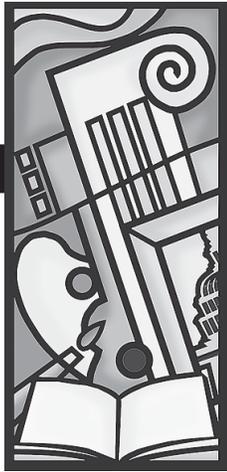


# West Virginia Archives & History NEWS

VOLUME VII, No. 3 MAY 2006



WEST VIRGINIA  
DIVISION OF  
CULTURE & HISTORY

## From the Editor:

*As we often do around this time of year, we would like to remind you of the information available regarding cleaning and surveying cemeteries. The West Virginia State Historic Preservation Office Web site has a section entitled "Cemetery Information" at <http://www.wvculture.org/shop/cemeteries.html> that is very helpful. Articles in the September 2000 and April 2004 issues of *West Virginia Archives and History News* offer information and resources on cleaning and preservation of tombstones and graveyards, as well as locating cemetery records. The current and all back issues of the newsletter are posted at <http://www.wvculture.org/history/ahnews.html>, along with subject and title indexes.*

## State Records and the Capitol Fires

The West Virginia Archives and History Library has a list of documents and records thought to have been destroyed in the Capitol Fire of 1921 and the Pasteboard Capitol Fire of 1927 compiled from contemporary newspaper accounts. More accurately, these are lists of agencies affected by the fires. In most cases the materials lost were probably the working files and correspondence of day to day business, not all of the records and reports prior to those dates. According to Cathy Miller, the Library's state documents clerk, the Library's collections of annual reports for the various state agencies are complete for the most part, indicating either that records (or the raw data to compile reports) were not destroyed in either fire, or that printed copies had been stored or were available elsewhere. State Archivist Virgil A. Lewis was an avid collector of printed state documents, and his mission was continued by subsequent State Archivists. Remember that the State Archives was in a building across the street

from the Capitol in 1921, remained in that location until moved to the east wing of the new Capitol in 1929, and was undamaged by either fire. For instance, reportedly copies of the current edition of the Blue Book (West Virginia's legislative handbook) that were ready for distribution were lost, but the Blue Book Collection in the Archives is complete. Interestingly, the Blue

Books published in the years after the fires make no mention of the disasters that I can find.

According to the Fire Report for the West Virginia State Capitol prepared by the West Virginia Inspection Bureau (<http://www.wvculture.org/history/government/capitolfire.html>): "Many valuable records were lost, but the

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## Archives Library Free Workshops

### ***War on the Homefront: Posters Depicting the Role of Family, the Red Cross and Industry During WWII***

Conducted by Constance Baston,  
West Virginia Memorial Archives Researcher  
Tuesday, May 23, 2006  
6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

For more information, contact  
Constance Baston,  
(304) 558-0230, Ext. 139, or [constance.baston@wvculture.org](mailto:constance.baston@wvculture.org)

*No charge, no registration.*  
Workshops are held in the  
West Virginia Archives and History Library,  
The Cultural Center, Charleston, West Virginia

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heavy brick vaults withstood the heat and records stored therein were recovered in good condition.” This is in conflict with a report that the safes melted in the Secretary of State’s office and that the majority of records there were destroyed, although some file cabinets were removed in time.

The West Virginia State Archives collections house many original records pre-dating the fire, including huge ledgers of corporation registrations from the Secretary of State’s office, land tax books from the State Auditor’s office, and death certificates from the Dept. of Health Vital Registration Office. We also think some records were re-created, but we do not know specifically which ones. We are continuing to look for more information regarding records affected by the fires, and welcome any contribution our readers may provide.

## Clipping File Subject List Online

The Archives and History Library maintains files of clippings from newspapers from around the state in folders grouped by subject. The files consist of clippings of articles and photographs on West Virginia-related subjects. Most but not all of the clippings are from West Virginia sources, with the coverage dates varying as clipping policies changed over the years.

The subject list for the Clipping File is now available on our Web site at <http://www.wvculture.org/history/clippings.html>. Some folders contain one clipping while others may contain dozens. If you are unable to visit the Archives and History Library to examine a file for yourself, you may request a search of a specific folder by title for a specific person, place or event by writing us

## Newspaper Search Tips for Marriages, Divorces, Births, Anniversaries, Etc.

Reasons for searching for these announcements: to learn place of the marriage in order to search for a record (elopements, or married in bride’s home county but never lived there as a married couple, for example), parents’ names, grandparents’ names, birth places, married names of other women close to the couple (sisters, aunts, cousins, etc.).

