program will begin at 6:00 p.m. Lewis, a former employee of CSX, is the author/editor of several books on railroads, including *The Virginian Era* (1992), *Virginian Railway Locomotives* (1993), and *Norfolk and Western and Virginia Railways in Color* (1994).

All Archives and History workshop and lecture sessions are free and the public is

invited to attend. On April 5, the library will close at 5 p.m. and reopen at 5:45 p.m. for participants only. To register in advance, contact Robert Taylor, library manager, by e-mail at bobby.l.taylor@wv.gov or at (304) 558-0230, ext. 163. Participants interested in registering by e-mail should send their name, telephone number and the name and date of the session. For additional information, contact the Archives and History Library at (304) 558-0230.



RMPB Announces Grant Recipients for 2011-2012 Year

The Records Management and Preservation Board (RMPB) has awarded \$237,826 in grant funds to 32 West Virginia county commissions for county records management and preservation projects through its County Records Management and Preservation Grants program. The board reviewed submissions and made its recommendations in January for projects to improve management, storage conditions, access, and preservation of public records held in several county offices. The grant projects will officially begin on July 1, 2011, with the new fiscal year. A list of recipients is available at <http://www.wvculture.org/history/rmpb/rmpbgrants2011.html>.

Funding for the County Records Management and Preservation Program is provided from the filing fees collected by county clerks and deposited in the special Public Records and Preservation Account. The funds serve as an incentive to county officials to improve the management of their public records and conditions for their preservation.

For more information about the annual grant program or the work of the RMPB, contact Denise Ferguson, records archivist for West Virginia Archives and History, by phone at (304) 558-0230, ext. 150, by e-mail at denise.l.ferguson@wv.gov, or by mail at Records Management and Preservation Board, West Virginia Archives and History, The Culture Center, 1900 Kanawha Boulevard, East, Charleston, WV 25305-0300. Information can be accessed electronically at <http://www.wvculture.org/history/rmpb/rmpb.html>.

[Edited from a press release of the Division of Culture and History.]

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 and western Virginia, although having their differences, were not as far apart as some might suggest, based on the voting totals for the 1860 presidential election and the lack of votes received by Lincoln in both parts of the state.

The Archives and History Library offered visitors a chance to see some archival documents relating to Lincoln and the period, including a short note written and signed by Lincoln to the Judge Advocate General seeking clarification on a decision in 1863, a telegram sent by Secretary of War Edwin Stanton with the notification of Lincoln's death on April 15, 1865, and an incorrect assertion that Booth had been arrested that day. Other items included photographs and sketches of Lincoln, two of which were drawn by Joseph H. Diss Debar, designer of the West Virginia State Seal and first commissioner of immigration for the state. The first executive journal and

minute book for the state, beginning June 20, 1863, were also on display.

The next Sesquicentennial Monday, April 4, will focus on Virginia's role in the Civil War.

March Library Programs Are Informative

By Mary Johnson

On March 1, 2011, Dr. Michael Workman spoke about the Fairmont Coal Field to a crowd of 53 people at the monthly Tuesday evening lecture in the Archives and History Library. After reviewing the history of the coal field, he focused on the Fairmont mine wars in the 1920s, a conflict often overlooked in discussions of the state's mine wars history.

On March 10, Joetta McCallister Kuhn discussed Boone County genealogy at the monthly Thursday evening genealogy lecture, which was attended by 16 people. She identified resources and noted that people researching families in that county should check records in

The programs are suitable for all ages and are free and open to the public. For more information, contact Nancy Herholdt, museum education director, at (304) 558-0220.

surrounding counties if they don't find a record in Boone County.

Images from these two events are available on the Archives and History Web site. For photographs of the March 1 program, visit <http://www.wvculture.org/history/workshops/wkshp030111.html>. Views from the March 10 program can be found at <http://www.wvculture.org/history/workshops/2011marchgenclub.html>.

Also available on the Web site is information on upcoming Tuesday and Thursday night programs. If you would like to recommend a topic for a future Thursday genealogy program, please contact Robert Taylor at (304) 558-0230.

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.

INSPIRED: HISTORIC GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES ART EXHIBIT, through July 24: The Culture Center, Charleston.

