



West Virginia Archives & History News



VOLUME III, NO. 2

APRIL 2002

Archives Photo Collection Database

From the Editor:

We are approaching **Memorial Day** in May, when families remember and honor their departed loved ones in many ways. If part of your tradition is to clean and decorate grave sites, refer to the September 2000 issue of *Archives and History News*, especially the article by Jeanne Robinson titled “**What to Do and Not to Do When Working in a Cemetery.**” Whether you are visiting a cemetery on private property, or you are the owner of the land in which a cemetery lies, remember that West Virginia law guarantees access to all cemeteries for the following purposes: visiting graves, maintaining a grave or a cemetery, burying a deceased person, or conducting genealogical research. This does not include the right to operate motor vehicles on private lands unless there is a road or adequate right-of-way that permits access, and the owner has given written permission to use that means of access. Be aware that all persons exercising this right of access are liable to the owner of the private land for any damage. If no **inventory** has been made of your family cemetery, please consider compiling a list of those buried there, along with whatever information is available from grave markers and cemetery records. Fill out a **West Virginia Cemetery Survey Form** from the State Historic Preservation Office, (304) 558-0240, and donate a copy for the **Archives** as well.

WEST VIRGINIA ARCHIVES PHOTOGRAPH COLLECTION DATABASE

Coal Life Collection Now Online

West Virginia Archives and History proudly introduces a new online searchable database of its photograph collection, accessible through our Web site at www.wvculture.org/history. In recognition of the role of the coal industry in the history of West Virginia, the Archives has chosen the **Coal Life Collection** as the initial online entry. The Coal Life Collection contains nearly 700 prints collected as part of the **Coal Life Project**, a combined effort between the Division of Culture and History, Huntington Museum of Art and Oglebay Mansion Museum. The Coal Life Project resulted in an exhibit that premiered in The Cultural Center in Charleston in 1981, later was displayed in other parts of the state, and was shown at the 1982 World’s Fair in Knoxville, TN.

Among the photographs acquired for the project and now housed in the Archives collection are views of several McDowell County coal towns, including Gary and Coalwood; Consolidation Coal/Fairmont and Department of Mines prints; and an assortment of photographs that document labor strife, mine disasters, and prominent individuals in the state’s coal history. Most of

these images are now available for viewing on line. The photographs themselves may be viewed by appointment in the Archives and History Library.

In the coming months, other collections will be added to the database, which currently contains only a small fraction of the more than **100,000 images** held in the State Archives. The photograph collection covers a variety of topics in West Virginia's history, including the administrations of the state's governors in the last fifty years. The Divisions of Natural Resources and Tourism are also well-represented in the Archives' holdings. Already online as part of the *John Brown Database* are images included in the Boyd B. Stutler Collection relating to John Brown and the Civil War. Unfortunately, no comprehensive, image-by-image guide to the entire Archives Photograph Collection exists, a situation we hope to remedy over time with the online database.

The Archives began a concerted effort to copy photographs statewide in 1984. Working in collaboration with various organizations (such as many of the genealogical and historical societies that receive this newsletter), the project has taken Archives staff members to 33 counties and added thousands of images to the collection. Unaffiliated individuals have also donated photographs or allowed the Archives to copy their personal collections. This combined effort has yielded images relating to business and industry, education, politics, social and athletic events, historic homes and other structures, as well as many other activities around West Virginia at the state or local level.

For further information regarding the **West Virginia Archives photocopying project**, refer to the June 2001 issue of *Archives and History News*, accessible online through our Web site or in hard copy either in the Archives and History Library or in genealogical/historical society libraries and around the state. For further information regarding the **Archives Photograph Collection**, contact Debra Basham, Archivist. To arrange a

photocopying session in your area, contact **Fredrick H. Armstrong**, Director of Archives and History.

(Compiled from *Archives and History Photograph Collection Database Introduction* and from a press release issued by **Ginny Painter**, West Virginia Division of Culture and History.)

