



# WEST VIRGINIA Archives and History NEWS

*From the Editor:*

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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](http://www.wvculture.org/history/ahnews/ahnews.html)**

*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*

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## 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.

The West Virginia Governor's Internship Program, created in 1989, provides worthy college students experiential learning in private, non-profit, and government settings.

Both Caroline and Jimmy hail from Kanawha County; in fact, they

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## 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

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Philippi Covered Bridge centennial celebration plate.

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,

## **Hechler Will Discuss New Book at July 14 Genealogy Program**

Well known author, historian, and political figure Ken Hechler will discuss his new book *Soldier of the Union* at the meeting of the Thursday evening Genealogy Club on July 14, 2011. The club will meet from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. in the West Virginia Archives and History Library in the Culture Center in Charleston. Meetings of the Genealogy Club are free and the public is invited to attend.

*Soldier of the Union* (2011) contains several hundred wartime letters written by Hechler's grandfather George Hechler and his brother John, both of whom served with the 36th Ohio Volunteer Infantry during the Civil War and spent considerable time in what is now West Virginia. The Hechler brothers enlisted in Parkersburg, trained at Summersville, camped at the present site of the DuPont plant at Belle, and participated in battles at Lewisburg, Antietam, and elsewhere. John Hechler was captured at Chickamauga and died in the Confederate prison at Andersonville.

Ken Hechler holds a Ph.D.

*[This article originally was prepared by Mary Johnson for the Archives and History Web site based upon information provided by Ken Hechler.]*

from Columbia University and has taught political science at Columbia, Barnard, Princeton, and Marshall universities. A combat historian in the U.S. Army during World War II, he interrogated Hermann Goering, among other Nazis. From 1949 to 1953, he was a special assistant on President Harry Truman's White House staff. Hechler served 18 years in Congress as a representative from West Virginia and 16 years as West Virginia's Secretary of State. Ken Hechler is the author of eight books, including *The Bridge at Remagen*, which was made into a full-length motion picture.

Advance registration for the program is not required but is encouraged to help plan seating arrangements. 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.

### **Genealogy Club**

**Archives and History  
Library**

**Every Thursday Evening  
6:00-7:00 p.m.**

**Once a month,  
on the second Thursday,  
there will be a special  
program with a speaker.  
6:00-7:30 p.m.**

## 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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identify products shipped along the triangular trade route (basic), only 12 percent would understand Missouri statehood in the context of sectionalism (proficient), and only 1 percent would be able to evaluate arguments about the use of atomic bombs (advanced). With the country in the midst of the sesquicentennial of the Civil War (and in 2013, West Virginia statehood), it is noteworthy that only 1 percent likely would be able to evaluate Civil War arguments.

There may be those who think history is not an important subject, especially when kids need to learn so many other things in order to compete in the global economy. In "Why Study History," an essay written for the American Historical Association, Peter N. Stearns identified several reasons why the subject is important, for example, understanding people and societies and encouraging good citizenship. In addition, he notes that, beyond the subject matter, history training involves evaluating evidence, conflicting interpretations, and change, skills that are important for occupations unrelated to history.

At West Virginia Archives and History, we specialize in the narrower field of the state's history, but we want to reach every West Virginia Studies student in the state and to provide educational opportunities for students of all ages. We are continually adding primary source material to our Web site so that students and teachers who live too far from Charleston to visit in person can access information that can help tell the history of West Virginia. Those of us who work in history or who are members of history-related societies need to think of ways that we can help young people become proficient in their knowledge of history.

*[This "From the Editor" column was written by Mary Johnson.]*

### Evening Workshops and Lecture Schedule

Date	Conducted by:	Subject
July 5 Tuesday	Jim Mitchell	<i>Decorating Carr China</i>
August 2 Tuesday	Travis Henline	<i>The Resurgence of Anikituhwa: Language and Cultural Revitalization among the Eastern Band Cherokee</i>
September 6 Tuesday	Bob Beanblossom	<i>History of the West Virginia State Park System</i>

*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](mailto: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 problem 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 Web site. 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

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of the state and the marvelous achievements of her people under great disadvantages, combined with the development of her resources during the half century of statehood that are being commemorated and celebrated this week.

