



WEST VIRGINIA
DIVISION OF
CULTURE & HISTORY

From the Editor:

Change has been the theme of the Archives and History section of the Division of Culture and History for many months. The most recent changes are welcomed as signs of renewed commitment and support for the section of state government that is responsible for the preservation of collections documenting West Virginia's history and culture and that is dedicated to making those collections accessible to the public in a welcoming and efficient manner. Additional changes in library policies will be forthcoming, but the Archives and History staff vows to uphold our reputation of providing both professional and friendly service to all patrons, and to make the transition as smooth as possible.

Archives and History Library Has a Brand New Look

While the Archives and History Library was closed for two weeks from June 8–19, the following renovations and additions were made:

- New carpet was installed in the Reading Room.
- New remote control, ultraviolet light filtering window blinds were installed.
- Walls of the Reading Room were painted in a warm but light color called "Biscuit."
- Two microfilm reader-printers with Vendapin card readers and a laser printer were moved from the Reading Room to the Microfilm Reading Room (three of the oldest hand cranked microfilm readers were removed to make room), bringing the total number of reader/printers in that room to five (three coin-operated machines remain).
- Four new microfilm reader-printers with two new laser printers were placed in the Reading Room—three with Vendapin card readers and one

with both a Vendapin card reader and a coin box.

You may view photographs of the work as it progressed at <http://www.wvculture.org/history/libraryrenovations.html>. This redecoration and upgrade followed others in the past year:

- Library chairs re-padded and re-upholstered.
- New desk and counter configuration for the Security/Copy area.
- New television and CD/VCR player were purchased with

assistance from the Friends of West Virginia Culture and History.

- Two patron-use computers crashed and were replaced.
- Additional cabinets were placed in the Microfilm Storage Room.
- Two new microfilm reader-printers with Vendapin card readers and laser printer (as mentioned above, these now have been moved to the Microfilm Reading Room).

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West Virginia Archives and History Workshop

Genealogy Workshop for Beginners

Tuesday, August 4, 2009
6:00-7:30 p.m.

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

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- New tables for the microfilm reader-printers in the Reading Room and in the Microfilm Reading Room.

We are now awaiting:

- A ceiling fan to better distribute heat in the Reading Room during the winter months.
- New rolling chairs for the computer and reader-printer areas of the Reading Room.
- Completion of the cloak room, restroom and locker room outside our entrance door.
- Reopening (and possible replacement) of the Reading Room entrance door once the construction of the gift shop and adjoining area is complete.
- Development and implementation of new library policies that will allow increased security for our archival and research collections now possible due to the availability of lockers for patron use.

We welcome the opening of the new West Virginia State Museum in The Culture Center. We think visitors will find the new exhibits not only educational and entertaining, but thought-provoking, and hope many with West Virginia roots will be inspired to visit the West Virginia Archives and History Library as well to learn more about both their own family history and the history and culture of the Mountain State. A tour of the museum takes a minimum of 45 minutes to an hour, while to listen to every narration in full and to read every sign would take 26 hours! For those of you who are the only ones

in your family interested in genealogy and face resistance from fellow travelers when you want to visit The Culture Center, now you have a new museum to keep your family and friends busy for hours while you research to your heart's content in the Archives and History Library.



View of the recently renovated West Virginia Archives and History Library.

Archives and History Library Hours Changing

Beginning August 3, 2009, the Archives and History Library evening hours will be *only* Thursday evenings until 8:00 p.m. All other days the Library will be open 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and will continue to be open on Saturdays and closed

on Sundays. Archives and History will offer a workshop or lecture after hours on the first Tuesday of each month, with the Library open for event participants only, not for research. The Library will continue to be open on selected state holidays.