JENKINS PLANTATION MUSEUM TO CLOSE FOR REPAIRS

West Virginia Division of Culture and History's Jenkins Plantation Museum at Green Bottom will be closed April 6 through May 10 for minor repairs, including weatherproofing and work on the electrical wiring. The museum will reopen with regular operating hours (Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.) on May 11 in time for the annual Civil War Camp.

CIVIL WAR CAMP JENKINS PLANTATION MUSEUM

Jenkins Plantation Museum in Green Bottom will host its annual **Civil War Camp** on **May 11** from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The living history program is free and open to the public. Spectators will get a glimpse of how soldiers lived and fought during the Civil War. Mock skirmishes and demonstrations will be held at the top of the hour from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Author **Mike Weaver** will give talks at 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. on Confederate General Albert Gallatin Jenkins's raid on Mechanicsburg, PA, and will sign copies of his historical fiction book on the same subject. Additional attractions scheduled include a Civil War-era artifact display, special hands-on activities for children, and tours of the historic **Jenkins House**. A representative of Archives and History will be present from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00

p.m. with information on applying for unclaimed **West Virginia Civil War medals**.

For more information, visit the Museum Web site at www.wvculture.org/sites/jenkins.html or contact Stan Bumgardner at (304) 558-0220, Ext. 121.

“HOOT OWL” NIGHT IN THE ARCHIVES AND HISTORY LIBRARY A GREAT SUCCESS!

Thank you to the **Mining Your History Foundation** for conducting their annual “Hoot Owl” program in the Archives and History Library last month. Thirty-five researchers enjoyed being “locked in” the Library for the night with several experts on hand for assistance with their genealogical research. The event raised \$800.00 which will be used to purchase forty rolls of microfilmed West Virginia county birth, death and marriage records to replace worn-out, damaged and/or illegible copies in the Archives Library. In addition, the Library received approximately \$250.00 in copy fees during the all-nighter.

Pat Pleska would love to hear from you if you have suggestions on specific rolls of microfilm in the Archives collection that need to be replaced. You may jot down the film information on sheets in the Library’s Microfilm Storage Room, call Pat at (304) 558-0230, Ext. 116, or e-mail her at pat.pleska@wvculture.org. Watch for the next “Hoot Owl” in Spring 2003!

1930 WEST VIRGINIA CENSUS NOW AVAILABLE IN THE ARCHIVES AND HISTORY LIBRARY

The long-awaited 1930 West Virginia Census is now available in the West Virginia Archives and History Library. Due to the anticipated heavy initial interest in these microfilmed records, security needs, and the lack of an index for 48 of

the 55 counties, we have established the following guidelines for equitable use of the microfilm rolls:

- The **Population rolls** and **Soundex rolls** are kept at the **Copy Desk** (the desk nearest the Library entrance door) and must be requested from and returned to the Copy Desk staff.
- **60 minute time limit** per **Population** roll.
- **30 minute time limit** per **Soundex** roll.
- Only **one roll of microfilm** (either Population or Soundex, not both) **per patron** at a time.
- To request a roll of film, complete a **green call slip** for the specific roll and give the slip to the staff member on duty.
- If the roll you need is currently in use, sign the **Waiting List**. The staff will let you know the approximate time the roll will be available.
- **Reels must be returned to the Copy Desk and checked in by the staff. Do not leave rolls unattended on the reader or the desk.** If you have not finished searching the roll and no one else has signed the Waiting List for it, you may check out the roll again. Once you have turned in a roll, you may check out another one.

As soon as demand dies down and indexes are available to reduce actual searching time, the 1930 Census will be placed in the Microfilm Storage Room along with the other Census and Soundex rolls. Until that time, we appreciate your patience with our attempts to be sure everyone has a fair opportunity to use this new and valuable resource for West Virginia genealogy.

This newsletter is a publication of :

The Division of Culture and History
Archives and History
The Cultural Center
1900 Kanawha Boulevard East
Charleston, WV 25305-0300
(304) 558-0230
Nancy P. Herholdt, Commissioner

NEW TITLES

The Maxwell Brothers: J. F. Maxwell's Siblings: Brenda Preston, 2001.

