

# West Virginia Archives & History NEWS

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WEST VIRGINIA  
DIVISION OF  
CULTURE & HISTORY

## From the Editor:

*October is both Family History Month and Archives Month, and is being celebrated by many libraries and research facilities across the nation, but in the West Virginia Archives and History Library, every month is family history month and archives month.* We are dedicated to collecting and preserving books, photographs, local and state histories, and many other materials to help genealogists trace their family history and to preserve our state's history. Having trouble locating a specific record or interpreting a piece of information? Try asking the opinion of our staff. If we don't have an answer, chances are we will know someone else who may be able to solve your problem. Come see us, write us or call us this October or any time for all things West Virginian.

## Archives and History Library Staff Here to Serve in Family History Month and Every Month

The staff of the West Virginia Archives and History Library is here to serve you six days a week, four evenings a week, and over half of the state government holidays. Whether you are an eighth grade history student, a beginning family historian, an experienced genealogist with a brickwall, or an author of an academic historical study, our staff members will assist you in locating resources in the Archives and History Library collections and on our Web site for your research needs. The Archives and History Library is one of the most accessible government agencies you will ever find. We are open the days and hours necessary to best serve our working and traveling public, and we provide as much service as we can by mail, e-mail, telephone and our Web site. We are committed to answering every phone call and each piece of mail as quickly and efficiently as our staff size allows. Our staff is knowledgeable about our collections and services, as well as each other's areas of expertise, and will refer a

patron to the most appropriate person or agency to fulfill a request if unable to do so themselves.

Unlike many major research libraries, our staff assistance does not end when we provide you with a book, a file or a roll of microfilm. If you are unfamiliar with the information available from our manuscript and special collections, standard or specialized

reference books, county records, etc., we will teach you how to access and interpret these materials to the extent that time allows. Because we must always take care to serve *all* patrons to the best of our ability, naturally we can not devote all of our time to a single patron; however, we strive to make sure that each patron

*Continued on page 4*

## Archives and History Celebrates American Archives Month on October 24

West Virginia Archives and History is presenting another session in its series of evening genealogy- and history-related workshops, "A Celebration of Archives: Your State Archives Working for You," on October 24, 2006, in observance of American Archives Month in October. This program will take place in the Archives library at the Cultural Center, State Capitol Complex in Charleston, at 6:00 p.m., and is free and open to the public.

This special session will focus on how individuals have used the West

Virginia Archives and History collections in their work. Scheduled speakers are Kenneth R. Bailey, Russ Barbour, Fred Barkey, Woodrow Clay Hamilton Jr., Terry Lively, and Deborah J. Sonis. Ken Bailey, Ph.D., retired dean of the College of Humanities, Business and Sciences at WVU-Institute of Technology, is the author of several articles and four books. For his most recent book, *Alleged Evil Genius: The Life and Times of Judge James H. Ferguson* (2006), Bailey used the

*Continued on page 2*

*Continued from page 1*

Ferguson Collection at Archives and History. Documentarian Russ Barbour of West Virginia Public Broadcasting has produced numerous documentary stories for television, many airing on the state's public broadcasting news magazine *Outlook*, and frequently uses the state archives' extensive collection of archival news film and videotape. He also has contributed to such print publications as *The West Virginia Encyclopedia* (2006).

A historian and author on labor and immigrant history, whose work appeared in *West Virginia History* and other publications, Fred Barkey, Ph.D., is professor emeritus at Marshall University Graduate College and chairman of the board of the Coal Heritage Trail Authority. Retired CIA employee Clay Hamilton has been researching family history for thirty years and published his first volume on the Hamilton family

## Department of Mines Annual Reports Now on Microfilm

The Department of Mines Annual Reports, 1883-2003, in the collection of the Archives and History Library have been microfilmed and are housed in the microfilm storage cabinets in the main Reading Room. Library patrons now will be directed toward the microfilm copies for everyday use. Due to their deteriorating condition, the original earlier books have been removed from the Reading Room shelves and placed in archival storage for preservation purposes and will no longer be available for routine handling. The microfilmed reports may be viewed in the Library's Microfilm Reading Room, and self-service copies may be made for \$.25 per page. Copies may be requested through the staff at \$.50 per page.

in 1999. He donated a large collection of West Virginia high school and college yearbooks to Archives and History in 2004 and continues to add to this important collection.

