In this issue we call your attention to the most recent Records Management and Preservation Board grants recipients. You may wonder why we have given so much space to these grants when only county officials may apply for the money. First, we want you to be aware of all of the activities of Archives and History, not just those associated with the Library. Second, we want you to be knowledgeable about your county’s records, their preservation and their accessibility. In some counties volunteers with historical and genealogical interests are assisting with the management and preservation process in their local county clerks’ offices. We hope you as individuals and as organizations will offer your services in your county.

Governor Unveils Archives and History Online Exhibit

By Mary E. Johnson

Archives and History celebrated West Virginia Day (June 20) one day early with the unveiling of the new Archives online exhibit “A State of Convenience: The Creation of West Virginia.” During the June 19 celebration, which took place in the Great Hall of the Cultural Center, Governor Joe Manchin III and First Lady Gayle Manchin introduced the exhibit to a group that included staff of the Division of Culture and History and members of the press. “We are so proud of our heritage,” the governor said, “and this exhibit showcases our state’s past—highlighting the work of our forefathers as well as the important events that make West Virginia and West Virginians what we are today.” Governor Manchin closed with a quote from President Abraham Lincoln’s opinion on the admission of West Virginia into the Union. In signing the statehood bill, Lincoln had concluded that admitting the new state was an expedient wartime measure, an opinion that inspired the online exhibit’s title “A State of Convenience.”

After the governor ended his remarks, he and the first lady were given a demonstration of the statehood exhibit by Archives and History Director Fredrick H. Armstrong and Assistant Director Joe Geiger, who also oversees the Archives Web site. During the reception that followed, Governor and Mrs. Manchin cut a cake honoring the state’s 143rd birthday. A few original statehood documents were on display at the exhibit announcement and reception.

One of the pivotal events in the history of the United States, the Civil War was also momentous to Virginia for the rending of the state into two parts, east and west, and the formation of a new state called “West Virginia.” It is the events that led to the creation of West Virginia in 1863 that are the focus of “A State of Convenience.” Divided into sixteen

Archives and History News Welcomes Randall Reid-Smith as Commissioner of WVDCH

Randall Reid-Smith, a native of Barboursville, West Virginia, has been appointed commissioner of the West Virginia Division of Culture and History (WVDCH) by Governor Joe Manchin III, effective July 1, 2006. Reid-Smith has been working as an advancement officer for the Division since November 2005. He replaces Troy O. Body, who resigned as commissioner in December 2005. The full text of the press release is posted on Governor Manchin’s official Web site at http://www.wvgov.org/FullArticle.cfm?id=1396.
Records Management and Preservation Board Announces Grant Recipients

The Records Management and Preservation Board (RMPB) awarded $335,070 in grant funds to 24 West Virginia county commissions for county records management and preservation projects through its County Records Management and Preservation Grants program. The board reviews submissions and made its recommendations in January for projects to improve management, storage conditions, access and preservation of public records. Following official letters announcing the successful grants in early March, technical assistance and site visits were conducted by Archives and History staff members Fredrick H. Armstrong and Denise Ferguson to help with setting the grants up to start with the beginning of the new fiscal year July 1. Grant awards range from $4,000 to $34,000. Six of the 24 counties receiving funds are third-time successful grant applicants; eleven counties are second-time grant applicants; and seven counties are first-time recipients. A complete list of the recipients and their projects may be viewed at http://www.wvculture.org/history/rmpb/rmpbgrants2006.html.