Kanawha Co., WV Cemeteries, Book IV: West Virginia Genealogical Society, 2002.

Postcards from the Past of Cabell County: 2002 Calendar: KYOWVA Genealogical Society, 2001.

12th Annual Guyandotte Civil War Days: 140th Anniversary of the Raid on Guyandotte, VA: Guyandotte Civil War Days & Raid on Guyandotte, Inc., 2001.

American's Most Endangered Battlefields: A Guide to Ten Most Endangered Civil War Sites in the United States: Civil War Preservation Trust, 2001. [Includes Harpers Ferry.] *Request from staff.*

The History of South Charleston: South Charleston History Book Publication Committee, 1995.

Pack Slaves of Upper New River, West Virginia, and Their Families: John F. Vallentine, 2002.

"Family Trees from History's Forest": Eunice Proctor, 2000.

The Pratt Directory: Jayne Pratt Lovelace, 1995 rev. ed.

Ridgelawn Memorial Park: A Reading of Monuments 1925-2000: KYOWVA Genealogical Society, 2001.

The 1900 US Census of Wayne County, West Virginia: Jo Ann Smith, [no date].

Wayne County News Index to Births, Deaths, Marriages, Marriage Licenses, Birthdays, Anniversaries and Reunions 1911-1930: Sheri K. Pettit, 2001.

Ohio County (WV) Index, Volume 8: Card Index to All Ohio County Courts' Case Files & Loose Papers, Part 1, 1776-1825: Kenneth Fischer Craft, Jr., 2001.

The Beason Family: Arline Beason-Peckham, 2002.

Notes on Historic Downtown Morgantown: Morgantown Historic Landmarks Commission, 2001.

"Just Call Me Hays": Recollections, Reactions and Reflections on 42 Years of Railroading: Hays T. Watkins, Jr., with Thomas E. Hoppin and Richard E. Bussard, 2001.

Lewis County Birth Records, Volume 6: [transcription of] **Lewis County Births Book 4, 1917-1929:** Hartzel G. Strader, 2001.

Historical Digest of Jefferson County, West Virginia's African American Congregations, 1864-1994: Evelyn M. E. Taylor, 1994.

African American Migration to Ansted, West Virginia: Brucella Wiggins Jordan, 1998.

Cabell County's Empire for Freedom: The Manumission of Sampson Sanders' Slaves: Carrie Eldridge, 1999.

Recollections of a Busy Life: William Keyser, 1835-1904: William Keyser, expanded and edited by Louise Burce, 2000.

West Virginians Worth While in Cartoons: West Virginia Cartoon Association, [no date]. *Request from staff.*

Memories and Photos of Mullins, West Virginia: Volumes 3, 4, and 5: John W. "Jack" Feller, [various dates].

Descendants of the Ancient House of Blois: George Price Venable Beury, 2001.

Lewis County Recorder's Office, 1863-1872: Okey P. Corley, 2001.

Lewis County Recorder's Office, County Supervisors Meetings: February 1864-April 1868: Okey P. Corley, 2001.

Shepherdstown Sketchbook: Jefferson Security Bank, 1999.

See Shepherd's Town III: Historic Shepherdstown Commission, 1997.

Royalty Among Us: The History of the Skaggs, Foster and Allied Families on the Western Frontier: Shirley Green/e Ulaki, 2000.

A Higher Joy: Mary Zinn Costa, 2001.

The Memories and Writings of Harold David Somerville [3 volumes]: Pauline Somerville Smith, 1999-2001.

Cass Gilbert, Life and Work: Architect of the Public Domain: edited by Barbara S. Christen and Steven Flanders, 2001.

1998 Election Cycle Report: West Virginia People's Election Reform Coalition, [no date].

2000 Election Cycle Report: West Virginia People's Election Reform Coalition, [no date].

NOTE: If you can not find a book recently listed as a new acquisition on the New Title shelves, please ask the library staff to check the **Bindery List** for you. We are sending approximately sixty unbound/paperback titles for binding this month. We expect to have them back on the shelves the first week of June.

