The National Assessment of Educational Progress recently released the Nation’s Report Card on U.S. History. The good news is the average score for the lowest performing students in 4th and 8th grade has risen from scores in previous report years, and there has been an upward movement in scores for some racial/ethnic groups. Press coverage has emphasized the fact that only 12 percent of 12th graders are at or above the proficient level; the percentages for 4th and 8th graders are 20 and 17 respectively. What is worse, however, is that fewer than one-half of 12th graders are at or above the basic level. Although by no means outstanding scores, in comparison, 73 percent of 4th graders and 69 percent of 8th graders achieved that mark. Even more troubling is the fact that the 2010 assessment represents a slight decline for 12th graders at all levels since the last assessment in 2006.

What does it mean? Well, for one thing, according to the report, it is likely that only 45 percent of 12th graders would be able to

Summer Interns at Archives and History

By Mary Johnson and Debra Basham

Archives and History is fortunate to have three interns this summer. We have a second Virgil A. Lewis fellow, Amanda Adams from Fairmont. Amanda is in the CRM program at West Virginia University. She is a 2010 graduate from West Virginia Wesleyan College, where she majored in history and international studies. Amanda also is a former Golden Horseshoe winner, having received the honor while an 8th-grade student at Miller Junior High School in Marion County.

Readers may recall from the February 2011 issue of the newsletter that the Virgil A. Lewis (Archives and History) fellowship, named for the first state historian and archivist, is a joint project between the Division of Culture and History and West Virginia University’s Public History Program that is designed to provide students with an opportunity to gain real world knowledge by working with the professional staff at the Culture Center in Charleston.

In addition to a Virgil A. Lewis Fellow, Archives and History has two governor’s interns this summer—Caroline Kaufman and Jimmy Fauss.

Mitchell to Discuss Carr China at July Tuesday Night Lecture Program

On July 5, 2011, the West Virginia State Museum’s chief curator James R. Mitchell will present “Decorating Carr China” at the monthly 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.

Carr China Company operated in Grafton for four decades from the 1910s until 1953. The pottery operation made all types of dishware, serving various facilities, including restaurants, hotels, hospitals, and state parks. Among the designs produced by the company are Grafton, Rho-Dendra, Willow, and Glo-Tan. Some of the specialty items that Carr China produced include the 1936 Tygart River Reservoir Dam dedication plate and the 1952
Jim Mitchell has been a professional decorative arts and technological history curator for 50 years. In addition to the West Virginia State Museum, he has worked for state museums in Wisconsin, New Jersey and Pennsylvania, as well as The Bennington (Vt.) Museum and the defunct Carborundum Museum of Ceramics in Niagara Falls, New York. He has also been a museum director twice. In his spare time, Mitchell is a woodworker and an amateur musician, singing and playing bass instruments.

On July 5, the library will close at 5 p.m. and reopen at 5:45 p.m. for participants only. 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 Robert Taylor, library manager, 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.]

Hackers Creek 30th Annual Gathering
August 11–14

Hackers Creek Pioneer Descendants will hold its 30th Anniversary Annual Gathering August 11–14, 2011, in Horner. Scheduled activities include two workshops (“Family Search: Using the Internet” with Mary Glass and “Artifact or Family Treasure?” with D. Jane Gilchrist); a tour of sites in northern Lewis and southern Harrison counties, led by Joy Gilchrist DeFazio and Terry Washburn, with lunch at Lamberts Winery and winery tour; and a memorial service and banquet. The deadline for registering for the gathering is August 1. For more information, contact Hackers Creek Pioneer Descendants by e-mail at hcpd@hackerscreek.com or by phone at (304) 269-7091.

[This article originally was prepared by Mary Johnson for the Archives and History Web site based upon information provided by Ken Hechler.]
New Exhibit in Archives and History’s Photo Gallery

By Mary Johnson

Have you ever wanted to see a ceramic grasshopper or an ice cream shop shaped like an upside-down cone? Perhaps you prefer something less whimsical, such as a view of the old West Virginia Penitentiary guard tower or the 1936 Hemphill train wreck. If these images interest you, they and forty others are available in a new exhibit that has gone up in Archives and History’s Photo Gallery, located just off the Culture Center Great Hall, in the corridor that runs between the entrance to the Archives and History Library and the entrance to the hallway leading to our office area. The photographs, selected by our darkroom photo archivist Ed Hicks from the “Pic of the Week” feature on Archives and History’s Web site, will be on display in the Photo Gallery for approximately four months.

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<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>July 5</td>
<td>Jim Mitchell</td>
<td><em>Decorating Carr China</em></td>
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<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>Travis Henline</td>
<td><em>The Resurgence of Anikituhwa: Language and Cultural Revitalization among the Eastern Band Cherokee</em></td>
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<td>August 2</td>
<td>Bob Beanblossom</td>
<td><em>History of the West Virginia State Park System</em></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.