West Virginia Archives and History Library New Hours of Operation

Beginning August 3

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Closed</i>
<i>Monday</i>	<i>9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.</i>
<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.*</i>
<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.</i>
<i>Thursday</i>	<i>9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.</i>
<i>Friday</i>	<i>9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.</i>
<i>Saturday</i>	<i>9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.</i>

*First Tuesday every month, lecture or workshop 6:00 p.m. to 7:45 p.m.

Popular Scrapbooking Workshop Returns in September

“Put Your Family’s Memories in a Scrapbook,” first presented by Lynn Barney in May, was highly popular and drew requests for another session both from those unable to attend this spring and those attendees who wanted to learn more.

Archives and History is pleased to present this hands-on workshop again on Tuesday, September 1, from 6:00 p.m. to 7:45 p.m. in the West Virginia Archives and History Library, The Culture Center,

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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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Charleston. Ms. Barney has been conducting various craft programs in the Kanawha Valley area, including the Kanawha County Public Library. Bring your photographs and other two-dimensional memorabilia and learn how to properly organize and preserve them in a scrapbook format. Scrapbook materials will be provided. The workshop is free of charge and no reservations are necessary; however, we would appreciate hearing from you if you plan to attend in order to be sure we have enough supplies for all. Call Bob Taylor at (304) 558-0230, or e-mail bobby.taylor@wvculture.org. Visit our Web site at <http://www.wvculture.org/history/workshops.html> to view photographs of the May session.

Archives and History Newsroom Debuts

The Archives and History Newsroom is a new feature on our Web site at <http://www.wvculture.org/history/archivesnewsroom.html>. New additions to the State Archives collections will be presented and items of great interest in existing State Archives collections will be highlighted. The debut item is a rare photograph of Mother Jones (labor leader Mary Harris Jones) taken while she was under military arrest during the 1912–13 Paint Creek and Cabin Creek Coal Strike.

Kesterson Lecture Photos

The West Virginia Archives and History Library was pleased to present Brian Kesterson and his new book, *The West Virginia National Guard, 1898–1919*, on June 2. Photos from the evening are on our Web site at <http://www.wvculture.org/history/workshops.html>.

Vital Research Records Database Nears Completion

Archives and History's West Virginia Vital Research Records (WVRR) free searchable database of digitized images of selected county birth, death and marriage records and West Virginia state death certificates is nearing completion. The county records were digitized from records microfilmed in the various county courthouses by the Genealogical Society of Utah in the late 1960's, for the most part. County births from 1853 up through 1908 (births are withheld 100 years except for the first six counties of Calhoun, Gilmer, Hardy, Harrison, Mineral, and Pendleton which were entered through 1930) for all 55 counties are now available, as well as deaths from 1853 up through the microfilming date for each county for all but Marion County. Marriages from the inception of each county up through the relevant microfilming date are available for all but Kanawha County and Marion County. WVRR also includes West Virginia Dept. of Health Vital Registration state death certificates from the inception of state record-keeping in 1917 up

through 1958 (state deaths are withheld fifty years).

The database is available through our Web site at <http://www.wvculture.org/vrr>. We request that users first read the explanatory article linked to the site, and that any questions be e-mailed to wvrr@wvculture.org (links provided at the bottom of each page). We are aware that currently users are finding it difficult to use the database due to frequent time-outs during searches that keep results from loading, as well as frequent inability to advance pages of results and to open links to the digitized records. We apologize for the inconvenience and frustration caused by our overburdened and aged servers. We have completed all of the necessary steps required of Archives and History to obtain new servers and hope to have them within the month. Comments regarding WVRR may be addressed to Joe Geiger, Archives and History Director, at joe.geiger@wvculture.org, (304) 558-0230.

SHPO to Sponsor Cemetery Preservation and Cemetery Landscapes Workshop

By Carolyn Kender, SHPO archaeologist
carolyn.kender@wvculture.org

On September 21–23, 2009, the West Virginia State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) in cooperation with the National Preservation Institute will be sponsoring a three day workshop on Cemetery Preservation and Cemetery Landscapes. The workshop will be held at the Cultural Center in Charleston and will be taught by Ms. Debi Hacker and Dr. Michael Trinkley, Ph.D., of the Chicora

Foundation, Inc., a nonprofit heritage preservation organization specializing in research, public education, conservation, and preservation for museums, archives, and historic organizations.

