



WEST VIRGINIA
DIVISION OF
CULTURE & HISTORY

From the Editor:

*While the Archives and History Library is closed to the public during the middle of June, please take the time to explore our Web site, <http://www.wvculture.org/history>. History Center houses many interesting and unexpected newspaper and journal articles, lists, photographs, biographies, finding aids to collections, and more. Genealogy Corner has links to the Genealogy Surname Exchange, Web sites of particular interest to West Virginia genealogists and how-to articles. Search nine years worth of back issues of *Archives and History News* for descriptions of collections and research advice. Don't forget you can still reach the staff by phone and e-mail.*

Archives Library Reading Room Closing June 8-19 and Re-opening with Policy Changes

The West Virginia Archives and History Library Reading Room in the Culture Center is scheduled to close June 8 through June 19, 2009, for painting and for installation of new carpet, ceiling fans and window blinds. A bank of lockers and a restroom for Library patron use will also be installed outside the Library entrance door. The Archives and History Library staff will be available for telephone and e-mail consultation during this time. Keep an eye on our Web site at <http://www.wvculture.org/history> and your local media for announcements. **Plans are subject to change. Particularly if you are making a special trip or traveling a distance to visit us around these dates, we urge you to call us at (304) 558-0230 before coming to ensure that the Library will be open to serve you that day.**

The addition of the lockers will allow some changes in Reading Room usage policies for the greater security and preservation of West Virginia Archives and History

Library collections. As in most archival libraries, patrons will be required to leave personal items in

lockers while researching in the Reading Room. Patrons will also be

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Archives Library Cell Phone Policy

Archives and History Library policy permits a patron to bring a cell phone into the library's Reading Room and Microfilm Rooms only if the cell phone is turned off or set to vibrate. **Calls may not be answered or placed**

inside the Library. The patron is expected to take the phone completely outside the library and into the Great Hall before answering or placing a call. Additional notification

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West Virginia Archives and History Lecture

BRIAN KESTERSON,

speaking about his new book,
The West Virginia National Guard 1898-1919

June 2, 2009
6:00 p.m.

West Virginia Archives and History Library
The Culture Center, Charleston, WV

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requested to wash their hands in the adjacent new restroom before handling collections. Once the new policies have been finalized, they will be posted on our Web site, <http://www.wvculture.org/history>, and published in *Archives and History News*.

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

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signs for this policy will be posted in the Library and in adjacent spaces outside the Library's entrance door. Patrons must understand that no matter how softly they think they are speaking, everyone speaks too loudly for quieter areas such as libraries when using cell phones. Just saying "Hello, hold on a minute," while walking outside with a phone has proven to be disruptive to other patrons. As we implement new policies in our new setting, we are taking the opportunity to increase enforcement of our existing cell phone policy as part of our effort to offer a more professional atmosphere conducive to archival research, while maintaining a higher level of service to our patrons than found in most research facilities.

Kesterson Lecture to Feature *The West Virginia National Guard 1898-1919*

By Bryan Ward

The West Virginia Archives and History Section is proud to present award-winning historian Brian Kesterson on June 2nd at 6:00 p.m. in the Archives and History Library. Kesterson will provide an hour-long lecture based on his most recent book from Arcadia Publishing, *The West Virginia National Guard 1898-1919*. Photographs from his book and items from his personal collection, along with photographs from the State Archives, will be on display during his presentation. Refreshments will follow.

Kesterson had planned on writing a book on the West Virginia National Guard since 1997, but the project got a real boost last year when he made a major find in an Athens, Ohio, antique shop. Kesterson said he was amazed to find an entire album of very rare photographs of the West Virginia National Guard during the Spanish American War and World War I. He learned from the store's owner that the album was miraculously rescued by someone who found the album in a trash bin. It was a real "trash to treasure find," according to Kesterson. After swapping some prized items from his personal collection, Kesterson began

researching the album. He found that the pictures were from a collection by the late Fred Cochran, a native of Parkersburg, who was an officer of Company E, 2nd West Virginia National Guard.

Brian Stuart Kesterson is the author of several books and articles. His books include: *Last Survivor: The Memoirs of George William Watson, A Horse Soldier in the 12th Virginia Cavalry; Campaigning with the 17th Virginia Cavalry: Night Hawks at Monocacy; and Dear Sir...Dear Miss...: The Letters of Granville B. Mann, Company A., 30th Battalion Virginia Sharpshooters and Miss Lucinda Maria (Chandler) Mann*, which was awarded the 2007 Jefferson Davis Gold Medal by the United Daughters of the Confederacy. Along with his writing, Kesterson is employed by the Wood County Board of Education and serves as a commissioner on the Fort Boreman Park Commission. In 2005, he was presented with a West Virginia History Hero Award for his work with the Wood County Historical and Preservation Society. For more information about this event, contact Bryan Ward, assistant director, West Virginia Archives and History, at (304) 558-0230.

