The staff of Archives and History, Division of Culture and History, is saddened by the passing of Dr. Otis Rice on September 22, 2003, so soon after his appointment by Governor Bob Wise as the first Historian Laureate of West Virginia on July 22 of this year. The words of the Governor’s proclamation on that date are a fitting epitaph: “Be it hereby known that Dr. Otis K. Rice has been appointed Historian Laureate, for preserving, collecting and recounting the history of the great State of West Virginia. This appointment recognizes your outstanding work in the field of West Virginia history, and honors the dedication you have shown throughout your life and career as an historian, educator, researcher and writer. Your contributions to the understanding of the history, culture and people of this State will forever be a part of our proud intellectual legacy and social heritage.”

**1930 WEST VIRGINIA CENSUS INDEX NOW AVAILABLE ON CD-ROM IN ARCHIVES AND HISTORY LIBRARY**

Ancestry.com 1930 U.S. Federal Census Index: West Virginia, published by MyFamily.com, Inc. on CD-Rom, is now available for use in the West Virginia Archives and History Library. To our knowledge, this is the first commercially available statewide index for the West Virginia 1930 Census in any format other than an on-line subscription service. Since the available Soundex for the West Virginia 1930 Census only covers seven of our fifty-five counties, finding families and individuals on the microfilmed census records has been time-consuming at best, and very difficult in many cases. We are grateful to have an index of any type that facilitates locating specific households in the 1930 census at no cost to our patrons. Approximately 800,000 records may be searched by name of any person (not just head of household), with or without Soundex definitions applied, and/or by county or a district within a county. You can make each search very specific by including full name, sex, age, etc., with exact spelling required, or very general by using a surname with Soundex spelling variations accepted. You can browse through a district or a county, household by household.

That said, we have found a number of setbacks in using this index. The state is divided over two discs, West Virginia Northeast and West Virginia Southeast, so a complete search of the state requires searching each disc separately. We suggest making a list of names so that you can check the list first against one disc, then the other, without forgetting any names. Switching discs frequently is not encouraged, is time-consuming and increases the risk of forgetting to search each name on both discs.
Much of the handwriting on the microfilmed records is ambiguous at best. If you know what the name is supposed to be, you may recognize the handwritten name easily, but for the transcriber the letters may have been difficult to decipher. We have found many, many incorrectly transcribed names, some of which form such nonsense syllables that we do not understand why the garbled name was accepted for entry on the CD. Others are the more standard misperception of r’s with n’s, a’s with o’s, etc. If you are unable to find any of the people in the households you are seeking, try taking a look at a few pages of the microfilm for the county you expected to find them in to see what the handwriting looks like. For example, by comparing an identifiable name such as “Charles” with another recognizable name such as “Johnny,” you can compare the way the “r” and the “n” were composed and learn to differentiate the two. This is especially important if the first letter of the name has been changed, since the Soundex capability of the digitized record will not help you then. If the microfilmed handwriting has big, fat, squatty capital “P’s,” try looking for your missing “Potter” family as “Dotter.”

Hopefully by examining the actual microfilmed pages you will get a better idea of how the name may have been misinterpreted by the original census taker, the copyist who wrote the census page that was microfilmed, and/or the data entry clerk who entered the name from the microfilm for digitization. As always, our Library staff will assist you as much as possible when you are having difficulty using any record.

**West Virginia History**  
**Volume 59 (2001-2003)**  
**Now Available**

West Virginia History, Volume 59, is available for the subscription fee of $15 per copy in the U.S. and $18 per copy outside the U.S. We also have back issues of West Virginia History for sale. For additional information on available volumes and prices, please visit our Website at [http://www.wvculture.org/history/journal_wvh/journal_toc.html](http://www.wvculture.org/history/journal_wvh/journal_toc.html) or call (304) 558-0230.