TAKE A WALK THROUGH HISTORY

West Virginia Historic Preservation Week May 13-19, 2002

The following activities will be featured in a brochure to be issued by the **State Historic Preservation Office** the first of May. *Archives and History News* is giving you a jump on selecting which activity you will attend during Preservation Week, and in planning which of the on-going tours you will take this spring and summer. We at Archives and History commend the historical societies, preservation groups and civic organizations that have taken advantage of the grants and other assistance provided through SHPO to preserve and promote the historic assets of their communities. Don't forget to send three copies of each of your brochures to the Archives and History Library for the collection!

EVENTS

- **Belle Boyd Birthday Party**, May 18, Belle Boyd House, Martinsburg.
- **Morgan Cabin Spring Festival**, May 19, Bunker Hill.
- **Preservation Workshop**, focusing on National Register of Historic Places and on historic rehabilitation tax credits, Friends of Sutton Historic District. Contact Angela Damastus, (304) 765-0146.
- **Preservation Week 2002: Fayette County Historic Landmarks**, May 17. Television program on WWNR and WMTV, 10:00 a.m.
- **Preservation Awards Ceremony and Guest Lecture**, May 18, Shepherdstown. Dick Brown will speak about a recent preservation project to preserve the old vault in the Elmwood Cemetery. Contact Cindi Cook, (304) 876-0910.
- **Hike to Historic Henry Clay Iron Furnace**, May 18, Coopers Rock State Forest. Part of "Celebration of the Outdoors" activities. Registration required. Contact Adam Polinski, (304) 296-0533, or visit www.coopersrock.org.
- **Preston County Heritage Day 2002: "Stepping Stones of History,"** May 18, Kingwood. Contact Robyn Hess, (304) 329-2717.

WALKING/DRIVING TOURS

- Self-guided Walking/Driving Tour of **Historic Martinsburg and Berkeley County**. Brochures at Belle Boyd House, or call Don Wood, (304) 267-4713.
- Guided Walking Tour of **Sutton Downtown Historic District**, May 18. Contact Angela Damastus, (304) 765-0146.
- Guided Walking Tour of **Fayetteville Historic District**, May 17. Contact Howard Edwards, (304) 574-1500.
- Self-guided Historic Walking Tour of **Lewisburg Historic District**. Contact 1-800-833-2068.
- Self-guided Historic Walking Tour of **Shepherdstown Historic District**. Brochures at the Shepherdstown Visitor's Center and in Historic Shepherdstown Museum, or contact Cindi Cook, (304) 876-0910.
- Guided Walking Tour of the **St. Albans Historic District**, May 18. Contact Neil Richardson, (304) 727-5972.

- Self-guided Historic Walking Tour of ***Downtown Morgantown Historic District***. Brochures at the office of Main Street Morgantown. E-mail mainst@westco.net or visit www.downtownmorgantown.com.
- Self-guided Historic Walking Tour of ***Lockwood Historic District***, Summersville. Brochures at the Summersville Chamber of Commerce office, or contact Wilma Richardson, (304) 872-5726.
- Guided Walking Tour of ***Downtown Richwood Historic District***. Contact Wilma Richardson, (304) 872-5726.
- Guided Tour of ***Summersville Historic Landmarks***. Contact Wilma Richardson, (304) 872-5726.
- Walking Tour of ***Arthurdale Historic District***. Visit www.arthurdaleheritage.org or contact Jennifer Bonnette, (304) 864-3959.
- Self-guided Historic Walking Tour of ***Courthouse Square Historic District in Historic Beckley***. Contact Beckley Main Street, (304) 256-1776.
- Self-guided Historic Walking Tour of ***Beverly Historic District***. Brochures available at the Visitors Center in the Bushrod Crawford Building, the Randolph Historical Society Museum, or call Historic Beverly Preservation, (304) 637-7424.
- Self-guided Historic Walking Tour of ***Julia Ann Square--Parkersburg Historic District***. Call B. W. Luford, (304) 422-4535, or e-mail brucel@citynet.net.