Creative services manager for the West Virginia Department of Transportation, Terry Lively produced a cable-access television series on transportation issues

between 2001 and 2003. More recently, she produced the hour-long, award-winning documentary *CROSSINGS - Bridge Building in West Virginia*, which premiered at the Cultural Center in March 2006 and has aired on public television. Lively is also adjunct professor at West Virginia State University. Debby Sonis works for the West

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## Did You Know . . . ?

- West Virginia Archives and History was established in 1905.
- The Archives and History library currently receives more than 80 daily and weekly West Virginia newspapers.
- The Cultural Center was built in the 1970s because of the needs of *Archives and History* for better accommodations for both its library and the state museum, which was under Archives and History until 1989.
- West Virginia Archives and History is the state's official document repository.
- Staff member Harold Newman, who has worked for Archives and History since 1976, has the longest period of service of any current employee with the Division of Culture and History—he even pre-dates the division!
- More than 6,000 patrons used the Archives and History library between July 1, 2005, and June 30, 2006.
- Archives and History's Web site went online in June 1995.
- The Archives and History library added more than 400 titles to its book collection during the 2005-2006 fiscal year, most donations from authors or other benefactors.
- Current Archives and History director Fredrick H. Armstrong is the state's longest-serving state historian and archivist.
- The deadline for organizations to submit a History Hero nomination for History Day 2007 is December 31, 2006, and the deadline for reserving display space is January 15, 2007.

“ . . . the State that neglects to preserve its Public Documents, loses much to future generations—to the whole world indeed.”

*Virgil A. Lewis, first state historian and archivist*

Celebrate American Archives Month in October.

Visit West Virginia Archives and History  
 and show your support for *your* state archives. We *need* you.

**Be Counted!**

*Continued from the previous page*  
 Virginia Humanities Council, where she served as managing editor for *The West Virginia Encyclopedia*. She formerly was assistant editor of the Division of Culture and History's *Goldenseal* magazine.

Following the speakers' comments will be recognition of individuals who have donated materials to Archives in the past year. Light refreshments will be provided at the end of the program.

American Archives Month is a nationwide observance that seeks to reach out to the public and raise awareness of the role of archives in collecting, preserving, and making accessible irreplaceable records that document the past. The celebration of Archives Week was initiated more than a decade ago in New York and has expanded to include states across the country in activities that showcase the importance of archives. With its October 24 program, West Virginia Archives and History joins this nationwide celebration.

**Archives and History News**  
 is available on the  
**Archives and History Web site**  
<http://www.wvculture.org/history/ahnews.html>

Advance registration is not required but would be helpful in determining space needs. For more information or for free registration, contact Archives and History at (304)

558-0230. To register by e-mail, please send name, telephone number, and the date of the workshop to Robert Taylor, library manager, at [bobby.taylor@wvculture.org](mailto:bobby.taylor@wvculture.org).

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### **How to Fill Out a DAR Application Program to be Presented October 14**

The West Virginia Archives and History Library will host the John Young Chapter of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (NSDAR) program, *How to Fill Out a DAR Application and Early American Genealogical Research and Standard of Proof*, on Saturday, October 14, at 1:00 p.m. in the Library, The Cultural Center, Charleston. The program is free and open to the public. Archives and History staff will be available to answer questions about the use of archival collections in researching Revolutionary War ancestors. Following the program, participants are encouraged to tour the Archives Library and observe dedication of an

official DAR plaque. The John Young Chapter is placing the plaque in the library in recognition of Virginia Bondurant Johnson, longtime chapter registrar and an honorary lifetime vice president general of the national society, for her support of the Archives and DAR.

