I love language and the origins of words and place names. Huge dictionaries and dusty old gazetteers keep me entranced, which is why this newsletter often contains tidbits from them. Also, as a librarian, I appreciate the Dewey Decimal Classification System (DDC) because it organizes the whole world and beyond. While looking up a category in the DDC index, my eyes fell upon a fascinating phrase, right between “Odd Fellows” and “Odendaalsrus” (a South African town): “Odd-toed ungulates.” Enjoying how the words rolled off my tongue, I grabbed a DDC book, flipped impatiently to section 599.66, and discovered that the Greek scientific name for these creatures is “perissodactyla” and that the tapir is this type of animal. Wow! I have seen tapirs in zoos, know a little Greek (“dactyla” means both fingers and toes, “perrisos” means uneven), and have been near Odendaalsrus (however, I do not know any Odd Fellows). Excuse me while I dash to the Library’s big dictionary to look up “ungulates.”

Mining Your History Foundation Annual Meeting on November 2

The Mining Your History Foundation (MYHF) will hold its 2013 annual meeting on Saturday, November 2, at the Culture Center, State Capitol Complex, Charleston. Guest speaker will be Larry Rowe, presenting “The Ruffner Family and the Kanawha Salt Industry.” Following the program and light refreshments, MYHF will conduct its annual business meeting. All are welcome to attend, but only registered members of MYHF may vote. The goals of Mining Your History Foundation are to:

• promote networking among genealogical societies in West Virginia
• support West Virginia Archives and History Library with money, volunteers and collections
• disseminate information pertaining to research in and about West Virginia

To learn more about the speaker, the day’s schedule, the benefits of MYHF membership, or to print out a membership application, visit http://www.wvculture.org/history/2013myhfannualmeeting.pdf to view the online brochure. You may also call or e-mail Esther Warner, ebw104@suddenlink.net, (304) 984-9468, or call West Virginia Archives and History at (304) 558-0230, for more information.

The Battle of Charleston, 1862, to be Focus of Terry Lowry’s Lecture on November 5

On November 5, 2013, author/historian Terry Lowry will give a presentation on the 1862 Battle of Charleston and the Kanawha Valley Campaign at the Tuesday evening lecture in the Archives and History Library in the Culture Center in Charleston. The program will begin at 6:00 p.m. and is free and open to the public.

In 1903 Sgt. Joseph A. Saunier, Co. F, 47th Ohio Volunteer Infantry, a veteran of the Battle of Charleston and the 1862 Kanawha Valley Campaign of the Civil War, wrote, “It is a curious fact that in all the military histories of the late war there is no mention made of one of the most masterly retreats that occurred during the rebellion, and that was the one that was conducted by Colonel Lightburn in the fall of ’62, from Gauley Bridge, West Va., thence to the Battle of Charleston, thence from Charleston to the Ohio

Continued on the next page

Lowry’s presentation on the campaign will include details of the battles of Fayetteville, Cotton Hill, Montgomery’s Ferry, Charleston, and Buffalo, in addition to the Trans-Allegheny Raid of Gen. Albert G. Jenkins. He will detail the burning and mass evacuation of Charleston and provide insight into the various personalities involved, such as Col. Samuel A. Gilbert, father of Cass Gilbert, who designed the current West Virginia Capitol, and Col. Edward Siber, who held off more than 5,000 Confederate soldiers with only two under-strength regiments of infantry at Fayetteville. To complement his presentation, Lowry will display a number of actual artifacts from the battle and campaign from his own personal collection, as well as of the State Archives collections, many never before seen by the public.

A native of South Charleston, Lowry received his bachelors in history in 1974 from West Virginia State College (now University) and studied Civil War history at Marshall University Graduate School. A professional musician for most of his life, he spent more than twenty years as a music critic for Charleston Newspapers, Inc., and one year with The Atlanta Journal. He published his first book, The Battle of Scary Creek; Military Operations in the Kanawha Valley, April-July, in 1982. Other books include September Blood: The Battle of Carnifex Ferry (1985); two volumes of the Virginia Regimental Histories Series, 22nd Virginia Infantry (1988) and 26th (Edgar’s) Battalion Virginia Infantry (1991); and Last Sleep: The Battle of Droop Mountain, November 6, 1863 (1996). In 2000 he co-authored with Stan Cohen, Images of the Civil War in West Virginia. Lowry’s most recent book is Bastard Battalion: A History of the 83rd Chemical Mortar Battalion in World War II (2009). His new book, The Battle of Charleston and the 1862 Kanawha Valley Campaign, is tentatively scheduled for an early 2014 release. Lowry is a historian with West Virginia Archives and History, where he has been employed since 2001.