OTHER PROJECTS

- ***Greenbrier County Visitor's Guide***. Guides available at the Greenbrier Convention and Visitor's Bureau, or call 1-800-833-2068.
- ***Barn Preservation*** in Jefferson County. Jefferson County Historic Landmarks Commission is accepting volunteers to assist in an ongoing survey of historic

barns. Leave a message for Bill Theriault, (304) 876-3321.

For more information about **West Virginia Preservation Week** or for copies of the new brochure, contact **Lora Lamarre**, (304) 558-0240, e-mail lora.lamarre@wvculture.org, or write to:

West Virginia State Historic Preservation Office
The Cultural Center
1900 Kanawha Blvd. East
Charleston, WV 25305-0300.

DONATIONS

As usual, almost all of the titles in this month's **New Title List** were donated by the authors or the organizations which published the works. We especially thank **Hackers Creek Pioneer Descendants** and **Kenneth Fischer Craft, Jr.** for continuing to donate copies of *all* of their publications to the Archives and History Library. **Wes Cochran** donates copies of all of his work *and* the funds required to have the titles bound.

ARCHIVES AND HISTORY NEWS EDITOR LOOKING FOR TOPICS FOR FUTURE NEWSLETTERS

Do you have unanswered questions concerning West Virginia history resources, genealogy research, or the Archives and History Library? Is there a portion of the Web site that you don't understand? Do you have corrections and additions to the "Missing WV County Records" article in the February 2001 newsletter (with followup in the August 2001 issue)? Please send any suggestions for future newsletter articles to susan.scouras@wvculture.org (no research requests, please) or call Susan Scouras, (304) 558-0230, Ext. 742.

DON'T THROW IT AWAY!!

Spring cleaning season is upon us, so yard sales can't be far behind. If you are cleaning out pamphlets, books, old West Virginia newspapers and magazines, city directories and telephone books, photographs, postcards, letters, etc., please check with Archives and History staff before disposing of such ephemera. (Did you know that "ephemera" is actually the name of the genus for mayflies, a short-lived insect, but in library terms refers to items of only short-term or limited interest? For historians and genealogists, nothing is truly ephemeral!) You may have items we can add to the Archives Collection. Items do not have to be very old to be of interest to us. We always want to hear about your finds; however, please do not send items to us without checking with us by mail or phone.

Items we have accepted in the past from yard sale scavengers, flea market fanatics or family members cleaning out estates include community festival programs, scrapbooks, high school yearbooks, church histories and directories, business ledgers, glass catalogs, and tourism brochures. We have also picked up copies of several volumes of Comstock's *West Virginia Heritage Encyclopedia*, as well as West Virginia-related biographies, histories and maps, from book sales of area libraries and charitable organizations. We are interested in duplicate copies of some items and in *each* edition of a title for the collection, so often we are grateful to acquire additional copies of things already in the library.

We particularly would like to receive donations of hardback and paperback books in good condition by West Virginia authors, both fiction and non-fiction. Some examples of currently available authors who may turn up in a used book bin: Homer Hickam, Sharyn McCrumb, Pearl Buck, Henry Louis Gates, Jed Purdy, Mary Lee Settle, Eugenia Price, Catherine Marshall, Stephen Coontz, Cynthia Rylant (including her children's books), Otis Rice, Jayne Anne Phillips and Christopher Janus. Keep your eyes open--you may find a real treasure in the trash!

RESEARCH REQUESTS TO WEST VIRGINIA ARCHIVES AND HISTORY

We always have a backlog of research request letters to be answered by our staff. If you write to us, please be as specific as possible in making your request and provide as much background information as you can. *Allow a minimum of four weeks for a reply.* The staff works on letters as they have time in addition to their other duties. Staffers who specialize in certain areas have even greater backlogs, such as Jaime Lynch for 18th century genealogy, and Greg Carroll for Civil War records and medal applications. In-state requests need not enclose payment (except with medal applications), and will be invoiced a minimum of \$2.50 for copies and postage. Out-of-state requests must include a \$10.00 research fee per two specific requests, and will be billed for additional copying costs if necessary. If you are having problems formulating your request, or are not receiving satisfactory replies to your research letters, whether through Archives and History or any other resource, refer to *Archives and History News*, December 2000 issue, "*Asking the Right Question.*" You can read the text of the newsletter on our Web site, or in the libraries of many of the historical/genealogical societies across the state. If you do not have personal access to the Internet, visit your local public library.