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attended the same middle school. Caroline Kaufman is a student at the Pratt Institute in New York, where she is studying fashion design and sustainability. She will be a sophomore in the fall. Caroline is already familiar with the Culture Center, having worked for the Museums Section last summer.

Jimmy Fauss also is familiar with the Culture Center, having volunteered at Archives and History on several occasions. He is a 2010 graduate of Charleston Catholic High School and is a sophomore at West Virginia University-Institute of Technology in Montgomery.

Working with Kyle Campbell of the Records Management and Preservation Board staff, Jimmy is taking rolls of 35mm microfilm that various counties have of their records, mostly deed books, and running them through a digital scanner that automatically converts each frame to a digital image. After saving the images, he proofs each roll, image by image, to be sure that it is readable and that no edges were cut off. When there are problems, Jimmy goes back to the original microfilm and individually captures the problematic images, inserting them into their proper location within the digital files. Once a roll is completed, he runs a computer program that compresses the image size and renames each image for each roll of film. The rolls of microfilm are then stored at the State Archives if the county desires, and the digital files are made available to each county. A digital copy is maintained at the State Archives, too.

Amanda and Caroline are working primarily on Archives and History’s online sesquicentennial project “A Child of the Rebellion.” Under the supervision of Joe Geiger, Caroline is focusing on the timeline for 1865 and Amanda on 1864. That means they search newspapers and other primary source materials, looking for events regarding statehood or Civil War activities in the state, copy the item, and type it into electronic format. Amanda also had performed some of the coding work to prepare files for uploading on our website. In addition, she is processing some collections and has had the opportunity to assist Mr. Geiger with several other activities. Besides working on the sesquicentennial project, Caroline has spent time with the photograph collections and has done some image clean-up work in Photoshop.

We welcome all three interns to Archives and History.

The Story of West Virginia and the Semi-Centennial

By Col. John E. Day, Secretary of State Commission

[Reprinted from Official Souvenir Book and Program Commemorating West Virginia’s Semi-Centennial Celebration held at Wheeling, West Virginia, June 15th to 21st, 1913.]

The commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the admission of West Virginia into the Union is an unusual event in the history of the country, as the creation of the new state was the only change made in the map of the United States resulting from the Civil war of 1861-5. There were a number of extraordinary and memorable features connected with the formation of West Virginia.

While there is a general impression that the conflict of fifty years ago was responsible for the division of the state of Virginia, it is an erroneous one. There had been differences for years between the two sections of the state that were divided by the mountain barrier. One of the main points of contention was the claim of the section that is now West Virginia that it was denied proper representation in the state legislature and division of state revenues. Many years previous Daniel Webster had predicted the formation of a new state.

West Virginia came into being as an independent state through great tribulation. It is the trials and struggles of the founders
Thursday Night Genealogy Program Looks at Cemetery Preservation

By Mary Johnson

Carolyn Kender and Sara Prior, from the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), discussed historic preservation and the programs offered by SHPO to help preserve West Virginia cemeteries at the genealogy program in the Archives and History Library on June 9, 2011. They reviewed how SHPO can assist the public in determining if a cemetery is historic and whether the site is eligible to be listed in the National Register and discussed the West Virginia Cemetery Survey program and what the public can do to locate and record information about cemeteries located across the state. Pictures of the Thursday evening event are available at http://www.wvculture.org/history/workshops/2011junegenclub.html.

When it comes to cemetery markers, perhaps the single best piece of advice would be to follow a fundamental principle of medicine—"First, do no harm." Well intentioned efforts to reset or clean markers can end up causing irreparable damage if done incorrectly. So, too, can some techniques used to read marker inscriptions. Don’t use high-power pressure washing, sand blasting, or chemicals on markers. Rubbings of inscriptions can also cause permanent damage, especially if the stone is already in poor condition. When repairing markers, remember that, as with archival and museum items, repairs should be reversible. Only those with proper knowledge of the materials involved should undertake repair work.

At the genealogy program on June 9, several members of the audience immediately corrected an attendee who suggested using shaving cream to help read a marker, pointing out that the substance is a chemical, which leaves a damaging residue on the marker. From the audience came another suggestion, using something reflective, like a mirror, to cast sunlight into the shadows of the inscription.

Carolyn Kender and Sara Prior handed out a packet of information to those who attended the program. The packet contained information on cemetery preservation, cemeteries and the National Register, and the cemetery survey program. If you missed the program but would like information on any of these topics, contact Carolyn Kender, SHPO archaeologist, by e-mail at carolyn.m.kender@wv.gov or by phone at (304) 558-0240, ext. 719.