On November 5, the library [This article originally was prepared by Mary Johnson for the Archives and History Web site based on information provided by Terry Lowry.]

### Evening Workshops and Lecture Schedule

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Conducted by</th>
<th>Subject</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 7, Tuesday</td>
<td>Betty Rivard</td>
<td>“The ‘Other’ West Virginia: Positive Images of the State from the 30s and 40s”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 23, Thursday</td>
<td>Dr. Michael Workman</td>
<td>“Parkersburg: Guarding of the Union during the Civil War”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 4, Tuesday</td>
<td>Patti Hamilton</td>
<td>“West Virginia Courthouses”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 20, Thursday</td>
<td>Terry Lively</td>
<td>“Covered Bridges of West Virginia”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 4, Tuesday</td>
<td>Steve Cunningham</td>
<td>“Loyalty They Always Had: The 7th WV Cavalry in the U.S. Civil War”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 20, Thursday</td>
<td>Dianne Anestis</td>
<td>“Women’s Role in Native American Society”</td>
</tr>
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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, Culture Center, Charleston, West Virginia.

### Check out Archives and History’s YouTube and Facebook Pages

- http://www.youtube.com/user/wvarchivesandhistory
- http://www.facebook.com/pages/West-Virginia-Archives-and-History/168933289812323

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Revolutionary War Genealogy Workshop

On September 26, 2013, Joetta Kuhn and Patsy Adkins addressed a library full of researchers interested in tracing their possible descent from Revolutionary War patriots. Handouts were distributed to assist in locating and recording the records needed to apply for membership in lineage societies such as Daughters of the American Revolution and Sons of the American Revolution. More photographs are available at http://www.wvculture.org/history/workshops.html.

For Your Reference

A monthly column discussing the Reference Collection of the West Virginia Archives and History Library

Resources for Biography of West Virginians

Books of biography for specific geographic areas have been published in the United States for well over a century. One did not have to be “famous” to be included, simply well-known and respected in one’s community. In fact, many of these compilations printed entries for anyone willing to subscribe to the publication. Today’s youngsters will be surprised to find almost no women or persons of minority status were granted entries in these books; however, since the honorees were businessmen, politicians, clergy, lawyers, medical doctors, academicians, and other ranks virtually closed to women of those days, the absence of recognition for women or people of color was common.

• Prominent Men of West Virginia: by George W. Atkinson and Alvaro F. Gibbens, 1890. The multitude of subtitles explain the contents of the book: Biographical Sketches of Representative Men in Every Honorable Vocation, including Politics, the Law, Theology, Medicine, Education, Finance, Journalism, Trade, Commerce and Agriculture: The Growth and Advancement of the State as Shown in the History of her Distinguished Representatives: A Succinct but Comprehensive Statement of the Advantages, Resources and Development of the State: A Compendium of Returns of Every Election, National, State and Congressional: A Record of Every State Officer, Executive, Legislative and Judicial: Illustrated with Numerous Portraits of Prominent Citizens of the New Commonwealth. Prominent Men includes a general index in the front of the volume, as well as an index to the biographical sketches. Be aware that the biography index is not strictly alphabetical. Some sketches include portraits.

• Encyclopaedia of Contemporary Biography of West Virginia: Including Reference Articles on the Industrial Resources on the State,
• **Biographical and Portrait Cyclopedia of Monongalia, Marion and Taylor Counties, West Virginia: Comprising about Five Hundred Sketches of the Prominent and Representative Citizens of These Counties: Illustrated:** by Rush, West & Company Publishers, 1895. The publishers state in the preface: “Instead of devoting large space to men of pre-Revolutionary times, it was intended to make this a *live* Cyclopedia, which, while it preserves much that is valuable in the past, will include the men who are doing the work and moulding the thought of the present time.” There is a separate index of people included for each county. A few of the listings are not for an individual, but for a family. Illustrations include several buildings as well as portraits.