- Often these announcements were made in “**social notes**” or locality columns. In varying time periods, each small community in a county or region may have had a separate “reporter” who submitted a column or list of events for that area to be published under the name of the community in a countywide or city newspaper. Many newspapers had separate social reporting for African-Americans up into the 1960’s, with headings such as “**Colored Notes**” or under the name of a segregated black community.
- In addition to names, **places** that are identified can be valuable

clues, such as previous residences, birth places, and where the new couple will make their home. The **hometowns** provided for out-of-town guests help locate missing relatives who have moved away, or give clues to origins or previous residences of a family or an individual.

- Modern readers will recognize the term “**Nuptial**” for a marriage, but not a term with the same meaning, “of or relating to marriage”: “**Hymeneal**.” If you see this term and nothing else used as a headline, the paragraph below is a wedding story. In older newspapers the names of the engaged couple or new bride and groom were not often used in the headline of the announcement, as they are now routinely.
- **Golden wedding anniversary notices** usually give the date and place of the wedding, as well as name of person officiating, and often names of the wedding party. Children and their spouses are almost always identified, which can be very helpful in tracking the daughters for whom you do not have married names. Search for anniversary notices *at least* a month before and a month after the wedding date, since celebrations may have been organized around the health concerns of the couple, the chances of good weather, or the best date to get as many family members present as possible, not the exact anniversary. If you find a photograph and/or brief note on the anniversary date that mentions an earlier celebration, check the

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### 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.

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a research letter, enclosing the \$5.00 in-state fee, or the \$15.00 out-of-state fee. Be sure to include your telephone number and e-mail address in case we have questions.

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newspaper on and after the earlier date for a more detailed article.

In West Virginia, a legal notice or article in the newspaper may be the only way to find divorce information outside the county courthouse. Divorce records have not been microfilmed, and as far as I know, have never been transcribed by anyone in West Virginia. Circuit clerks' offices will provide the names of the two parties and the dates of

filing and granting of a divorce only, regardless of how long ago the proceedings took place. The actual proceedings, including any child custody issues, are sealed. In some time periods and counties, divorces were rare enough to be newsworthy and were reported in the newspaper with each step of the process. In more modern newspapers, divorce filings and decrees are included in the legal notices or courthouse reports along with marriages, deeds, etc.

## West Virginia Genealogical Society Genealogical Fair

The West Virginia Genealogical Society, Inc., is holding a Genealogical Fair on May 13, 2006, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., at the West Virginia Genealogical Society Library in Blue Creek, WV. Vendor tables are available for a \$10.00 fee,

while family history tables are free, and both must be reserved in advance. Admission is free and a copy machine will be available. For more information, contact the Society at (304) 965-1179, or e-mail [ebw104@uno.com](mailto:ebw104@uno.com).

## West Virginia Cemeteries Manuscript File Created

Over the years the Archives and History Library has accumulated cemetery information compiled by various individuals. Many of the surveys consist of a single handwritten or typewritten page and can not be cataloged as pamphlets or books. Until recently most of them were filed in the Clipping File for the appropriate county. Now an artificial manuscript collection has been created in order to make this information more readily available to researchers. Ms2006-052, entitled *West Virginia Cemetery Listings*, consists of a file box with a folder for each of the 55 counties. The cemetery listings are filed by county. A finding aid in the first folder of the box lists each county and the name of the cemeteries for which information is included in that county's folder. This finding aid also is available on our Web site at [http://](http://www.wvculture.org/history/Ms2006-052.html)

[www.wvculture.org/history/Ms2006-052.html](http://www.wvculture.org/history/Ms2006-052.html). If you find cemetery listings that interest you, but you are unable to visit the library, you may request copies by writing us a standard research request letter, enclosing the \$5.00 in-state fee or the \$15.00 out-of-state research fee as appropriate.