The RMPB, with its continuing interest in addressing records storage and management issues in the courthouses, announced three grant criteria in its invitation to county commission applicants last September. The three criteria were: remove non-records and accumulations of records having reached or exceeded required retention periods; provide proper and improved storage of permanent or long-term records; and conduct a complete records inventory and condition assessment, and develop a master records management plan for county records. In the third round of grant announcements, the board also considered funding projects for reformatting Society Newsletters

By Cathy Miller

The Archives and History Library manages a collection of past and current issues of journals and newsletters published by West Virginia non-profit organizations. These genealogical, historical and preservation societies are dedicated to preserving and circulating family history and genealogy. They provide researchers a vital link to important research resources that may otherwise be overlooked in general research. For your convenience we have compiled a ready reference list of the West Virginia Genealogical and Historical Associations newsletters currently available at our library. You may also search our periodical holdings through the Periodicals database in the West Virginia Memory Project, which is available on the Archives and History Web site at www.wvculture.org/history/wvmemory/index.html.
Continued from the previous page

work of the board, contact Fredrick H. Armstrong, state archivist of the West Virginia State Archives and director of Archives and History in the Division of Culture and History, by telephone at (304) 558-0230, e-mail at fharmstrong@wvculture.org, or by regular mail at Records Management and Preservation Board, West Virginia Division of Culture and History, The Cultural Center, 1900 Kanawha Blvd. E, Charleston, WV 25305-0300. To learn more about the RMPB, visit www.wvculture.org/history/rmpb/

New Titles

A Census of Cemeteries, Center District, Gilmer County, West Virginia: Doris M. Radabaugh and Mary E. Radabaugh, 2006.
A Sesquicentennial History: Mount Tabor Lutheran Church, 1839–1989: [1989?].
Andrew Livick and Sarah G. Keller: Alan Smith, Sr., 2006.
John Kennedy of County Donegal, Ulster, Ireland and His Descendants: Kathryn Chambers Torpey, 2006.
A Historical and Commemorative Statement of St. Andrew Methodist Church on the Occasion of Moving to the New Location on Kanawha Terrace: The church, [1956].
The Membership of St. Andrew United Methodist Church, St. Albans, West Virginia, 25177: The church, [1975].

New Titles: Gifts of Patricia Pleska

Chicago and Cook County Sources: A Genealogical and Historical Guide: Loretto Dennis Szucs, 1986.
chapters, the online exhibit begins with the decades-long divisions between the eastern counties of Virginia and their sister counties to the west. Subsequent chapters trace the road to statehood from the formation of a loyal Virginia government by western counties after the state government in Richmond seceded from the Union, through the meeting of various conventions, to the inauguration of Arthur Boreman as West Virginia’s first governor.

The chapter divisions and brief explanatory text provide the structure for the exhibit’s most important feature—primary documents on the statehood period from the State Archives collections. “A State of Convenience” is an educational tool that offers historians, students, and others interested in West Virginia statehood the opportunity to read the actual words of the participants themselves. As one example, the online exhibit offers the December 3, 1861, proceedings of the First Constitution Convention, when delegates decided what to name the new state. Students and historians can follow the debate as delegates consider whether to keep the name “Kanawha,” which had appeared on the statehood referendum approved by voters the previous October, or adopt another name. Congressional debate over slavery and West Virginia statehood is another example where the participants’ words are available through the exhibit.

Transcriptions of the day-to-day proceedings of the First and Second Wheeling conventions, President Abraham Lincoln’s opinion on the admission of West Virginia, and the state’s first constitution are some of the other primary-source documents through which individuals can learn about the process by which West
<table>
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<th>Publication</th>
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| Profile     | Taylor County Historical & Genealogical Society  
P.O. Box 522  
Grafton, WV 26354 |
| POW         | Tri-State Genealogical & Historical Society  
P.O. Box 454  
Newell, WV 26050 |
| Tucker County Historical Society Newsletter | Tucker County Historical Society  
P.O. Box 13  
Hambleton, WV 26269 |
| Heritage Windows | Tyler County Heritage and Historical Society  
P.O. Box 317  
Middlebourne, WV 26149 |
| Upper Vandalia Historical Society Newsletter | Upper Vandalia Historical Society  
224 Beechwood Estates  
Scott Depot, WV 25560-9724 |
| An Occasional Newsletter & Journal | The Upshur County Historical Society  
P.O. Box 2082  
Buckhannon, WV 26201 |
| Wayne County Genealogical & Historical Society Newsletter | Wayne County Genealogical & Historical Society  
P.O. Box 787  
Wayne, WV 26670-0787 |
| West Augusta Newsletter | West Augusta Historical & Genealogical Society  
2515 10th Avenue  
Parkersburg, WV 26101-5829 |
| WV Chapter Palatines to America Newsletter | West Virginia Chapter, Palatines to America  
c/o Norma Davis  
RD 2, Box 114  
Pennsboro, WV 26415 |
| Ledger of Genealogy Quarterly Publication (LOG) | West Virginia Genealogical Society, Inc.  
P.O. Box 249  
Elkview, WV 25071 |
| West Virginia Historical Society Newsletter | West Virginia Historical Society  
P.O. Box 5220  
Charleston, WV 25361-0220 |
| W.C.G.S. Newsletter | Wetzel County Genealogical Society, Inc.  
P.O. Box 464  
New Martinsville, WV 26155-0464 |
| Lookout | Wheeling Area Genealogical Society  
P.O. Box 6450  
Wheeling, WV 26003-6450 |
| Upper Ohio Valley Historical Review | Wheeling Area Historical Society  
P.O. Box 283  
Wheeling, WV 26003 |
| The Wheeling Times |  