PLANNING TO VISIT THE ARCHIVES AND HISTORY LIBRARY?

If you are planning a trip to the Archives Library, particularly if you are traveling some distance, be sure to check our Web site or to call us at (304) 558-0230 to be sure we are open. We are open most, but not all, holidays. Directions and parking information are also on the Web site.

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.

“WE HOPE TO SEE YOU SOON”: A
Collection of West Virginia War Letters.
Exhibit in the Archives and History Library, The
Cultural Center, Charleston.

**JENKINS PLANTATION MUSEUM CLOSED
FOR REPAIRS, APRIL 6-MAY 10.**

**6TH ANNUAL MID-OHIO GENEALOGY
FAIR, APRIL 20.** Parkersburg.

“LAND RECORDS,” APRIL 20. Program
presented by KVGS, Elk Valley.

“CENSUS RECORDS,” APRIL 20. Program
presented by KVGS, Cross Lanes.

“LAND RECORDS,” APRIL 20. Program
presented by KVGS, Marmet.

**INDEPENDENCE HALL MUSEUM’S
FAMILY FUN DAY: APPALACHIAN
STORIES AND SONGS, APRIL 27.** Performed
by Imagine That, Wheeling.

**PRESERVATION WORKSHOP WITH
ARCHIVES AND HISTORY STAFF, MAY 11.**
Parkersburg Public Library. Sponsored by Wood
County Historical and Preservation Society.

ANNUAL CIVIL WAR CAMP, MAY 11.
Jenkins Plantation Museum, Green Bottom.

GENEALOGICAL FAIR, MAY 11. West
Virginia Genealogical Society, Elkview.

PRESERVATION WEEK, MAY 13-19.
“Taking a Walk Through History.” Events
throughout the state. (*See article in this issue.*)

PRIMARY ELECTION DAY, MAY 14.
Archives Library will be *open*.*

**INDEPENDENCE HALL MUSEUM’S
FAMILY FUN DAY: CHILDREN’S CIVIL
WAR BOOT CAMP, MAY 15.** Conducted by
15th Ohio Re-enactors, Wheeling.

MEMORIAL DAY, MAY 27. Archives Library
will be *closed*.

**WEST VIRGINIA ARCHIVES AND
HISTORY COMMISSION, JUNE 14.** Regular
meeting. Thomas.

WEST VIRGINIA DAY, JUNE 20. Archives
Library will be *open*.*

**INDEPENDENCE HALL’S WEST VIRGINIA
DAY CELEBRATION, JUNE 20.** Wheeling.
**KENTUCKY RESEARCH WORKSHOP,
JUNE 29:** Eastern Kentucky Genealogy Society,
Ashland.

**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)

Elaine Gates: Library Assistant (microfilming and
microfilm repairs)

Joe Geiger: Historian (Web page)

Ed Hicks: Photographer (archival photography, darkroom)

Mary Johnson: Historian (*West Virginia History*)

Terry Lowry: Library Assistant (Civil War)

Jaime Lynch: Library Assistant (records of the 1700's and
early 1800's, Pennsylvania)

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

Sharon Newhouse: Secretary

Harold Newman: Library Assistant (microfilming,
Revolutionary War)

Pat Pleska: Manager (Veterans Memorial Archive)

Susan Scouras: Librarian (cataloging, Kentucky, library
collection, newsletter editor)

Bobby Taylor: Library Manager

Nancy Waggoner: Office Assistant

Working on special projects: **Allen Fowler.**

Volunteers: **Caroline Connor, Bill Kelley, Dale Newhouse,
Angela Tolbert, Bob and Lucile Foster, and Barry
Williams.**