If your spring and summer plans include cleaning out attics, basements, closets and other storage spaces, be sure to think twice about anything you want to toss out, put in a yard sale or donate for resale. You may have items we can add to the Archives collections. Items do not have to be very old to be of interest to us—some of these materials may be important to future historians documenting the past then that is our present now. Possible donations include books and pamphlets, West Virginia magazines and newspapers, city directories and telephone books, maps, postcards, letters, photographs, etc. Fiction books by West Virginia authors or with West Virginia as a predominant theme will be considered. However, please do not send us items without checking with us first by e-mail, mail or telephone. My contact info and our mailing address appear on the last page of every issue.

13th Annual Hoot Owl Night a Success

The West Virginia Archives and History Library held its 13th annual Hoot Owl night of research in the Archives library on March 30-31, 2012. Thirty-five people attended the all-night event, which ran from 6:00 p.m. on Friday, March 30, through 8:00 a.m. on Saturday, March 31. Attendees were given behind-the-scenes tours of the Archives and were able to consult with experienced and knowledgeable West Virginia researchers. Hoot Owl is co-sponsored by the Mining Your History Foundation and Archives and History as a fundraiser for the Archives library.

The Building of the N&W Railroad To Be Discussed on May 1

On May 1, 2012, Jack and Kay Dickinson will present “Every Blood-Stained Mile: The Building of the Norfolk and Western in West Virginia” at the Tuesday evening lecture in the Archives and History Library. The program will begin at 6:00 p.m. and is free and open to the public.

Almost as soon as the Norfolk & Western Railroad edged its way across the Virginia state line into Bluefield, N&W President Fred Kimball began to look for a midwestern outlet to expand his markets. He decided to extend his railroad to the Ohio River near Ceredo, where he could link up with another railroad from which Cincinnati and Columbus could be reached. The Ohio Extension, as the additional N&W road was called,
ran from Elkhorn (near Bluefield) to the Ohio, cutting through part of McDowell County, north into Logan County (the part that is now Mingo County) and through Wayne County to the river.

This was rugged territory, and law enforcement was almost non-existent. When the railroad began construction, different ethnic groups often clashed resulting in several deaths. By September 1892 when the track was opened, the Ohio Extension had cost $8 million, almost bankrupting the N&W. But the railroad brought a new era to that part of western West Virginia. Towns sprang up, centered around the railroad station, and towns like Williamson, Kenova, Welch, and Naugatuck took hold and still exist. After Kimball realized he had made a mistake in choosing the original path along Twelvepole Creek, the N&W built the Big Sandy Line, which follows the western border of West Virginia along the Big Sandy River. Today this is the route of Norfolk Southern through West Virginia.

**Web Site of Interest**


The list is non-commercial with no advertising except once quarterly announcements of available services and publications, as is typical of many listservs. Ancestry.com membership is not necessary to join or browse the list. Please note that the list and its posts are not of benefit or suitable for personal genealogical research, nor as a resource for student research on genealogy or history projects.

Jack and Kay Dickinson will present the difficulties and problems encountered in building these two lines of the N&W, as well as how the towns sprang up along the tracks. They also will point out some of the little-known sources they utilized in a decade-long writing effort that has produced a four-volume set of books that cover the construction of the railroad, the growth of the area, the group of men who were the special agents (railroad detectives) to provide security for the railroad and its passengers, the stories of the bizarre train wrecks along the line, and some of the amazing survivor stories. The books will be available for purchase following the session.

Husband and wife authors Jack and Kay Dickinson have spent more than forty years researching the history and genealogy of the people and places of southern West Virginia. For a decade, they did research as certified genealogists. Jack Dickinson also is the author of a dozen books on the Civil War in West Virginia, for which Kay Dickinson served as research assistant and editor. They grew up in Mingo and Wayne counties and have an avid interest in the history of that area. The couple is nearing completion of the fifth and final book in the series on southern West Virginia and the N&W. They also recently authored and published a biography of Gen. Albert Gallatin Jenkins, CSA, which includes the history of his Greenbottom plantation.