Virginia became the thirty-fifth state in the Union. Dozens of illustrations of participants in the process, as well as secondary resource materials, are also available as part of the online exhibit, which is available on the Archives and History Web site at http://www.wvculture.org/history/statehood/statehood.html.

“A State of Convenience” is a work in progress, and additional documents will be added in the future. West Virginia Archives and History welcomes donations to its collections. Individuals who would like to donate original statehood materials, or items that document other aspects of the state’s history, should contact Fredrick Armstrong at fharmstrong@wvculture.org or at (304) 558-0230.

**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 printed 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.

**Free Copies of Seward and Related Families Offered to Libraries**

George C. Seward, author of Seward and Related Families, has donated a copy of the most recent edition of his family history to the Archives and History Library. Mr. Seward has informed us that he is offering a complimentary copy of the third edition of his work to all libraries with genealogy or history sections by request on library letterhead. (The value of the book is $34.50, postpaid.) Letters may be addressed to George C. Seward, 48 Greenacres Avenue, Scarsdale, NY 10583.
Archives and History Library Evening Workshops Schedule

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<tr>
<td>July 13</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>Greg Carroll</td>
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<td>July 18</td>
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<td>Susan Scouras</td>
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<td>Greg Carroll</td>
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<td>July 25</td>
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<td>Joe Geiger</td>
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<td>Susan Scouras</td>
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<td>August 22</td>
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<td>Constance Baston</td>
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Archives and History Library Evening Workshops Schedule

How to Apply for West Virginia Civil War Medals

Newspapers in Genealogical and Historical Research

Native American History in West Virginia

Exploring the West Virginia Archives and History Web site

No charge, no registration.

Workshops are held 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. in the West Virginia Archives and History Library, The Cultural Center, Charleston, West Virginia

SHPO Offering Conference Scholarship Funds

The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) of the West Virginia Division of Culture and History (WVDCH) is accepting applications for scholarships up to $700 for individuals to attend the National Trust for Historic Preservation (NTHP) Conference in Pittsburgh, PA, Oct. 31–Nov. 5. The funding is available on a reimbursement basis to support registration and lodging expenses for the conference. Members of historic landmark commissions will be considered first, but elected officials, planning staff, Main Street Program volunteers, community leaders, other organizations involved in historic preservation efforts, and owners or developers of historic properties in West Virginia also are encouraged to apply for the scholarships.

The scholarship program provides individuals an opportunity to study historic preservation issues by attending the conference, learning from examples, and networking with other people. Applications will be awarded on a competitive basis. Eligible applicants must be West Virginia residents who can demonstrate an interest in historic preservation by at least one of the following criteria: volunteering on preservation-related projects; holding a membership on a local preservation commission, planning board, Main Street organization, or other preservation-related group; holding an elected office; being a government employee dealing with planning/preservation issues; or owning or developing historic properties in West Virginia. In addition, applicants must demonstrate how they will be able to develop historic preservation in their community upon their return, agree to attend educational sessions at the conference, and provide a brief cover letter with their reimbursement application describing which conference was attended and the attendee’s thoughts about it.