For more information about the DAR program, contact Mary Blaine McLaughlin, regent of the John Young Chapter, at (304) 345-3706. If your DAR chapter or similar lineage society would like to sponsor a program in the West Virginia Archives and History Library, please contact Robert L. Taylor, library manager, at (304) 558-0230, Ext. 163, or [bobby.taylor@wvculture.org](mailto:bobby.taylor@wvculture.org).

## **The Old Dominion: Two States, One Heritage, November 3 and 4 in Lewisburg**

West Virginia Archives and History is very pleased to co-sponsor *The Old Dominion: Two States, One Heritage*, the Virginia Genealogy Society (VGS) Fall Conference this year, with VGS, the Mining Your History Foundation and the Greenbrier Historical Society on November 3 and 4, 2006, in Lewisburg, West Virginia. The common heritage and research resources of both Virginia and West

Virginia will be addressed by several notable speakers in the field. The conference brochure with brief biographical sketches of the speakers (note that Marty Hiatt is replacing Conley Edwards), information about the sponsors, a list of recommended lodging and a registration form is available online on the Virginia Genealogical Society Web site at <http://www.vgs.org/fall06brochure.doc>, or by a link to this

site from the Archives and History homepage, <http://www.wvculture.org/history>. Registration for the conference with lunch (vegetarian meal may be requested) will be \$40 if paid by October 16, 2006, or \$45 thereafter. Those who plan to attend the Friday evening reception in the North House Museum must indicate so on the form. Registration is through VGS by mail only.

Continued from page 1

receives as much attention as necessary for that patron to use the resources and facilities of the Archives Library successfully to the fullest extent. The contents of the Archives and History Library are here to be used and appreciated by present day researchers, not simply to be preserved for the future.

We realize that not everyone is able to physically visit the Archives Library in Charleston, and regret that the vast amounts of information to be found in county records on microfilm and in our other collections can not be placed on our Web site for wider access. In order to serve this sector of our patronage, we offer limited research services by our staff through regular mail. Visit our Web site at <http://www.wvculture.org/history/services.html> for instructions on sending research requests. For those who have more extensive research questions than our staff can handle by mail, we maintain a list of researchers who have notified us that they are available for hire. You will find a link to that list from the Web page cited above. In addition, we answer many reference phone calls in the Library every day. We can not provide specific lookups by telephone or in response to e-mailed requests, but we can evaluate your description of the information you seek and direct you toward the best resources for that information and the methods for using those resources. Finally, we hope that this monthly newsletter, which is available in hardcopy in our Library, and is posted on our Web site with all back issues and indexes at <http://www.wvculture.org/history/ahnews.html>, will assist you in learning more about the resources, staff and services of the West Virginia Archives and History Library.

## 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.

**AUNT JENNIE WILSON EXHIBIT, September 2–November 5:** Museum in the Park, Logan State Park, Logan.

**“PRODUCE FOR VICTORY: POSTERS ON THE AMERICAN HOME FRONT, 1941–1945,”**

September 22–November 3: West Virginia Catholic Heritage Center, Wheeling.

**“THE OMAR PROJECT: NOT A SIMPLE STORY,”**

October 5–30: photograph exhibit, Museum in the Park, Logan State Park, Logan.

**COLUMBUS DAY, October 9:** Archives Library will be open.\*

**CAPITOL BUILDING COMMISSION MEETING,**

October 12: The Cultural Center, Charleston.

**CIVIL WAR ERA MUSIC, October 12:** Michael Lasser,

West Virginia Independence Hall, Wheeling.

**WALTER REUTHER STATUE DEDICATION,**

October 12: Wheeling National Heritage Area Corporation program, Wheeling.

**“HOW TO FILL OUT A DAR APPLICATION AND EARLY AMERICAN GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH AND STANDARD OF PROOF,”**

October 14: John Young Chapter, NSDAR, program, Archives and History Library, The Cultural Center, Charleston.

