We are very happy to have our usual influx of summer travelers, some of whom are passing through and some for whom the Archives and History Library is their main destination. We appreciate everyone’s patience in learning our new rules. Most researchers who have visited other archival libraries have experienced similar requirements previously. Without a separate room for viewing manuscripts, special collections, photographs and rare books, we must apply the same level of security for all library users. We try very hard every day to make patrons’ visits to us as comfortable and productive as possible, while upholding our mandate to preserve the collections entrusted to us.

Archives Library Registers 1000th Patron Under New Guidelines

On June 10, 2010, Dr. Joyce Connolly of Hurricane, WV, became the 1000th new visitor to register in the West Virginia Archives and History Library since the first of the year. Archives and History Director Joe Geiger presented Dr. Connolly with a complimentary copy of Marking Our Past: West Virginia’s Historical Highway Markers in recognition of her role in the record-making event. In January, revised library services and fee guidelines became effective, requiring patrons of the Archives and History Library not only to sign the guest register each day they visit the library, but also to complete a registration form on their initial visit. With registration visitors acknowledge that they have been made aware of the library rules, including what they are and are not permitted to bring into the library, and that they will abide by these rules. “Rules and Researcher Guidelines” is available on the Archives and History Web site at http://www.wvculture.org/history/rules/libraryrules.html.

Archives Library Hosts Scrapbooking Workshop on July 6

By popular demand, local crafter Lynn Barney returns for Archives and History’s First Tuesday event on July 6, 2010, from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., to conduct another session of “Put Your Family’s Memories in a Scrapbook.” Barney has presented crafting programs for the Kanawha County Library for several years, including sessions on creating memory bracelets and puzzle wreaths. The session at the Archives and History Library will be a beginning scrapbooking workshop. Barney will demonstrate how to incorporate family photos and mementoes into scrapbook pages, and session participants will be given an opportunity to create their own pages. Participants should bring family photographs, mementoes, letters or like materials suitable for placement on two 12” x 12” sized pages. Photographs may be originals or copies but should be no larger than 5” x 7”. Participants also should bring information on these materials for
journaling—the accompanying text explaining the who, what, where, when and why of the items being scrapbooked. Other scrapbooking supplies will be provided.

The Archives and History Library will close on July 6 as usual at 5:00 p.m. and reopen for workshop participants only at 5:45 p.m. Advance registration for the workshop is not required, but is encouraged to help plan seating arrangements and supplies for the session. To register in advance, contact library manager Robert Taylor, at bobby.l.taylor@wv.gov or (304) 558-0230. If you are interested in family history scrapbooking and unable to attend the workshop, announced the grant criteria in its invitation to applicants last September. The criteria were: conduct a total records inventory and condition assessment, and develop a master records management plan for county records; remove non-records and accumulations of records having reached or exceeded required retention periods; and provide proper and improved storage of and access to permanent records or records with required retention periods in excess of 25 years. The latter will include physical storage to provide proper shelving and/or archival records boxes, and security/preservation microfilm, with a digital imaging combination for enhanced access. A copy of the microfilm will be stored at the State Archives. In this round of grants the RMPB also considered grant applications for computers to be used by the public to access county government records.

For more information about the RMPB contact Joe Geiger, joe.n.geiger@wv.gov, (304) 558-0230, or visit www.wvculture.org/history/rmpb/rmpb.html.

[Excerpted from West Virginia Division of Culture and History press release, May 19, 2010.]

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Grave Creek Mound Opens Interpretive Garden

On June 6, the Grave Creek Mound Archaeological Complex in Moundsville, in cooperation with the Marshall County Master Gardeners program, broke ground for a new “Interpretive Garden.” Seeds were planted using historic Native American gardening techniques, showcasing plants similar to those grown by prehistoric Native Americans in the region. Archaeological evidence suggest that the Adena people who built Grave Creek Mound grew sunflowers, squash, gourds and other plants with starchy seeds that many consider to be weeds today. Goosefoot, which grows in garden beds today, is one of the most well known of these starchy plants. The “Interpretive Garden” will include those examples, as well as corn or maize, and beans, which became important staples for Native Americans who lived in the area after the Adena people. For more information, contact Andrea Keller, cultural program coordinator, at (304) 843-4138 or andrea.k.keller@wv.gov. You may also visit http://www.wvculture.org/museum/GraveCreekmod.html.

[Extracted and adapted from West Virginia Culture and History news release, June 1, 2010.]
Mercer County Opens Research Library/Museum

Mercer County Historical Society has opened the Griffey House in Princeton as a permanent home for the society, a genealogical research library and a museum for local history. Library hours are Monday, 10 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.; Thursday, 4:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.; and Saturday, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Members of the society will be available to assist visitors with books, online resources and more. Visit their Website at www.mercercountyhistoricalsociety.org or call (304) 425-9017 for more information.