The second Thursday of each month, the Archives and History Library holds a special genealogy program from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. in the evening. On other Thursday evenings, the Genealogy Club meets from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. For more information, contact Robert Taylor, library manager, by e-mail at bobby.l.taylor@wv.gov or by phone at (304) 558-0230.

Continued on the next page
found elsewhere. At the first meeting of the Commission in the fall of 1909 in Parkersburg, the following resolution was adopted:

“Resolved: That it is the sense of this Commission, subject to the approval of the Governor and the legislature, that the fiftieth anniversary of the admission of the state into the Union should be celebrated in 1913 in some proper manner.”

The legislature of 1911 appropriated the initial sum of $10,000 for the expenses of the celebration to be conducted by the Commission. This sum was supplemented by another appropriation of $20,000, made by the legislature of 1913. The Commission was not permanently organized until the meeting at Clarksburg, November 4, 1911, when the following officials were elected to serve during the life of the Commission: Chairman, Hon. Henry G. Davis, Elkins; Vice-Chairman, Secretary of State Stuart F. Reed, Charleston; Secretary, Col. John E. Day, Wheeling; Treasurer, Hon. B. W. Peterson, Wheeling. The Hon. Virgil A. Lewis, State Archivist, was elected historian of the Commission. His death ensuing before he had actively begun his work necessitated the election of a successor, Dr. J. M. Callahan, head of the Department of History of West Virginia University.

The Commission at its Clarksburg meeting selected Wheeling as the place of official celebration on account of the sentiment attached to this city as the birthplace of the state. Besides extending financial aid to Wheeling for its celebration, the Commission has provided for a statewide celebration of the event, to be conducted simultaneously with the official celebration in Wheeling, June 20th. The chief aim of the Commission has been to exploit the amazing progress we have made in the fifty years of our existence as an independent state, and to instill a new birth of civic pride and patriotism among the people, in gratitude for the bounteous endowment of Nature in our inexhaustible resources and natural advantages, and for peace, happiness and prosperity that have come to us through the years of masterful endeavor and glorious achievements.

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**Archives and History Movie Night Well Attended**

On June 7, 2011, 40 people attended the “Archives and History Movie Night: Footage from the Collection” program in the Archives and History Library, presented by Dick Fauss. Fauss, who is Archives and History’s moving images archivist, discussed the background to the collection, as well as various formats. Among the footage he showed were *Charleston Beautiful on the Kanawha* (1932), *West Virginia and Its Natural Resources* (1951), clips on 1964 Miss West Virginia Ella Dee Kessel (Caperton), the 1968 presidential and gubernatorial elections, old-time musicians Israel and Tom Welch, and Charles Peters discussing the Peace Corps in 1961. Images from the program are available at http://www.wvculture.org/history/workshops/wkshp060711.html.

[This article is revised from one originally prepared by Mary Johnson for the Archives and History Web site.]
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, July 4:** Archives Library will be *closed.*

**“THE FIRST CAMPAIGN” CIVIL WAR LECTURE, July 6:** Hunter Lesser, speaker, Randolph County Community Arts Center, Elkins.

**“GREENBRIER RESORT PICTORIAL HISTORY,” July 7:** Dr. Robert Conte, speaker, New River Community Technical College Auditorium, Lewisburg. Call (304) 645-3398 to register.

**LEGAL HISTORY OF THE FIRST CAMPAIGN AND SUBSEQUENT MILITARY ACTION, CIVIL WAR LECTURE, July 7:** A. Wilson Greene, speaker, Davis and Elkins College, Elkins.

**ARTHURDALE NEW DEAL FESTIVAL, July 9:** Arthurdale. For more information, visit http://www.newdealfestival.org.

**“LANDSCAPE DESIGN ON HISTORIC PROPERTIES,” July 14:** Carolyn Stephens, speaker, New River Community Technical College Auditorium, Lewisburg. Call (304) 645-3398 to register.

**“THE WHEELING BRIDGE CASE: ITS SIGNIFICANCE IN AMERICAN LAW AND TECHNOLOGY,” July 15:** Elizabeth Brand Monroe, speaker, Ohio County Public Library Lunch with Books, Wheeling.


**“THE FINAL DAYS OF WEIRTON STEEL: COULD THE COLLAPSE HAVE BEEN PREVENTED?” August 9:** Thomas Zielinsky, speaker, Ohio County Public Library Lunch with Books, Wheeling.

**HACKERS CREEK PIONEER DESCENDANTS 30TH ANNIVERSARY ANNUAL GATHERING, August 11–14:** Hackers Creek Library and John Sleeth Trading Post, Horner. Registration deadline August 1.


**LABOR DAY, September 5:** Archives Library will be *closed.*

**CHARLES TOWN HERITAGE FESTIVAL, September 17:** 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