On May 1, the library will close at 5:00 p.m. and reopen at

**Check out Archives and History’s YouTube and Facebook Pages**

http://www.youtube.com/user/wvarchivesandhistory

http://www.facebook.com/pages/West-Virginia-Archives-and-History/168933289812323
African Americans and the C&O Railroad To Be May 17 Program Topic

On May 17, 2012, Dr. Cicero M. Fain will present “Into the Crucible: The Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad and the Black Industrial Worker in Southern West Virginia, 1870-1900” at the Thursday evening lecture in the Archives and History Library in the Culture Center in Charleston. The program will begin at 6:00 p.m. and is free and open to the public.

Fain will discuss the construction of the Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad, which brought rail transportation to south-central West Virginia in the post-Civil War era. The C&O, which Fain considers “the second most important development in the history of the state,” led to the founding of Huntington as the railroad’s western terminus in 1870 and brought development of southern coalfields. The topics he will cover include the contribution of black labor to its construction, the rise of Huntington as an urban-industrial center, and the linkage of the New River Valley and the city to the regional and national economy.

Cicero M. Fain III is a third-generation black Huntingtonian. He is a recipient of the Carter G. Woodson Fellowship from Marshall University and a graduate of The Ohio State University, where he received his PhD in History, with an emphasis in African American, American, and modern-African history. His dissertation, titled, “Race, River and the Railroad: Black Huntington, West Virginia, 1871-1929,” focuses on the transition of southern rural and semi-rural black migrants to life in the embryonic urban-industrial city of Huntington, West Virginia, between 1871 and 1929. Fain is assistant professor of history at the College of Southern Maryland. He is the author of articles in the Journal of Appalachian Studies, Ohio Valley History, and West Virginia History: A Journal of Regional Studies.

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, 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.

[This article originally was prepared by Mary Johnson for the Archives and History Web site based on information provided by Cicero Fain]

New Titles

Mason County, West Virginia Marriages, 1806 to 1915: Julie Chapin Hesson, 1997.
Dragonflies of West Virginia: Hassan Majad, M.D., 2005.
Folk Medicine of Appalachia: A Vanishing Tradition: Hassan Majad, M.D., [2005?].
Life Aboard the Monkey Bus: James E. Martin, 2006.
Life & Thymes of an Appalachian Herbalist: Hassan Majad, M.D., [2005?].
From the Shenandoah to the Kanawha: The Story of Colonel John Smith, His Descendants and Their Ancestors: Chris Smith, 2008.
The Hidden Years of Stonewall Jackson: Holmes Alexander, 1981.
It’s More Than Just Winning!: Chris Smith, 2005.
They Called Me Shep!: Charles E. Sutton, 2011.
Indian Mounds of the Middle Ohio Valley: Susan L. Woodward and Jerry N. McDonald, 2001.
Continued from page 2

5:45 p.m. for participants only. For planning purposes, participants are encouraged to register for the lecture, but advance registration is not required to attend. 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.

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.

2012 History Bowl
Visit our Web site at http://www.wvculture.org/history/historybowl.html to learn the 2012 History Bowl champion, as well as to find complete championship tournament results. A video of the April 24 championship match is streamed from the site, and photographs of the teams and events are posted. You may also read about the history and rules of the tournament, and view photographs of 2012 regional winners and participants. We are very proud of West Virginia middle schools and the eighth graders who compete so enthusiastically to demonstrate their knowledge of their state’s history.

New Titles

An American Phoenix: A History of Storer College from Slavery to Desegregation, 1865-1955: Dawne Raines Burke, [2006?].
Orange County, Virginia Deed Books 1 and 2: John Frederick Dorman, 1961.
Orange County, Virginia Deed Books 3 and 4: John Frederick Dorman, 1966.
Ne-Mebbering!: Growing Up in Small Town West Virginia: Norm Haddad, [n.d.].
“So That’s Why You’re Like That!”: Conflict Resolution: Tod Faller, 2005.
Wild Mustard: Flavorful Characters, Opinions, and Recipes from Spurlock Creek: Justine Felix Rutherford, 2005.
Up on Location: The Story of a West Virginia Mountain Farm, a Road and the People Who Lived There: Bill and Mary Wiles, 2009.
Be a Hero!: The Quest for Authentic Leadership: Matthew Stanley, 2005.
In Their Own Words: Native-American Voices from the American Revolution: Alan Fitzpatrick, 2009.
New Titles

My Name is Maysel: Johnny McCarty, 2009.
Saving the Opry: Joan Randolph, 2010.
Ugly to Start With: John Michael Cummings, 2011.
South Charleston: Judy Bowen Romano, 2011.
Lewis County: Joy Gilchrist-Stalnaker and Bradley R. Oldaker, 2010.
A Welcome Walk into the Dark: Ben E. Campbell, 2011.
How We Talked and Common Folks: Verna Mae Slone, 2009. [Two works, first published in 1982 and 1979 respectively.]