We welcome donations of additional cemetery listings to this manuscript collection. This collection offers the ideal way to preserve a record of the location of single graves on private property, small cemeteries with no real names, a partial listing of a section (specific family, military veterans, infants, etc.) of a larger cemetery, or graves that have been relocated. Lists may be handwritten, typed or printed; however, we can not accept lists that have been printed as part of a larger work, such as a cemetery book

## Brooke County Fall Genealogy/History Fair

Brooke County Genealogy is planning a Fall Genealogy/History Fair to be held August 19, 2006, from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., at the Beech Bottom Community Christian Church in Beech Bottom, WV. Genealogical and historical societies, museum groups, vendors and those with family history displays are invited. There will be no charge for space or tables; however, advance registration is required. For more information, contact Bobbie Elliott, (304) 737-2560, [BBE\\_99@prodigy.net](mailto:BBE_99@prodigy.net), or Gwen Hubbard, (304) 394-5858, [momhubbard@verizon.net](mailto:momhubbard@verizon.net), or write to BCG, P.O. Box 144, Beech Bottom, WV 26030-0144.

**Archives and History News**  
 is available on the  
**Archives and History Web site**  
<http://www.wvculture.org/history/ahnews.html>

published by a genealogical society. Printed or typed lists that are 25 pages or more in length may be cataloged as pamphlets rather than included in the manuscript file, and documents that are 50 pages or more in length may be bound and cataloged as books. If you have questions, call Susan Scouras at (304) 558-0230, or [susan.scouras@wvculture.org](mailto:susan.scouras@wvculture.org).

## Bindery Order Shipped

The Archives and History Library has shipped an order of books to be bound by Heckman Bindery. A list of the temporarily unavailable titles is in a notebook at each of the Library desks. These titles will be returned to the shelves in their new bindings in about a month, we hope.

## New Titles

**Burials of Some Civil War Soldiers at St. Elizabeths Hospital, Washington, D.C., Revision 7: Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, Lincoln-Cushing Camp #2, 2005.**

**A.A.R.: The Story Behind a Symbol:** [Association of American Railroads], William T. Faricy, 1951.

**American Railroads, Their Growth and Development:** Association of American Railroads, 1951.

**A Yearbook of Railroad Information [1964]:** Eastern Railroad Presidents' Conference, 1964.

**The West Virginia Republican Campaign Book, 1948:** Republican Party (W. Va.) State Executive Committee, 1948.

**Directory of County Officials [2006]:** West Virginia Association of Counties, 2006.

**Wright Family Records, Lynchburg, Virginia:** Robert N. Grant, 2006.

**The Story of Gettysburg in Pictures:** Blocher's, [no date].

**Gettysburg: The Pictures and the Story [Rev. Ed.]:** Tipton & Blocher, 1913.

**Walking Pleasant Valley: Revisiting the Homes and Lives of Silk Stocking Row:** Jeanne Finstein, 2005.

**West Virginia Sustainable Energy Charter: A West Virginia Interfaith Global Climate Change Campaign Initiative:** The West Virginia Council of Churches Justice and Peace Program, 2005.

**2002 Election Cycle Report:** West Virginia People's Election Reform Coalition, 2002.

**Analysis of Coal Industry Contributions to State Political Campaigns, 1996–2004:** West Virginia People's Election Reform Coalition, [2005].

**The Westlake Family, Vol. II, Three Generations:** Patricia Base Schlabach Davis, 2005.

**Yearbook of the Society of the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick in the City of New York, 2002:** The Society, [2006?].

**Abraham Lincoln:** [single issue of *The Mentor*, Vol. 1, No. 52; February 9, 1914], Albert Bushnell Hart, 1914.

**Coal Trends: Employment & Extraction: Know the Facts:** [Appalachian Focus], [no date].

**A History of Mt. Lookout and the Mt. Pleasant Church:** Fleming Halstead, [1956?].

**Huntington: The Edwardian Age's Modern Movement:** Don Daniel McMillian, 2005.

**The Art & Advertising of Bloch Bros. Tobacco Co., Wheeling, West Virginia:** James H. Thornton and George Jones, 2002.

**Greetings from Wheeling: Historic Postcards:** James H. Thornton and George Jones, 2003.

**Music in the Air Somewhere: The Shifting Borders of West Virginia's Fiddle and Song Traditions:** Erynn Marshall, 2006.

**16th Annual Guyandotte Civil War Days: Thunder in the Village: 144th Anniversary of the Raid on Guyandotte:** [program], Guyandotte Civil War Days & Raid on Guyandotte, Inc., 2005.

**Kith and Kin of Boone County, West Virginia, Volume 30:** Boone County Genealogical Society, 2005.

**50 Years of Service to Our Community, State and Nation, 1946–1996:** Lafayette Post No. 149, The American Legion [Fayetteville, WV], 1996.