---

**GORDON RHEA TO DELIVER CIVIL WAR SCHOLARS LECTURE OCTOBER 21, 2003**

The Civil War Scholars Lecture series is co-sponsored by the Kanawha Valley Civil War Roundtable and by the Archives and History section of the West Virginia Division of Culture and History. Next in the series, on October 21 in The Cultural Center, Gordon Rhea will present “Grant and Lee: The 1864 Virginia Campaign,” providing an overview of the Virginia Overland Campaign which began in May 1864, as General Ulysses S. Grant began his dogged pursuit of General Robert E. Lee in Virginia. In the month that followed, Grant backed Lee into the gates of Richmond, permanently changing public perception about the “glory of war” as tragic photographs and news stories about the fighting spread both north and south. The lecture will touch on this legacy of the campaign.

Rhea, author of a critically acclaimed and award-winning series of four books on the subject, is considered the foremost historian of the 1864 Virginia Campaign. Published by Louisiana State University Press, the series consists of a book on each of the four primary segments of the campaign: *The Battle of the Wilderness, May 5-7, 1864*; *The Battles for Spotsylvania Courthouse and the Road to Yellow Tavern, May 7-12, 1864*; *To the North Anna River: Grant and Lee, May 13-15, 1864*; and *Cold Harbor: Grant and Lee, May 26-June 3, 1864*. He also has written extensively for both scholarly and popular historical publications, and has been featured in several history and Civil War programs for A&E, the History Channel and the Discovery Channel. Rhea received an M.A. in history from Harvard University, where he held a prestigious Woodrow Wilson fellowship, and is a graduate of the Stanford University School of Law. He is a former assistant United States Attorney, and is currently practicing law in Mount Pleasant, South Carolina. (Information courtesy of Beth White, Kanawha Valley Civil War Roundtable.)

**KYOWVA SPONSORING**
TRI-STATE GENEALOGY & HISTORY FAIR
OCTOBER 18, 2003

Saturday, October 18, KYOWVA Genealogical Society will be presenting the Tri-State Genealogy and History Fair at the Cabell County Library, 455 9th Street, Huntington, WV. Featured speaker will be James Jeffrey of the Denver Public Library, a West Virginia native and graduate of Marshall University. Topics to be covered during the one-day event are: The People on the Virginia Appalachian Frontier; Pack Rat and Shoe Boxes: Manuscript Collections in West Virginia; and Burned Down, Blown Up and Washed Away: Court House Destruction and Record Loss.

Genealogy societies from West Virginia, Kentucky and Ohio will be present, as well as representatives of patriotic and historical societies. This event in honor of Family History Month is free to the public. For more information, call KYOWVA at (304) 617-9418, or e-mail kyowvagen@yahoo.com.

Jack L. Dickinson, Author of Tattered Uniforms and Bright Bayonets Requests Information for Update

Jack L. Dickinson, author of Tattered Uniforms and Bright Bayonets: West Virginia’s Confederate Soldiers, is seeking corrections and additions to the roster of Confederate soldiers from West Virginia. He intends to release a revised second edition of the book on CD-Rom.

If you have information you would like to have considered for inclusion in the new edition, please e-mail him at jackd@ezwv.com or write:

Jack Dickinson
6221 Highland Drive
Huntington, WV 25705

NS DAR VOLUNTEERS OFFER FREE LOOKUPS

The National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution (NSDAR) has a Message Board on RootsWeb monitored by volunteers. To request a lookup in the NSDAR “Patriot Index,” post a message including your Revolutionary War era ancestor’s first and last names, spouse’s name (if known), dates of birth and death, and state of residence. You do not have to be interested in joining NSDAR to request a lookup. If found, the information in the Patriot Index will be supplied via the Message Board. If desired, a copy of the application form for the NSDAR membership based on this patriot’s descendants can be ordered for $10.00. The Message Board URL is: http://boards.ancestry.com/mbexec?htx=board&r=rw&p=topics.organizations.dar.

SHARING FAMILY HISTORY VIA THE INTERNET

RootsWeb Review: Missing Links, an Internet e-zine devoted to genealogical topics, has had an ongoing discussion regarding sharing of family history information. A sore point with many veteran genealogists is the “free-loaders” who want the fruits of others’ research without offering any information in return, and who many times post that data on their own Websites without giving credit or thanks to the actual researchers. The following comment was offered in the Volume 6, No. 38, September 17, 2003, issue.