**ARCHAEOLOGY WEEKEND AT**

**GRAVE CREEK MOUND, October 14–15:**

Grave Creek Mound Archaeology Complex, Moundsville.

## New Photo Exhibit of Omar

The Museum in the Park at Chief Logan State Park has unveiled a new exhibit, *The Omar Project: Not a Simple Story*. The exhibit, coordinated by Betty Rivard and on display through the month of October, consists of 20 black and white photographs of everyday life in the

Logan County community of Omar. The photographs were taken in 1935 and 1943 by Ben Shahn and Marion Post Wolcott, photographers employed by the Farm Security Administration. For more information about the exhibition, visit <http://www.wvculture.org/agency/press/omarphoto.html>, or call Adam Hodges, site manager for the museum, at (304) 792-7229.

## 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.

### **CIVIL WAR SCHOLARS LECTURE "MCCLLELLAN'S WAR: THE FAILURE OF MODERATION IN THE STRUGGLE FOR THE UNION,"**

**October 19:** Dr. Ethan Rafuse, speaker,  
co-sponsored by the Kanawha Valley Civil War Roundtable and West Virginia Archives and History,  
The Norman L. Fagan West Virginia State Theater, The Cultural Center, Charleston.

**WEST VIRGINIA BOOK FESTIVAL, October 21–22:** Charleston Civic Center, Charleston.

**"A CELEBRATION OF ARCHIVES: YOUR STATE ARCHIVES WORKING FOR YOU,"** **October 24:** American Archives Month program,  
Archives and History Library, The Cultural Center, Charleston.

**"THE OLD DOMINION: TWO STATES, ONE HERITAGE,"**  
**November 3–4:** Carnegie Hall, Lewisburg.

**AMERICAN INDIAN LECTURE 2006: "THE GRAVE CREEK MOUND,"**  
**November 4:** Dr. Richard Allen, Grave Creek Mound Archaeology Complex, Moundsville.

**"COVERED BRIDGES: SPANNING THE AMERICAN LANDSCAPE,"**  
**November 4, 2006–January 7, 2007:** Smithsonian Institution Exhibit,  
Museum in the Park, Logan State Park, Logan. [Only West Virginia appearance.  
Visit <http://www.sites.si.edu/exhibitions/exhibits/bridges/main.htm>. for a description of the exhibit.]

**FRONTIER DAYS, November 4–5:** Museum in the Park, Logan State Park, Logan.

**ELECTION DAY, November 7:** Archives Library will be open.\*

**VETERANS DAY, November 10:** Archives Library will be open.\*

**"PRODUCE FOR VICTORY: POSTERS ON THE AMERICAN HOME FRONT, 1941–1945,"** **November 10–December 31:** Randolph County Community Arts Center, Elkins.

**THANKSGIVING DAY, November 23:** Archives Library will be *closed*.

**THANKSGIVING FRIDAY, November 24:** Archives Library will be open.\*

**THANKSGIVING SATURDAY, November 25:** Archives Library will be open.\*

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

**NEW YEAR'S DAY, January 1, 2007:** Archives Library will be *closed*.

**HISTORY DAY, February 22, 2007:** The Capitol Complex, 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.

West Virginia Division of Culture and History  
 The Cultural Center  
 1900 Kanawha Boulevard East  
 Charleston, WV 25305-0300

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](mailto:susan.scouras@wvculture.org).

## Archives and History Staff

**Fredrick Armstrong** ..... 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)  
**Joe Geiger** ..... Assistant Director (Historian, Web page)  
**Ed Hicks** ..... Photographer (archival photography, darkroom)  
**Mary Johnson** ..... Historian  
**Terry Lowry** ..... Library Assistant (Veterans records)  
**Cathy Miller** ..... Library Assistant (WV State documents, periodicals)  
**Sharon Newhouse** ..... Secretary  
**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  
**Volunteers** ..... Carolyn Conner, Bill Kelley, Randy Marcum, Sue Shank,  
 John McClure, Carol Vandevender, and Kellis and Virginia Gillespie

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