• **Progressive West Virginians: Some of the Men Who Have Built Up and Developed the State of West Virginia:** compiled by Robert E. Murphy, 1905. A note in the front by the author states: “This book has been prepared for the purpose of preserving some accurate information concerning the men who have done so much in the past twenty years to develop the state of West Virginia.” The book contains portraits and very brief descriptions of education, occupational history, military service, and organization memberships. Again, the index is divided by first letter of the surname, but is not strictly alphabetical, so search carefully.

• **Who’s Who in West Virginia:** 1916: Published by the Wheeling Intelligencer, 1916. Biographies vary in length from a few sentences to a page. Portrait sizes also vary, with some given a full page. Bios and portraits of the five members of the West Virginia Supreme Court are gathered on a single page.

• **Progressive West Virginians:** published by the Wheeling Intelligencer, 1923. Similar to the 1916 *Who’s Who* in style and content, brief bios and portraits are featured, but very different in that a half dozen or so women are honored. Several deceased persons are also included. The index is semi-alphabetical.

• **West Virginians: A Work of Biography of Those Personalities Who by Reason of High Purpose and Accomplishment Have Achieved Permanent Place in the Story of Twentieth Century West Virginia:** The West Virginia Biographical Association, 1928. “Biographies” of counties and towns begin the volume, followed by biographies with portraits that give family information as well. Scattered throughout (and included in the index) are full-page pieces about West Virginia businesses that were probably paid advertisements.

• **West Virginians of 1934-1935:** Published by the Wheeling Intelligencer, 1934. Intended as a follow-up to *Progressive West Virginians* (1923), and published in the same format. About a dozen women are listed. The index is semi-alphabetical.

“Resources” continued from page 3

etc., etc.: Illustrated with Portraits: Atlantic Publishing & Engraving Company, 1894. The “Contents” list in the front of the book is an alphabetical list of persons included. Biographies are lengthier than in most books of this type. Portraits are excellent.

• *Biographical and Portrait Cyclopedia of Monongalia, Marion and Taylor Counties, West Virginia: Comprising about Five Hundred Sketches of the Prominent and Representative Citizens of These Counties: Illustrated:* by Rush, West & Company Publishers, 1895. The “Contents” page.}

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New Titles


Gifts of William D. Wintz Family
Many of the books donated by the Wintz family have provided valuable backup copies to titles already in the collection. Titles listed here are new to the West Virginia Archives and History collection.


Gifts of Ruth Shepherd Family

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.

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referred to the material in the Supplemental volumes. The first eight Supplemental volumes are reprints of Hardesty’s Biographical and Geographical Encyclopedia volumes, published in 1883-84, covering half of West Virginia’s counties.

- West Virginia Encyclopedia: Phil Conley, 1929.
- Pre-statehood western Virginians may be found in Virginia Immigrants and Adventurers, 1607-1635: A Biographical Dictionary, 2007; Encyclopedia of Virginia Biography, in five volumes, 1915; and Dictionary of Virginia Biography, begun in 1998 and currently only up to Volume 3 through the surname of Daniels.

The Reference Collection also houses biographical resources for specific geographical areas, occupations, churches, military, etc., which may or may not include West Virginians.

Birth and Death Registration Difficulties in W. Va. Revealed in 1923

In November 2005 West Virginia Archives and History News featured a newspaper article highlighting problems with compliance with registration requirements for reporting birth and death records in 1936. As all West Virginia researchers know, the problem was not resolved with satisfactory reporting levels for around two decades more. An article published in the Huntington Herald-Dispatch on February 11, 1923, offers proof that this had been an ongoing problem for decades prior as well:

WEST VIRGINIA ON ‘BLACKLIST’ OF GOVERNMENT

Inaccurate Birth and Death Registration Frowned on by Federal Bureau

STEP TO CLEAR SITUATION URGED BY STATE DIRECTOR

Physicians and Undertakers Are Urged to Co-operate With Officials

Failure on the part of attendants at births and those handling the dead, to make the proper record of them with the state, has put West Virginia on the black list with the U.S. government. West Virginia is one of two states east of the Mississippi whose birth and death records are so inaccurate that the U.S. government will not recognize them, is information given out by Dr. Carl F. Raver, director of bureau of vital statistics.