New Titles

Atlas of the City of Parkersburg: George Cram, 1901.
Everyname Index to the Wheeling [W. Va.] Blue Book 1901–02: Kenneth Fischer Craft, Jr., 2009. [Note: copies of the Blue Book itself can be found at WVU Libraries and the Virginia Historical Society.]
Leffel Cemetery, Newport, Virginia: Virginia Toney, [n.d.].
Removing Methane (Degasification) from the Pocahontas No. 4 Coalbed in Southern West Virginia: W. M. Merrits, et als, 1963.
Removing Methane (Degasification) from the Pittsburgh Coalbed in Northern West Virginia: W. M. Merrits, et als, 1962.
A Bibliography of Histories of Southern Appalachian Counties: Nancy Susan Jones, [n.d.].

State Historian and Statehood

Archives and History director and State Historian Joe Geiger presented the June First Tuesday lecture in the Archives and History Library on West Virginia statehood, an appropriate topic for the state’s birthday month. In his previous position as assistant director of Archives and History and as the historian overseeing the Archives Web site, Geiger was instrumental in the creation and development of the statehood online exhibit, A State of Convenience: The Creation of West Virginia, http://www.wvculture.org/history/statehood/statehood.html, a collection of history narrative, images of original documents, biographies, photographs and drawings, newspaper article transcriptions and much more. You can view more photos online at http://www.wvculture.org/history/workshops/geiger060110.html.

Bob Taylor Receives 2010 Vandalia Award

Archives and History’s own Bob Taylor was presented with the prestigious Vandalia Award during the 2010 Vandalia Gathering at the Capitol Complex on May 28. Since Bob is very involved in the planning and operation of the annual event staged by the Division of Culture and History, a lot of strategy and secrecy was necessary for the Vandalia Award committee to surprise him as they did successfully. Bob is a world renowned fiddle player in the old-time style, and has maintained an extensive and rewarding presence in the music world both before and during his 30 years as an Archives staff member. To view a photograph of Bob with his award and for more information about Bob Taylor and Vandalia, visit http://www.wvculture.org/news.aspx?Agency=Division&Id=1384.
OGS Library Has Moved

The Ohio Genealogical Society Library has moved into its brand new building at 611 State Route 97 West in Bellville, Ohio 44813. New phone number is (419) 886-1906; however, e-mail, ogs@ogs.org, and Web address, www.ogs.org, remain the same. While the Library opened on a limited basis on June 15, the grand opening is scheduled for July 23.

Weirton Steel MovieFest at Weirton Area Museum

Weirton Area Museum and Cultural Center (WAMCC) will present Weirton Steel MovieFest on July 16 and 17. The MovieFest includes a 30-minute documentary by Rick Smith entitled Weirton Steel History Documentary, and over a dozen more short films. You may also learn more about historic films collected by WAMCC by reading the May issue of the Museum’s excellent online newsletter, which includes a photograph of the Archives’ own audio and moving images archivist, Richard Fauss, reviewing some of the film in our facilities in the Culture Center in Charleston: http://weirtonmuseum.com/WAMCC2010May.pdf.

According to Fauss, “The Weirton Area Museum has an excellent and
valuable film collection because it has received this collection from the Weirton Steel Company. Some of the films in this collection have not been seen by the general public in 50 to 65 years, depending on the title. In a cooperative venture, the West Virginia State Archives has transferred many films in this fine collection from 16mm film to more modern DVD format with an intermediate Digital Video copy so that the films can be more easily seen. The Archives has permission to use the films with credit given to the Weirton Area Museum and Cultural Center. One of the rare films which has not been seen by a large audience in many years is Assignment Accomplished, a film about WWII artillery shell production in Weirton that features a large number of women war workers. Another movie is called Tinplate and features that part of Weirton Steel production. Yet another title is West Virginia and its Natural Resources which shows most of the prominent industries around the state as they were in 1950. Making this collection more available greatly enhances the moving image heritage of West Virginia.”

The WAMCC is located at 3393 Main Street, Weirton, WV, 26062. For full information about the Center, visit http://www.weirtonmuseum.com or call Dennis Jones, (304) 479-7266.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY!

At this time, we are searching for volunteers to help us enter the contents of all of our surname files into a database that will be made available to the public. If you are interested in helping us with this project, please contact Cathy Miller, cathy.s.miller@wv.gov, (304) 558-0230.