## State Archives Staff Available for Photo Shoots

As part of their mission to document West Virginia's visual past, Archives and History staff are available to come to your West Virginia location for an organized photograph copying session. Images sought for the collection include anything and everything having to do with West Virginia and West Virginians past and present. Identified images are most preferred, or ones that tell a story in some way. Currently, photographs of schools and businesses are at the top of the want list. Views of coal camps and small town Main Streets, plus scenes of West Virginians engaged in work, recreation and education are highly desirable. Also, the collection's coverage of church buildings and events is in need of expansion.

Either in conjunction with photo shoots or for separate meetings, Archives and History staff members are available as speakers on the preservation and collection of photographs. If you have technical questions about photographs, contact Ed Hicks, Archives Photographer (ed.hicks@wvculture.org). Direct questions about the contents of the Archives Photograph Collection to Ed Hicks or Archivist Debra Basham (debra.basham@wvculture.org). Contact Fredrick H. Armstrong, Archives and History director (f.harmstrong@wvculture.org), to set up a photo session or to arrange for a speaker. All may be reached by phone at (304) 558-0230.

## Web Site of Interest

*Weaselhead, Devil and Drunkard: Surnames Originating as Insults*, an article by James Plyant: <http://www.genealogymagazine.com/suorasin.html>.

## 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.

**“REMEMBERING BUFFALO CREEK,” Now through May 31:**

Exhibit recalling the February 26, 1972, tragedy, Chief Logan State Park, Logan.

**“FAMILY REUNION: STORY TELLING FOR SPRINGTIME,” May 6:**

Free Family Fun Day with Susanna Holstein as “Granny Sue,” West Virginia Independence Hall, Wheeling.

**PRIMARY ELECTION DAY, May 9:** Archives Library will be open.\*

**WEST VIRGINIA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY GENEALOGICAL FAIR,**

**May 13:** WVGS Library, Blue Creek.

**CIVIL WAR ENCAMPMENT, May 20:** Jenkins Plantation Museum, Lesage.

**“WAR ON THE HOMEFRONT: POSTERS DEPICTING THE ROLE OF FAMILY,  
THE RED CROSS AND INDUSTRY DURING WWII,” May 23:** Constance Baston,

West Virginia Archives and History Library, The Cultural Center, Charleston.

**MEMORIAL DAY, May 29:** Archives Library will be *closed*.

**WEST VIRGINIA ARCHIVES AND HISTORY COMMISSION MEETING,**

**June 2:** The Cultural Center, Charleston.

**“CAL PRICE AND *THE POCAHONTAS TIMES*,” June 3:**

WVDCH Free Films, West Virginia Film Makers Series,  
The Norman L. Fagan West Virginia State Theater, The Cultural Center, Charleston.

**BATTLEFIELD PRESERVATION SEMINAR PRE-REGISTRATION DEADLINE,**

**June 9:** Registration at door available on June 24. *See information below.*

**“PRODUCE FOR VICTORY: POSTERS ON THE AMERICAN  
HOME FRONT, 1941–1945,” June 16–July 28:**

Smithsonian Institution Exhibit, New Deal Homestead Museum, Arthurdale.

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

**BATTLEFIELD PRESERVATION SEMINAR, June 24:** National Park Service’s American Battlefield Protection Program, sponsored by the Council for West Virginia Archaeology and the West Virginia Division of Culture and History, The Cultural Center, Charleston.

For more information, contact Aaron O. Smith, CWVA, (304) 562-7233, [asmith@crai-ky.com](mailto:asmith@crai-ky.com).

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

**HISTORY DAY, February 22, 2007:** The Capitol Complex, Charleston.

*\*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.

West Virginia Division of Culture and History  
 The Cultural Center  
 1900 Kanawha Boulevard East  
 Charleston, WV 25305-0300

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.

Contact *West Virginia Archives and History News* Editor Susan Scouras, (304) 558-0230, Ext. 742, or by e-mail: [susan.scouras@wvculture.org](mailto:susan.scouras@wvculture.org).

**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)
- Denise Ferguson** ..... County Records Archivist
- 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 (*West Virginia History*)
- Terry Lowry** ..... Library Assistant (Veterans records)
- Cathy Miller** ..... Library Assistant (WV State documents, periodicals)
- Sharon Newhouse** ..... Secretary
- Harold Newman** ..... Library Assistant (microfilming, Revolutionary War)
- 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
- Volunteers** ..... Carolyn Conner, Bill Kelley, Lawrence Burgess, Angela Tolbert, John McClure, Lorene Mullins, Carol Vandevender, and Kellis and Virginia Gillespie

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