The first two days will concentrate on Cemetery Preservation. Topics will include current issues in cemetery preservation, such as recording and documenting ceme-

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teries and graveyards, undertaking preservation efforts, and exploring conservation techniques and issues. The National Register nomination process for cemeteries will also be discussed. The third day of the workshop will focus on Cemetery Landscapes: a Practical Guide to Care and Maintenance. Participants will learn how to protect historic cemetery landscapes, preserve integrity of design, and safeguard tombstones and monuments while pursuing a practical outlook on maintenance and budget concerns. Participants will explore approaches to caring for softscapes, or plantings, and hardscapes, such as roads, path-

ways, and benches. Effective pruning and cutting techniques as well as the safe use of chemicals and heavy equipment will be shared. Participants will learn the basics of short and long-term preservation plans.

Participation is limited, so early registration is recommended. Scholarships will be available. For further information, contact:

State Historic Preservation Office
 West Virginia Division of Culture and History
 The Culture Center
 1900 Kanawha Blvd. East
 Charleston, WV 25305-0300
 (304) 558-0240

[This article is from SHPO's newsletter, Details, Volume 13, No. 2, June 2009. The SHPO Web site is <http://www.wvculture.org/shpo>.]

Golden Horseshoe Alumni Enjoy Workshop in the Archives

By Mary Johnson

On June 19, Archives and History offered three sessions of the workshop "West Virginia Archives and History Outreach to Students" as part of the day-long Golden Horseshoe Alumni Reunion activities at the Capitol Complex. The two staff members who led the sessions focused on Archives and History Web site offerings that are especially helpful to 8th-grade West Virginia Studies students who are preparing for the annual Golden Horseshoe exam or exploring various state history topics, as well as to teachers of those students—the interactive Daily Trivia and Quick Quizzes, the online statehood exhibit "A State of Convenience," audio-video clips, etc. Following the presentation, workshop participants had the opportunity to take a 20-question test drawn from the Quick Quizzes to test their ability to answer questions that might be encountered on more recent Golden Horseshoe tests. More than

80 Golden Horseshoe alumni and family members attended the workshops, which were the first activities held in the newly renovated Archives and History Library. Photos of the event are available on the Archives and History Web site at: <http://www.wvculture.org/history/workshops/gha061909>.

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:

Jefferson, *cty. Virg.*, bounded by the Potomac river NE., by the Blue Ridge or Loudon *cty. SE.*, Frederick SW., and Berkley W. and NW.; length 20 ms., mean width 15; area 300 sqms. This *cty.* limited on the NW. by the Opequan river; on the NE, by the Potomac; and traversed towards the Blue Ridge by the Shenandoah, and lying in the Great Limestone valley, is one of the most productive grain and fruit *cties.* of Virg. Its surface is pleasantly variegated by hill and dale, and well watered. Pop. 1820, 13,987. Lat. 39° 28' N. lon. 1° 5' W.

Monongalia, or Monongahela,* *cty. of Virg.*; bounded N. by Penn. E. by Preston *cty., Virg.*, S. by Sandy creek or Randolph *cty., SW.* by Monongahela river or Harrison, and W. by Tyler; length 33 ms., mean width 20; area 660 sqms. Surface generally extremely hilly, and in part mountainous. The river alluvion and some of the soil of the hills highly fertile. The Monongahela and Cheat unite in the lower part of the *cty.*, and both streams traverse it obliquely. Chief town Morgantown. Pop. 1820, 11,060. Ctl. lat. 39° 30' N. long. W.C. 3° W.