THE GREENBRIER: WEST VIRGINIA'S GIFT TO THE WORLD DISPLAY, through April 24: Balcony Gallery, The Culture Center, Charleston.

HOOT OWL NIGHT, April 1-2: Archives and History Library, The Culture Center, Charleston. Co-sponsored by West Virginia Archives and History and Mining Your History Foundation.

THIRD ANNUAL FESTIVAL OF NATIONS, April 2: Weirton Area Museum and Cultural Center, Weirton. For more information, visit <http://www.weirtonmuseum.com>, or call Dennis Jones, (304) 479-7266, or Dr. Juginder Luthra, (304) 794-6336.

HP ROAD SHOW, April 8: St. Patricks Catholic Church, Weston. Co-sponsored by the State Historic Preservation Office and Weston Historic Landmark Commission.

"THE BLACK LUNG MOVEMENT IN SOUTHERN WEST VIRGINIA," April 11: Dr. Donald Rasmussen and Craig Robinson, speakers, Erma Byrd Higher Education Center, Beckley. Presented by Concord University and Coal Heritage Highway Authority. For more information, call (304) 256-0270.

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.

“VIRGINIA SECEDES!—THE BEGINNING OF WEST VIRGINIA STATEHOOD,”
April 16: 150th Anniversary Program, West Virginia Independence Hall, Wheeling.

“CIVILITY IN A FRACTURED SOCIETY,” **April 21:** Jim Leach, speaker, The Culture Center, Charleston. West Virginia Humanities Council program.

WEST VIRGINIA HISTORY BOWL STATE TOURNAMENT,
April 26: The Culture Center, Charleston.

“OHIO’S SMALL EARTHWORK SITES,” **April 28:** Dr. Jarrod Burks, speaker, Grave Creek Mound Archaeological Complex, Moundsville.
 For more information, visit <http://www.wvculture.org/eventdetail.aspx?Id=1424>.

“FEDERAL NO. 3 MEMORIAL AND DEDICATION SERVICE,” **April 30:** Friendship Baptist Church, Pickhandle Hill Road, Everettville. 1:30 p.m. service hosted by Everettville Historical Association.

“STORIES AND SONGS OF THE COAL FIELDS,” **May 9:** Jim Costa, speaker, Erma Byrd Higher Education Center, Beckley. Presented by Concord University and Coal Heritage Highway Authority. For more information, call (304) 256-0270.

“SECESSION FROM THE SECESSIONISTS: ANGRY WESTERN VIRGINIANS AND THE FATE OF VIRGINIA,” **May 21:** William W. Freehling, speaker, West Virginia Independence Hall.

“PEOPLE, PLANTS, PRIVIES AND PITS: ARCHAEOBOTANICAL STUDIES FROM WEST VIRGINIA,” **May 26:** Karen L. Leone, speaker, Grave Creek Mound Archaeological Complex, Moundsville. For more information, visit <http://www.wvculture.org/eventdetail.aspx?Id=1425>.

MEMORIAL DAY, May 30: Archives Library will be *closed*.

“A SPECIES OF LEGAL FICTION: THE WHEELING CONVENTIONS OF 1861,”
June 4: David Javersak, speaker, West Virginia Independence Hall.

WEST VIRGINIA DAY, June 20: Archives Library will be open.*

“GROWING A GARDEN AT GRAVE CREEK: A TOUR AND PROGRAM OF THE NEW INTERPRETIVE GARDEN,” **June 20:** Andrea K. Keller, speaker, Grave Creek Mound Archaeological Complex, Moundsville. For more information, visit <http://www.wvculture.org/eventdetail.aspx?Id=1426>.

INDEPENDENCE DAY, July 4: Archives Library will be *closed*.

FILM “SECRETS OF THE VALLEY: PREHISTORY OF THE KANAWHA,” **July 28:** Andrea K. Keller and David E. Rotenizer, hosts, Grave Creek Mound Archaeological Complex, Moundsville.
 For more information, visit <http://www.wvculture.org/eventdetail.aspx?Id=1427>.

**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.

West Virginia Division of Culture and History
The Cultural Center
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West Virginia
Archives & History
NEWS



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.

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