Law requires every child whether born dead or alive, to be registered with the state. Every county has several registrars, and the bureau of vital statistics urges the citizens of West Virginia to learn who their registrars are, and co-operate with them. Reputable doctors are particular to attend to this matter because they realize the great value of such record to their patient, but the bureau states there is gross neglect by attendants where no doctor is employed.

“Death certificates are equally important,” says Dr. Raver, “and persons present at time of death should insist upon an immediate filing of death certificate with the state, if they

Continued on the next page

Rotenizer Presents History of Grave Creek Mound and the Archaeological Complex

David E. Rotenizer, site manager of the Grave Creek Mound Archaeological Complex in Moundsville, a facility under the direction of the West Virginia Division of Culture and History, spoke in the Archives and History Library as the October First Tuesday lecturer. His presentation included photographs of Grave Creek Mound and surrounding area over the years, as well as scenes of the modern museum and research center. More photographs of the evening are available at http://www.wvculture.org/history/workshops.html.

For more information about the complex, go to http://www.wvculture.org/museum/GraveCreekmod.html.

“Finding Hidden Ancestors” Draws Full House

Jeanne Eppley, also known as Snow Flower, explained to an attentive audience on October 10 why Native American people are not always recognizable in the available records, and described ways in which they may be identified. Additional photos may be viewed at http://www.wvculture.org/history/workshops.html.
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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>“WV 150” SESQUICENTENNIAL EXHIBIT, through 2013</td>
<td>The Culture Center, Charleston.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GUYANDOTTE CIVIL WAR DAYS, November 1-3</td>
<td>Huntington.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VETERANS DAY, November 11</td>
<td>Archives Library will be open.*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THANKSGIVING DAY, November 28</td>
<td>Archives Library will be closed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THANKSGIVING FRIDAY AND SATURDAY, November 29-30</td>
<td>Archives Library will be closed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHRISTMAS ON THE FRONTIER, December 7</td>
<td>Fort Randolph, Pt. Pleasant.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANNUAL VICTORIAN CHRISTMAS HOME TOUR AND TEA, December 7-8</td>
<td>Julia-Ann Square Historic District, Parkersburg.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHRISTMAS EVE, December 24</td>
<td>Archives Library will be closed one-half day.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHRISTMAS DAY, December 25</td>
<td>Archives Library will be closed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NEW YEAR’S EVE, December 31</td>
<td>Archives Library will be closed one-half day.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NEW YEAR’S DAY, January 1, 2014</td>
<td>Archives Library will be closed.</td>
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*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.

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would avoid suspicion and perhaps prosecution. Undertakers should and usually do attend to this certificate, but there are large areas in West Virginia where no undertakers are available. In these cases, persons handling the corpse are responsible. Until these records are made accurate, the department of health has no means of keeping accurate check on fatal diseases: consequently, cannot take steps to improve health conditions.”

As an aid to putting West Virginia in good standing with the U.S. government, the registrars of Cabell county are given below, with whom these records should be filed. [Registrars for each Cabell County district were listed with their four-digit telephone numbers.] The editor thanks Mary Johnson for bringing this article to her attention.

**History Day Forms For 2014 Available**

History Day in 2014 will be on Thursday, February 13, a week earlier than usual. During the week of October 21, Display Space and History Hero nomination forms were mailed to historical, genealogical, and preservation societies on our regular mailing list, as well as to other groups that have participated in recent years. The deadline for submitting History Hero nominations remains December 31, while forms requesting Display Space are due by January 22. Please make note of these deadlines.

History Day forms are available on the Archives and History Web site at http://www.wvculture.org/history/historyday/historyday2014announcement.html or can be obtained by contacting Mary Johnson at mary.e.johnson2@wv.gov or (304) 558-0230.

**Web Sites of Interest**

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.