Morgantown, *pstv. and seat of justice, Monongalia cty. Virg.*, on the right bank of Monongahela river, 20 ms. SSW. from Uniontown, and 30 by land above Brownsville, Penn. This village is seated on a high bottom of Monongahela river, and contains about 100 dwelling houses. Lat. 39° 33' N. lon. W. C. 3° 50' W.

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Archives Photo Display

Images from the Photograph Collection of the West Virginia State Archives are now framed, captioned and hung in the north hallway adjacent to the Great Hall in the Culture Center in Charleston. The

display is an outgrowth of the Senate District photographs that have appeared in several locations, most recently in the State Capitol rotunda during the last legislative session. The initial Culture Center display of

55 photographs includes one from each West Virginia county. The rotating exhibit will change periodically, perhaps corresponding with current events, such as the sesquicentennial of John Brown's raid on Harper's Ferry this year, or annual celebratory months, with photographs from our Celebrating African American Lives collection or of West Virginia women. Other ideas include schools and industry.

Evening Workshops and Lecture Schedule

Date	Conducted by:	Subject
August 4 Tuesday	Archives Staff	<i>Genealogy for Beginners</i>
September 1 Tuesday	Lynn Barney	<i>Put Your Family's Memories in a Scrapbook</i>
October 6 Tuesday	Mary Johnson	<i>"His Soul Goes Marching On": The Life and Legacy of John Brown</i>
November 3 Tuesday	Terry Lowry	<i>Bastard Battalion: A History of the 83rd Chemical Mortar Battalion in World War II</i>
December 1 Tuesday	Dr. Kenneth R. Bailey	<i>A Glimpse at Some Lesser-Known Prominent West Virginians</i>

Registration for these free workshops is helpful but not required.
 Call our office at (304) 558-0230, or e-mail bobby.taylor@wvculture.org.

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.



View from the Great Hall of the new West Virginia State Archives photo display hall.

Genealogy Workshop for Beginners

The West Virginia Archives and History Library staff will be offering a Genealogy Workshop for Beginners on Tuesday, August 4, from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. for those who want to compile their family history, but don't know how to start. Family historians who have begun their research using Internet genealogy Web sites, but would like to learn how to locate and use non-Internet resources are also invited to attend. Topics will include basic genealogical research skills, introduction to family history resources, and proper documentation of records and information collected. Use of primary resource



materials found in the Archives and History Library will be emphasized. Registration is requested but not required. To register, please contact Bob Taylor by e-mail at bobby.taylor@wvculture.org or by telephone at (304) 558-0230.

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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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Web Site of Interest:

Ohio River Maps: [http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~moyer/OhioRiverMaps/](http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~moyer/OhioRiverMaps/index.htm)

[index.htm](http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~moyer/OhioRiverMaps/index.htm). This site has maps of the upper Ohio River that include many of the small towns along its banks, plus maps of the larger towns and cities in Pennsylvania, Ohio, West Virginia and Kentucky. All of the maps viewed by the editor were good color images, with lots, buildings and land use (fairgrounds, cemetery, public square) detailed, usually with names of owner (including heirs and estates) or business.

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.

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.

BATTLE OF RICH MOUNTAIN RE-ENACTMENT, July 11–12:
For more information, visit <http://www.richmountain.org>.

BATTLE OF LAUREL HILL RE-ENACTMENT, July 17–19:
For more information, visit <http://www.battleoflaurelhill.org>.

**NEW ARCHIVES LIBRARY HOURS BEGIN,
August 3:** For more information, see the article in this issue of the newsletter.

GENEALOGY WORKSHOP FOR BEGINNERS, August 4:
West Virginia Archives and History Library, The Culture Center, Charleston.

**HACKERS CREEK PIONEER DESCENDANTS 28TH ANNUAL GATHERING,
August 6–9:** Horner. For more information,
visit http://www.hackerscreek.com/2009gather/2009_gathering_brochure.htm.