New Logo, New Museum, Old Name Announced for WV Division of Culture and History

The West Virginia Division of Culture and History (WVDCH) has developed a new logo which will be used to introduce the newly renovated West Virginia State Museum, and to brand the Division's identity. "This new brand will be easy to recognize. It's symbolic of our commitment to our mission

statement: to identify, preserve, protect, promote, and present the ideas, arts, and artifacts of West Virginia's heritage, building pride in our past accomplishments and confidence in our future," said Division Commissioner Randall Reid-Smith. In addition, Cabinet Secretary Kay Goodwin of the

Department of Education and the Arts is beginning the process of returning the name Culture Center to the Division's home on the Capitol Complex. Culture Center is the original and correct name as delineated in *West Virginia Code 29-1-1(e)*. "As we move into print

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materials and other media that will focus on announcing and marketing our newly renovated West Virginia State Museum, it seemed an appropriate time to return to the history of this beautiful center of West Virginia's culture while we celebrate its future," she said.

The West Virginia State Museum, which will be dedicated on June 20, 2009, will reopen to the public on June 21, 2009. The Museum will open also on Monday, June 22, but will be closed on Mondays thereafter. It is easily accessible in the Culture Center at the State Capitol Complex in Charleston from all major interstates and highways across the state. Museum admission is free as are most Division activities. For more information, contact Jacqueline Proctor, WVDCH deputy commissioner, (304) 558-0220. [Adapted from WVDCH press release, issued May 14, 2009.]

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. We continue our series of sample entries for features now in West Virginia, with spelling and punctuation unchanged:

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WV 7th Cavalry Descendants Reunion

The Boone County Genealogical Society is sponsoring a Reunion of the Descendants of the 7th West Virginia Cavalry on July 11, 2009, at The Culture Center, Capitol Complex, Charleston. The event is free to all participants. Anyone with an interest in the 7th Cavalry, a Civil War unit largely made up of men from southern West Virginia counties such as Boone, Lincoln and Kanawha,

whether an actual descendant or not, is encouraged to attend. Registration will begin at 9:00 a.m., with lectures in the Theater from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Following the lectures, everyone is encouraged to tour the new State Museum or to research in the West Virginia Archives and History Library. Please e-mail Steve Cunningham at steve@wvcivilwar.com if you plan to attend.



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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*

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Archives and History Library Offers Free Access to Three Subscription Sites

The West Virginia Archives and History Library offers free access to three major subscription databases to patrons of its Reading Room. Copies printed from the Web pages are \$.25 each. Plan to visit the Archives and History Library and explore these valuable tools for genealogical and historical research.

Ancestry Library Edition

- U.S. Federal Census collection, 1790-1930, with every-name indexes and original images
- U.K. and Ireland Census collection
- Birth, Marriage and Death Records collection, including the Social Security Death Index, and government and church vital records for the United States, England, Scotland, Ireland and Wales
- Immigration collection, including original images of passenger and immigration lists
- Military Records collection,

including WWI Draft Registration Cards, Civil War Service Records, and more

- Family and Local History collection, containing the 200-volume American Genealogical-Biographical Index, the Federal Writers Project Slave Narratives; the Dawes Commission Index (1898-1914) and the DAR Lineage Books
- Other collections such as court, land and probate records; family trees and message boards; charts and forms; and much more

NewspaperArchive

- Largest historical newspaper database online, with tens of millions of newspaper pages from 1759 to present
- Fully searchable by keyword and date
- Includes newspapers from the United States, Canada, Denmark, Germany, Ireland,

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"Darby's" continued from page 3

Guyandot, Big, river of Virg., rises in Giles and Tazewell cties., and flowing NW. between the branches of Big Sandy and Great Kenhawa, enters Cabell cty., turns N. and falls into Ohio river, after an entire comparative course of 100 miles.

Guyandot, psto. [post office] on Ohio river, Cabell cty. Virg., by pstrd. [post road] 375 ms.W. from Richmond, and 423 S.W. by W. from W.C.

Guyandot Falls, psto. Cabell cty. Virg. by postrd. 382 ms. W. from Richmond.

Lewis, cty. Virg., bounded by Nicholas S., Kenhawa SW., Wood NW., Harrison N., and Randolph E. Length 45 ms., mean width 32; area abut 1400 sqms. Surface hilly, and soil generally rather barren. Chief town, West-town. Pop. 1820, 4247. Ctl. lat. 38° 50' N. lon. W. C. 3° 40' W.

Lewisburg, pst. and seat of justice, Greenbrier cty. Virg., 60 ms. W. from

Lexington, Rockbridge cty. Lat. 37° 46' N. lon., W. C. 3° 18' W.

West Union, psto. on the U.S. road, 8 ms. E. from Wheeling.

Wheeling, pstv. [post village] and seat of justice, Ohio cty. Virg., stands on the bank of Ohio river, immediately above the mouth of

Wheeling creek. It stands on a first and second bottom, principally in one street parallel to the river. It contains the cty. buildings; a nail factory, and about 2000 inhabitants. The U.S. turnpike road reaches the Ohio river at Wheeling, contributing greatly to its increase and prosperity.

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.