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(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.

Evening Genealogy Club Addressed by Dr. Ledbetter

On April 12, 2012, Dr. Charles T. Ledbetter presented “Lessons Learned by a Lay Person about the Joys and Frustrations of Genealogical/Historical Research” to the Thursday Evening Genealogy Club of the West Virginia Archives and History Library. Dr. Ledbetter, retired professor emeritus in education, West Virginia State University, is the author of three books and a number of published articles, including his award winning two volume Alliance Against the Odds: The Manual Training High School Story (2008), From Segregation to Desegregation: A Major Flaw in Implementing the Brown Decision (2005), and Tuskegee Airmen and the West Virginia State College Aviation Program Connection (2002).
New Titles


H.E. Howard series titles donated by the late Echols A. Hansbarger, Jr., M.D.

The Petersburg Campaign:
- Abraham Lincoln at City Point: March 20-April 9, 1865: Donald C. Pfanz, 1989.

Jackson’s Valley Campaign:

“Presidential Whistle Stops” Lecture

On April 3, 2012, Bob Withers presented “Presidential Whistle Stops in West Virginia” as part of the Tuesday evening lecture series of the West Virginia Archives and History Library. The talk was based on Withers’s book, The President Travels by Train, as well as his own experiences with presidential train travel. The accompanying photograph shows the author signing copies of the book for lecture patrons.

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.


PRIMARY ELECTION DAY, May 8: Archives Library will be closed.

MARTIN R. DELANY 200TH ANNIVERSARY EVENT, May 18: Joe Bundy portrayal of Delany, Fishermen Hall, Charles Town.


MARTIN R. DELANY 200TH ANNIVERSARY EVENT, May 21: Forum discussion of Delany’s life between leaving Charles Town and the Civil War, Charles Town Library.

“BROWN V. BOARD OF EDUCATION AND INTEGRATION IN SHEPHERDSTOWN,” May 24: Hannah Geffert and others, panel discussion, Shepherdstown.

MEMORIAL DAY, May 28: Archives Library will be closed.
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.


OPEN HOUSE, June 2: Kanawha Valley History Center, Rand.


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


“MAKING SENSE OF THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR” READING AND DISCUSSION SERIES, June 25: Greg Carroll, leader, Kanawha County Public Library, Charleston.

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

“CYPRIANS AND COURTESANS, MURDER AND MAYHEM: PROSTITUTION IN MID-19TH CENTURY WHEELING,” June 12: Dr. Barbara Howe, speaker, Ohio County Public Library Lunch with Books, Wheeling.

ICE CREAM SOCIAL WITH THE “ROSIES,” July 21: Anne Montague, speaker, with Thais Blatnik and other World War II Rosies, Weirton Area Museum and Cultural Center, Weirton.

MARTIN R. DELANY 200TH ANNIVERSARY EVENT, August 13: Presentation of meeting of John Brown and Martin Delany in Canada in 1858, Fishermen Hall, Charles Town.

FESTIVAL OF NATIONS, August 18: Weirton Area Museum and Cultural Center, Weirton.

LABOR DAY, September 3: Archives Library will be closed.

“MYTHS, ELUSIVE ‘TRUE FACTS’ AND SURPRISING TIDBITS OF SHEPHERDSTOWN HISTORY,” September 5: Dr. Jerry Bruce Thomas, speaker, Shepherdstown.


MARTIN R. DELANY 200TH ANNIVERSARY EVENT, September 17: Forum discussion of Delany’s life during and after the Civil War, Star Lodge #1, Charles Town.


*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.c.scouras@wv.gov. www.wvculture.org/history