**BATTLE OF DRY CREEK OR ROCKY GAP RE-ENACTMENT,
August 21–23:** Greenbrier State Forest, White Sulphur Springs. For more information,
visit <http://www.thebattleofdrycreek.com>.

LABOR DAY, September 7: Archives Library will be *closed*.

BEGINNERS GENEALOGY WORKSHOP, September 19:
Lincoln County Genealogical Society, 10 a. m. to 3:00 p.m., Hamlin Library, Hamlin.

**CEMETERY PRESERVATION AND CEMETERY LANDSCAPES WORKSHOP,
September 21–23:** The Culture Center, Charleston. Sponsored by the
West Virginia State Historic Preservation Office with the National Preservation Institute.

GENEALOGY FAIR, October 3: Berkeley County Historical Society, Christ Reformed Church,
Martinsburg. For more information, visit <http://www.bchs.org>.

COLUMBUS DAY, October 12: Archives Library will be open*.

**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.

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.

“JOHN BROWN REMEMBERED,” October 14–17: An educational symposium, Harpers Ferry National Historical Park, Harpers Ferry. For more information, visit <http://www.harpersferryhistory.org/johnbrown/index.htm>.

JOHN BROWN COMMUNITY FORUM, October 21: Jefferson County Black History Society, focusing on Dangerfield Newby and Lewis Leary, 7:00 p.m., Wainwright Baptist Church, Charles Town.

VETERANS DAY, November 11: Archives Library will be open*.

THANKSGIVING DAY, November 26: Archives Library will be *closed*.

THANKSGIVING FRIDAY AND SATURDAY, November 27–28: Archives Library will be *closed*.

CHRISTMAS EVE, December 24: Archives Library will be *closing at noon*.

CHRISTMAS DAY, December 25: Archives Library will be *closed*.

NEW YEAR’S EVE, December 31: Archives Library will be *closing at noon*.

NEW YEAR’S DAY, January 1, 2010: Archives Library will be *closed*.

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.

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Paddytown, pstv. Hampshire ctv. Virg., on the Potomac, 20 ms. above Cumberland, Md., and 236 NW. by W. from W.C.

Parkersburg, pstv., Wood ctv. Virg., on Ohio river.

Point Pleasant, pstv. and seat of justice, Mason ctv. Virg., on the point, above the confluence of Ohio, and Great Kenhawa rivers. N. lat. 38° 58', lon. W.C. 5° W.; by pstrd. 352 ms. W. from W.C.

Polsley’s Mills, pstv. Monongahela ctv. Virg.

Romney, pstv. and seat of justice, Hampshire ctv. Virg., on the S. Branch of Potomac river, 30 ms. westward of Winchester. Lat. 39° 18' N. lon. W.C. 1° 50' W.

Shinntown, pstv. Harrison ctv. Virg., on the W. fork of Monongahela, at the mouth of Simson’s creek, 8 ms. NNE from Clarksburg, and by pstrd. 235 ms. a little N. of W. from W. C.

White Day, pstv. Monongahela ctv. Virg., 320 ms. N.W. from Richmond.

***Editor’s Note:** Notice that Monongalia and Monongahela were both accepted as the name of the county in 1827. Even within this same publication, Morgantown was identified as being in Monongalia County, yet Polsley’s Mills and White Day were identified as being in Monongahela County. The river was consistently referred to as Monongahela in the entries I have

read so far.

Some non-West Virginia entries that reflect the mind set of the day:

Jeromestown, trifling Indian settlement so called in Wayne ctv. Ohio, adjoining to its western limit; on the road from Wooster to Mansfield.

Jermah, town of the kingdom of Fezzan [Editor’s note: Fezzan is now the southwestern region of modern day Libya], distinguished by the numerous herds of sheep and goats that feed around it, and by many majestic ruins, that exhibit to the inhabitants of its clay-built cottages vestiges of greatness to which they are perfectly indifferent. It is 60 ms. SE. of Mourzook.

West Virginia Division of Culture and History
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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.

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
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