Piecing Genealogy Together
By Diane Wolford, snowberi@aol.com

I still run into frustrated people when they want all their genealogy out on the Web instantly, going back to their immigrants or into the 1400s, if possible. I tell them that researching your family is like putting together a picture puzzle—and the pieces are just not on the table in front of you. One piece may be under the couch, another in the bottom drawer in a chest in the garage, the other in your neighbor’s yard by the old oak tree. At some point, YOU have to hunt.
You can read *RootsWeb Review: Missing Links* and its sister publication, *Somebody’s Links*, online at [www.PetuniaPress.com](http://www.PetuniaPress.com), or subscribe to receive them weekly by e-mail.

**BIOGRAPHY OF PATRICK GASS NOW AVAILABLE IN THE ARCHIVES AND HISTORY LIBRARY**

As mentioned in last month’s *Archives and History News*, a biography of Patrick Gass, a member of the Lewis and Clark Expedition, written by J. G. Jacob, was published in Wellsburg, WV, in 1859. Few copies of the original edition or of the 2000 facsimile reprint by Lone Wolf Press are available in West Virginia Libraries. A copy of the facsimile edition is now in the West Virginia Archives and History Library collection. The book is titled: *The Life and Times of Patrick Gass: Now sole survivor of the overland expedition to the Pacific, under Lewis and Clark, in 1804-5-6; also, a soldier in the war with Great Britain, from 1812 to 1815, and a participant in the battle of Lundy’s Lane: Together with Gass’ journal of the expedition condensed; and sketches of some events occurring during the last century in the upper Ohio country, biographies, reminiscences, etc.*

**NEW TITLES**


*Behind the Scenes: or, Thirty Years a Slave, and Four Years in the White House:* Elizabeth Keckley, 1888 [originally published 1868].

*Henry Clay:* Carl Schurz, 1889, c1899.


*Lincoln and the Civil War: A Profile and a History:* Courtlandt Canby, 1960.

*The General Who Marched to Hell: William Tecumseh Sherman and His March to Fame and Infamy:* Earl Schenck Meirs, 1951.

*Andrew Jackson:* William Graham Sumner, 1980.


*LBJ’s Inner Circle:* Charles Roberts, 1980.

*No Hail, No Farewell:* Louis Heren, 1970.


Fifty Early American Towns: Everett B. Wilson, 1966. [Includes Charles Town, WV]


The Life and Times of Patrick Gass: J. G. Jacob, 2000, c1859.

Tragic Years, 1860-1865: A Documentary History of the American Civil War: [Two volumes]: Paul M. Angle and Earl Schenck Miers, 1960.


When They Burned the White House: Andrew Tully, 1961.


Lincoln’s Daughters of Mercy: Marjorie Latta Barstow Greenbie, 1944.


Clash of Loyalties: A Border County in the Civil War: John W. Shaffer, 2003. [Barbour County, WV]


Black Residents of Greenbrier, Monroe, Pocahontas and Summers Counties West Virginia: Carol L. Haynes, 2003. [Ms. Haynes continues to update and expand her work on this topic and periodically donates a complete copy of her files. This most current version is in four volumes.]


The American Reader, from Columbus to Today: Being a compilation or collection of the personal narratives, relations and journals concerning the society, economy, politics, life and times of our great and many-tongued nation by those who were there: Paul McClellan Angle, editor, 1958.


This New Man, the American: The Beginnings of the American People: John C. Miller, 1974.


Diary of America: The intimate story of our nation, told by 100 diarists. . . : Josef and Dorothy Berger, editors, 1957.