Priority will be given to applicants who demonstrate that participation will assist in addressing a local issue, that training will be provided to a novice or professional in the field of historic preservation, and that attendance to the conference is not possible without the scholarship funds. The application deadline is the end of the business day, Thursday, Sept. 28. For more information about the conferences or to receive a scholarship application, contact Chris Knorr, Assistant Director of SHPO, at (304) 558-0240, Ext. 156, or visit the SHPO Web site at www.wvculture.org/shpo/forms.html. Mailed applications should be directed to Knorr at SHPO, WVDCH, The Cultural Center, 1900 Kanawha Blvd. E, Charleston, WV 25305-0300. Applications may be faxed to him at (304) 558-3560.

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The West Virginia Encyclopedia
The West Virginia Humanities Council released the new *West Virginia Encyclopedia* on June 20, West Virginia Day. Edited by Ken Sullivan, *The West Virginia Encyclopedia* is a 944-page, hardbound 8½” x 11” book with 417 illustrations and a full-color dust jacket. “It is a great reference book,” Sullivan says, “and it is also a great story, the story of West Virginia.” Working under the slogan, “All there is to know about West Virginia,” the editors packed 2,200 articles into the pages of *The West Virginia Encyclopedia*. These articles are the work of nearly 600 writers, experts in fields ranging from archeology, biography, history and literature through folklore, culture, and the arts and sciences.

The contents of *The West Virginia Encyclopedia* include articles on every county, county seat, and major cities and towns; biographies of hundreds of West Virginians, including every governor; hundreds of articles on West Virginia history, from Indian times to the present; the great story of the Civil War and the birth of West Virginia; many articles on timbering, coal mining and other industries; dozens of articles on nature and science, including flora and fauna, geography and geology; and many other articles on music and the arts, and West Virginia folklore and folk arts. *The West Virginia Encyclopedia* is available at most bookstores and also can be ordered directly from the West Virginia Humanities Council, either online at [http://www.wvhumanities.org/](http://www.wvhumanities.org/) or by telephone at (304) 346-8500. (The book is not available through the West Virginia State Archives or The Cultural Center.)

### Calendar of Events

Please check our web site ([http://www.wvculture.org/history](http://www.wvculture.org/history)) for genealogical and historical society meeting announcements, and for more complete information on activities listed below.

**ARCHIVES AND HISTORY LIBRARY EVENING WORKSHOPS:** See schedule on preceding page.

**“PRODUCE FOR VICTORY: POSTERS ON THE AMERICAN HOME FRONT, 1941–1945,”**
- **June 16–July 28:** Smithsonian Institution Exhibit, New Deal Homestead Museum, Arthurdale.
- **August 4–September 15:** Parkersburg Art Center, Parkersburg.

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

**HACKER’S CREEK PIONEER DESCENDANTS 25TH ANNUAL GATHERING, August 9–13:** Horner.

**FALL GENEALOGY/HISTORY FAIR, BROOKE COUNTY GENEALOGY, August 19:** Beech Bottom Community Christian Church, Beech Bottom.

**LABOR DAY, September 4:** Archives Library will be closed.

**COLUMBUS DAY, October 9:** Archives Library will be open.*

**WEST VIRGINIA BOOK FESTIVAL,**
- **October 21–22:** Charleston Civic Center, Charleston.

**ELECTION DAY, November 7:** Archives Library will be open.*

**“THE OLD DOMINION: TWO STATES, ONE HERITAGE,” November 3–4:** Lewisburg.

Conference co-sponsored by Virginia Genealogical Society, Greenbrier Historical Society, Mining Your History Foundation, and West Virginia Archives and History.

(More details to follow.)

**VETERANS DAY, November 10:** Archives Library will be open.*

**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.
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

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
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, Randy Marcum, Angela Tolbert, John McClure, Lorene Mullins, Carol Vandenvender, and Kellis and Virginia Gillespie

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