There is good reason for rejoicing and jubilating and it is all being done in a spirit of forgetfulness of the ill feeling that once prevailed. Furthermore it is all in complete vindication of the prophecy of Abraham Lincoln, who, prior to his death, uttered these sympathetic and immortal words:

“The mystic chords of memory, stretching from every battlefield and patriot grave to every living heart and hearthstone all over this broad land, will yet swell the chorus of the Union, when again touched, as they surely will be, by the better angles [angels] of our nature.”

Having done much more than well with the great heritage left us by those who strove and sacrificed and “Counted not their lives dear unto them,” it is a commanding thought that we should celebrate more than well.

The first practical suggestion for a commemoration of the attainment of our fifty years of statehood came from the pen of the writer (John E. Day) in June, 1909, who was then editor of the *Wetzel Republican*, published at New Martinsville. It was taken up by the state press and cordially endorsed by every paper of consequence in the state, Governor Glasscock, the state officials, representatives in Congress and citizens prominent in public affairs.

The general approval of the scheme resulted in Governor Glasscock appointing in October, 1909, the West Virginia Semi-Centennial Commission, the names of the members of which will be

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## 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 help 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](mailto: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](mailto:bobby.l.taylor@wv.gov) or by phone at (304) 558-0230.

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

## 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.]*

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.

## 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.

**INSPIRED: HISTORIC GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES ART EXHIBIT, through July 24:** The Culture Center, Charleston.

**WHICH SIDE WERE YOU ON?: UPSHUR COUNTY PERSONALITIES AND EVENTS DURING THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR, 1861–1865, SUMMER 2011 EXHIBIT, through September 25:** The History Center Museum, Buckhannon.

**AN AMERICAN TURNING POINT: THE CIVIL WAR IN VIRGINIA, EXHIBIT, through December 30:** Virginia Historical Society, Richmond. Exhibit includes West Virginia.

## 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, 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.

**LEGACY 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.

**FILM “SECRETS OF THE VALLEY: PREHISTORY OF THE KANAWHA,” July 28:** Andrea K. Keller and David E. Rotenizer, hosts, Grave Creek Mound Archaeological Complex, Moundsville. For more information, visit <http://www.wvculture.org/eventdetail.aspx?Id=1427>.

**“FRONTIER FORTS,” August 4:** Drs. Stephen and Kim McBride, speakers, New River Community Technical College Auditorium, Lewisburg. Call (304) 645-3398 to register.

**“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.

**FILM “HISTORIC ARCHAEOLOGY: BENEATH KENTUCKY’S FIELDS AND STREAMS,” August 25:** Andrea K. Keller and David E. Rotenizer, hosts, Grave Creek Mound Archaeological Complex, Moundsville. For more information, visit <http://www.wvculture.org/eventdetail.aspx?Id=1428>.

**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.

WEST VIRGINIA  
**Archives**  
and **History NEWS**

West Virginia Division of Culture and History  
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**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](mailto:susan.c.scouras@wv.gov).

[www.wvculture.org/history](http://www.wvculture.org/history)

## Archives and History Staff

Joe Geiger ..... Director  
Bryan Ward..... Assistant Director  
Debra Basham .....Archivist (photographs, special collections)  
Constance Baston ..... Researcher (Veterans Memorial Archives)  
Kyle Campbell .....Cultural Program Specialist (county records preservation project)  
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)  
Susan Holbrook ..... Secretary  
Mary Johnson.....Historian  
Terry Lowry ..... Historian (Veterans records)  
Randy Marcum ..... Cultural Program Associate (county records preservation project)  
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  
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Volunteers..... Carolyn Conner, Bill Kelley, James Wilburn, Sue Shank,  
Jerry Grady, Charlotte Thurston, Patricia Richards McClure, and Ken Bailey