A History of the Negros of Monongalia County: From the Pioneer Days to the Close of the Nineteenth Century: [Thesis], Mary Virginia Brown, 1930.
SUGGESTED SOURCES IN THE ARCHIVES AND HISTORY LIBRARY FOR INFORMATION ON WEST VIRGINIA CIVIL WAR, NATIONAL GUARD AND SPANISH AMERICAN WAR SOLDIERS

(Sources identified by Terry Lowry)

- Index of West Virginia Union soldiers, in both book and microfilm format
- Index of Virginia Confederate soldiers in both book and microfilm format
- Compiled Service Records of West Virginia Union Soldiers, on microfilm
- Compiled Service Records of Virginia Confederate Soldiers, on microfilm
- Adjutant General Burial Records, on microfilm
- 1890 Veteran’s Census (WV), in both book and microfilm format
- West Virginia Union Militia Records, in both microfilm and Web page format
- Archival Collections of Records of the West Virginia Adjutant General’s Office
  - Muster rolls, muster cards, correspondence, orders, order books, morning reports, requisitions, vouchers, descriptive rolls, clothing records, and miscellaneous primary materials of the West Virginia Union regiments, the West Virginia Union Militia, and the State Scouts
  - Selected material from non-West Virginia regiments that had West Virginia connections, such as some Ohio and Pennsylvania regiments
  - Selected material from regiments associated with West Virginia, such as the 45th U.S. Colored Troops
  - Some records of the West Virginia National Guard and the West Virginia regiments in the Spanish-American War

The Archives and History Library has a large Civil War book collection, including regimental histories, personal accounts, diaries, rosters, military campaigns and battles, biographies, reference books, pictorial histories and more. A well-known source for Civil War research, War of the Rebellion, is available in several printed editions and on a searchable CD-Rom.

For more specific suggestions on this topic, see also Researching Your Civil War Ancestor, by Greg Carroll, on our Web site at http://www.wvculture.org/history/civwaran.html. Greg’s explanatory essay is accompanied by a lengthy bibliography. Once you have familiarized yourself with the types of material available, you may want to search the West Virginia Union Catalog on-line for additional books.

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.

“SHAPING THE CAPITOL COMPLEX: CASS GILBERT, INC.”: Collection of photographs and documents on display in the Archives and History Library and on the Archives and History Web site.

COLUMBUS DAY, OCTOBER 13: The Library will be open.*

ARCHAEOLOGY DAY, OCTOBER 18: Grave Creek Mound.

TRI-STATE GENEALOGY AND HISTORY FAIR, OCTOBER 18: KYOWVA, Cabell County Library, Huntington.


VETERANS DAY, NOVEMBER 11: The Library will be open.*

MINING YOUR HISTORY FOUNDATION ANNUAL MEETING AND GENEALOGY WORKSHOP, NOVEMBER 15: The Cultural Center, Charleston.

THANKSGIVING DAY, NOVEMBER 27: The Library will be closed.

THANKSGIVING WEEKEND, NOVEMBER 28 AND 29: The Library will be open.*

*Only the Archives Library will be staffed--all other Archives offices will be closed. The State Museum will be open any time the Archives Library is open. The West Virginia Library Commission Library in The Cultural Center is closed weekends and all holidays.

ARCHIVES AND HISTORY STAFF

Fredrick Armstrong: Director

Debra Basham: Archivist (photographs, special collections)

Constance Baston: Researcher (Veterans Memorial Archive)

Greg Carroll: Historian (Civil War, Native American history)

Dick Fauss: Archivist (microfilm and moving images collection)

Elaine Gates: Library Assistant (microfilming and microfilm repairs)

Joe Geiger: Assistant Director (Historian, Web page)

Ed Hicks: Photographer (archival photography, darkroom)

Mary Johnson: Historian (West Virginia History)

Terry Lowry: Library Assistant (Civil War)

Cathy Miller: Library Assistant (WV State documents, periodicals)

Sharon Newhouse: Secretary

Harold Newman: Library Assistant (microfilming, Revolutionary War)

Pat Pleska: Manager of the Veterans Memorial Archive

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: Office Assistant

Working on special projects: Allen Fowler.

Volunteers: Carolyn Conner, Bill Kelley, Angela Tolbert, Bob and Lucile Foster, John McClure, and Carol de la Riva.

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 reprinted 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.