"THE WEST VIRGINIA NATIONAL GUARD 1898-1919," June 2: Brian Kesterson, author and lecturer, Archives and History Library, The Culture Center, Charleston.

ARCHIVES AND HISTORY LIBRARY REDECORATING, June 8-19: Archives Library will be *closed*.

TRAIN DAYS CELEBRATION, June 18-19:

Museum in the Park, Logan State Park, Logan.

For more information, visit <http://www.wvculture.org/eventdetail.aspx?Id=864>.

West Virginia Division of Culture and History Boards

The West Virginia Division of Culture and History provides guidance and staff support to several boards, who in turn set policy and make decisions to be carried out under the auspices of the agency. Currently these boards are the West Virginia Archives and History Commission, the West Virginia Commission on the Arts, the Capitol Building Commission, and the Records Management and Preservation Board. For a list of current commission members and a brief description of the responsibilities of each board, visit the Culture and History Web site at <http://www.wvculture.org/agency/boards.html>.

The two boards that relate to Archives and History are the

Records Management and Preservation Board (RMPB) and the West Virginia Archives and History Commission. Archives and History provides staff support for the RMPB and maintains the RMPB's Web page: <http://www.wvculture.org/history/rmpb/rmpb.html>. Information on county records retention and RMPB grants can be found there. Under the *West Virginia Code*, the director of Archives and History serves as secretary to the Archives and History Commission, and minutes for commission meetings held since October 2004 are available online through Archives and History at <http://www.wvculture.org/history/ahc.html>.

"Subscription" continued from page 3

Japan, South Africa, United Kingdom and the U.S. Virgin Islands

HeritageQuest Online

- U.S. Census records, with most in a searchable database and the remainder in a browseable database
- Freedman's Bank records
- PERSI, a well-known genealogical and historical periodical index
- Over 24,000 digitized genealogy and local history books
- Revolutionary War-era pension and bounty land warrant application files
- U.S. Serial Set, a database of memorials, petitions and private relief actions of the U.S. Congress

Calendar of Events

ORDER OF THE GOLDEN HORSESHOE REUNION, June 19: The Culture Center.

“SEX IN THE CIVIL WAR,” June 19: Dr. Thomas Lowry, lecturer, Beverly Heritage Center, Beverly.

WEST VIRGINIA DAY HOLIDAY, June 19: Archives Library will be *closed*.

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

WEST VIRGINIA DAY AT INDEPENDENCE HALL, June 20: Independence Hall Museum, Wheeling. Visit <http://www.wvculture.org/eventdetail.aspx?Id=838>.

WEST VIRGINIA DAY AT MUSEUM IN THE PARK, June 20–21: Museum in the Park, Logan State Park, Logan. Visit <http://www.wvculture.org/eventdetail.aspx?Id=863>.

LEMUEL CHENOWETH WEEKEND, June 20–21: Beverly.

For more information, visit <http://www.historicbeverly.org>.

WEST VIRGINIA STATE MUSEUM PUBLIC OPENING, June 21: The Culture Center, Charleston. For more information, call (304) 558-0220.

RACE AND ETHNICITY IN THE CIVIL WAR, CIVIL WAR SEMINAR, June 25–28:

The George Tyler Moore Center for the Study of the Civil War, Shepherd University, Shepherdstown. For more information, visit <http://www.shepherd.edu/gtmcweb/cwcenter.htm>.

13TH UNION, MELUNGEON HERITAGE ASSOCIATION, June 26–27:

Chief Logan State Park Lodge, Logan. For more information, visit <http://www.melungeon.org>.

“LISTENING FOR A CHANGE: ORAL HISTORY AND APPALACHIAN HERITAGE,” June 28–July 3: Folklife documentation course with Michael and Carrie Kline, instructors, Elkins. For more information, visit <http://www.folktalk.org/events.html> or call (304) 636-5444.

INDEPENDENCE DAY HOLIDAY, July 3: Archives Library will be open*.

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

NEW DEAL FESTIVAL, July 10–12: Arthurdale Heritage, Inc., Arthurdale. For more information, visit <http://www.arthurdaleheritage.org> or call (304) 864-3959.

7TH WEST VIRGINIA CAVALRY DESCENDANTS REUNION, July 11:

The Culture Center, Charleston. For more information, contact steve@wvcivilwar.com.

BATTLE OF RICH MOUNTAIN RE-ENACTMENT, July 11–12:

For more information, visit <http://www.richmountain.org>.

HISTORY DAY AT THE LEGISLATURE, February 18, 2010:

The West Virginia State Capitol and The Culture Center, 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.

Archives and History Staff

Joe Geiger Director
Bryan Ward Assistant 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)
Ed Hicks Photo Archivist (archival photography, darkroom)
Mary Johnson Historian
Terry Lowry Historian (Veterans records)
Cathy Miller Library Assistant (WV State documents)
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
Part time Matt McGrew
Volunteers Carolyn Conner, Bill Kelley, James Wilburn, Sue Shank,
Charlotte Thurston, and Ken Bailey

This newsletter is a publication of : The West Virginia Division of Culture and History
Randall Reid-Smith, Commissioner