Stepping Today into Pre-K: Jill J. Simmons-Stemple, 2008.
Farewell to the Bloody Shirt: Stanley P. Hirshson, 1962.
Brokenburn: Kate Stone, 1995.
The Fate of Liberty: Mark E. Neely, Jr., 1991.
Lee’s Young Artillerist: William R. J. Pegram: Peter Carmichael.
Wood County Cemetery Inscriptions, Volume VI: West Augusta Historical and Genealogical Society, [2009].
Randolph County Land Entry Book No. 1: [Facsimile edition with an everyname index compiled by Jaime Simmons], 2010.
Lucius Cross, Sr. and Thirza (Stanley) Cross: Cross Family Group Sheets: Dorothy Staats Kerns, comp., 2009.
No Time for Fear: W. B. Berry, 2003.

Evening Workshops and Lecture Schedule

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Conducted by:</th>
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<td>July 6</td>
<td>Lynn Barney</td>
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<td>August 3</td>
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<td>September 7</td>
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<td>Jaime Simmons</td>
<td>Digging into the Draper Collection:</td>
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| Registration for these free workshops is helpful but not required. |
Call our office at (304) 558-0230, or e-mail bobby.l.taylor@wv.gov. |
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.

E-Mailing Archives and History

As we have mentioned in previous issues, the e-mail addresses of Culture and History staff, including Archives and History staff, Vital Research Records link, Voyager catalog link, etc., were changed several months ago. We have experienced a few blips in the system, and we want to be sure you reach us. If you have sent an e-mail to an Archives and History staff member, or through the links from the Voyager online library catalog or the Vital Research Records database, and have not received a reply, please call us and let us know. If you have sent an e-mail to a new Archives and History e-mail address, or hit reply and answered a recent e-mail from our staff, and had your e-mail message returned, please inform us. The Office of Technology will look into problems we can identity, and will want the returned e-mail forwarded to them so they can decipher any possible clues in the rejection message. Not sure if you have the current correct e-mail address for us? Visit our Web site at http://www.wvculture.org/history/contactus.html, or click on “Contact Us” at the top of our home page.
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.


HACKER’S CREEK PIONEER DESCENDANTS 29TH ANNUAL GATHERING,

FRENCH CREEK PIONEER GATHERING, August 21–22: Descendants of French Creek Pioneers, French Creek. For more information, contact Amy W. Tenney, (304) 472-5174, buckhannon@hotmail.com, or Mary Albaugh, (304) 473-0738, IWABYF@gmail.com.

LABOR DAY, September 6: Archives Library will be closed.

“THE JACKPOT ROCKSHELTER MYSTERY,” September 30: David N. Fuerst, speaker, Grave Creek Mound Archaeological Complex, Moundsville. For more information, contact Andrea Keller, (304) 843-4123, andrea.k.keller@wv.gov.

COLUMBUS DAY, October 11: Archives Library will be closed.

“THE EARLIEST AMERICANS: CURRENT PERSPECTIVES ON PALEOAMERICAN ORIGINS, ARRIVALS, AND LIFE WAYS,” October 28: Jerry N. McDonald, Ph. D., speaker, Grave Creek Mound Archaeological Complex, Moundsville. For more information, contact Andrea Keller, (304) 843-4123, andrea.k.keller@wv.gov.

“SHOW AND TELL’ WITH THE UPPER VANDALIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY,
October 31: Putnam County Board of Education Office, Winfield.

ELECTION DAY, November 2: Archives Library will be open*.

VETERANS DAY, November 11: Archives Library will be closed.

“THE RESURGENCE OF ANIKITUHWA: LANGUAGE AND CULTURAL REVITALIZATION AMONG THE EASTERN BAND CHEROKEE,” November 18: Travis Henline, speaker, Grave Creek Mound Archaeological Complex, Moundsville. For more information, contact Andrea Keller, (304) 843-4123, andrea.k.keller@wv.gov.

THANKSGIVING DAY, November 25: Archives Library will be closed.

THANKSGIVING FRIDAY AND SATURDAY, November 26–27: Archives Library will be closed.

CHRISTMAS EVE, December 24: Archives Library will be closed.

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

*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.scouras@wvculture.org.
New e-mail: susan.c.scouras@wv.gov

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 ........................................................................................................................................ Library (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 Waggner ........................................................................................................................................ Secretary
Kyle Campbell .............................................................................................................................................. Part time
Intern .......................................................................................................................................................... Carolyn Conner, Bill Kelley, James Wilburn, Sue Shank, Charlotte Thurston, Patricia Richards McClure, and Ken Bailey

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