



WEST VIRGINIA
DIVISION OF
CULTURE & HISTORY

From the Editor:

I don't know if there are more history-related events occurring in West Virginia, or if simply more organizations are doing a better job of notifying me of their events in time for inclusion in our calendar, but I am very happy to see the Calendar section of Archives and History News has grown. Even more than the quantity of events listed, the quality, depth and variety of programs and speakers is impressive. I hope the time and effort expended by our historical societies and civic organizations is being rewarded by sizeable appreciative audiences at these presentations. Personally, I wish I had a private helicopter so I could hop around our richly historied state and attend them all! Looking for a great event for your society? Read about the Upper Vandalia Historical Society in this issue.

The Combat Scenario: Early West Virginia Coal Mining's Culture of Danger, April 6, by Dr. Paul Rakes

By Mary E. Johnson

Dr. Paul H. Rakes, historian, will present a program on the culture of danger in early coal mining on April 6 from 6:00 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. in the Archives and History Library in the Culture Center. West Virginia coal miners died in unprecedented numbers in the late 19th and 20th centuries. Danger became an integral component of the mining experience and influenced official acceptance of the high death rate. Rakes will compare the early West Virginia coal industry with 19th-century battlefields and consider the "combat mentality" that became ingrained in the subculture of the underground world.

Rakes is a third-generation miner who was born in a West Virginia coal camp and worked twenty years in the coal industry before obtaining a master's degree in history at Marshall University. In 2002, he received a

Ph.D. in history from West Virginia University, where he specialized in Appalachian history and concentrated on coal politics, technology, and disasters in West Virginia. Rakes is the author of several articles on the mine industry, including an essay on

the subject of his April 6 lecture that was published in the book *Culture, Class and Politics in Modern Appalachia* (2009). His current research focuses on everyday violence in the early coal camps, and

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History Bowl Debuts April 27 at Culture Center

The West Virginia Division of Culture and History (WVDCH) has called all eighth graders to test their West Virginia history knowledge in an exciting new challenge—the West Virginia History Bowl Tournament. Teams of students from around the state will face off in an academic bowl competition that focuses on West Virginia history, literature, arts, architecture, geography and culture. "The Division of Culture and History, the Archives and History Library and the State Museum are rich with information about our wonderful state," said Commissioner Randall

Reid-Smith, of the WVDCH. "This will give eighth grade students another opportunity to explore our state's heritage by connecting their classroom studies with a fun, competitive experience. The Archives and History section supports the Golden Horseshoe program, offering online services such as daily trivia questions, quick quizzes and 'On this Day in History.' Now that the West Virginia State Museum is open, we have another great opportunity to showcase our state's history as we do at West

Continued on the next page

2010 History Heroes Online

On History Day at the Legislature, February 18, 2010, 44 people selected by historical groups across the state were honored as West Virginia's History Heroes in the Norman L. Fagan State Theater in the Culture Center. History Heroes are honored for their dedication and hard work on behalf of local history, genealogy, preservation and museum organizations. Photographs and brief biographical sketches of History Heroes for 2010 are now available on the Archives and History Web site at <http://www.wvculture.org/history/histhero.html>. You will also find information for past years' honorees, 1997–2009.

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

Upper Vandalia Historical Society's "Show and Tell" on April 25

The Upper Vandalia Historical Society conducts a highly popular "Show and Tell" at its April and October quarterly meetings, with the next one occurring on April 25. Members and non-members alike are invited to bring an item that is interesting in itself, or has an interesting story to go with it. The presentations are limited to three to five minutes each so everyone can have a turn (usually 25 to 40 people attend) and are videotaped to preserve the stories for posterity. Examples of past items:

- A woolen vest knitted by Bill Wintz's grandmother for his uncle to wear with his WWI uniform and that Mr. Wintz subsequently wore under his

"History Bowl" continued from page 1
 Virginia Independence Hall in Wheeling and Grave Creek Mound Archaeological Complex in Moundsville."

All public and private schools and home school organizations were invited to submit applications for four-person teams of eighth graders with a school faculty sponsor. Sixteen teams were chosen by a regionally-based random lottery to participate in the event. "We've selected eighth graders for this challenge since they are studying West Virginia history and preparing for the Golden Horseshoe exam," said Bryan Ward, assistant director of Archives and History. "We think this is an added opportunity for them to



demonstrate their knowledge of the state during a year when they are concentrating on our history." Ward said the questions for the history bowl will be similar to the questions found on the Archives and History Quick Quizzes [<http://www.wvculture.org/history/trivia/quizzes.aspx>] and Daily Trivia questions [<http://www.wvculture.org/history/trivia/trivia.aspx>].

The History Bowl will take place on Tuesday, April 27, at the Culture Center, State Capitol Complex, in Charleston. Single elimination competition rounds will begin

at 9:00 a.m. and continue throughout the day, with the finals competition in the afternoon. Attendance by the public to view the competition is free. Prizes will include a trophy for the winning school and the school's name on a perpetual trophy to be housed in The Culture Center, as well as History Bowl patches and lapel pins for all competitors. For complete information regarding the tournament, visit <http://www.wvculture.org/historybowl/2010.html>.

[Information compiled from WVDCH press release and additional sources.]

March Lecture Photos Online

Photographs from the March First Tuesday Lecture, "Going Back Before 1850: Genealogical Strategies for Early American Research," presented by Jaime Simmons, are posted online at <http://www.wvculture.org/history/workshops/JSimmons030210.html>. As you will see, a full house was present for this very informative talk.

• Items that tell about specific
Continued on the next page

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people and times, such as love letters or a flight log. Participants can also simply pass on some of the oral history or story-telling learned from their families.

The Society meets quarterly on the last Sunday of the month in January, April, July and October, at 2:00 p.m. in the Putnam County Board of Education building behind the historic Putnam County Courthouse in Winfield. For more information contact Cheryl Wintz Withrow, clw2121@msn.com, (304) 760-2121.

**Tuesday Morning
 Genealogy Club**

**Archives and History
 Library**

**Every Tuesday
 10:00-11:00 a.m.**

**Please Update Your
 E-Mail Address Book**

The new e-mail addresses for Division of Culture and History employees are now posted on the Culture and History Web site at <http://www.wvculture.org/agency/stafflist2.html> and in the Archives section at <http://www.wvculture.org/history/contactus.html>. Our job descriptions/titles have been updated on the Culture and History page, and a little more explanation of our fields of expertise are provided on the Archives and History page. When you are not sure who you need to contact in Archives and History, you can call us at (304) 558-0230. You may also e-mail Joe Geiger, joe.n.geiger@wv.gov, or for library-related matters, e-mail Bobby Taylor, bobby.l.taylor@wv.gov. Please note that the West Virginia Office of Technology is no

New Titles

- Curry Funeral Home Records 1949–2008:** Darrell E. Harmon, 2009.
- Coal, Steamboats, Timber and Trains: The Early Industrial History of St. Albans, West Virginia and the Coal River, 1850–1925:** William H. Dean, 2007.
- Boston Births, Baptisms, Marriages and Deaths 1630-1699: Boston Births 1700–1800:** William S. Appleton, 1978.
- New York Marriages Previous to 1784: Reprint of the Original Edition of 1860 with Additions and Corrections:** New York (State), 1984.
- The Peckham Family:** Charles Peckham, 2009.
- Corrected Index for the Peckham Family Genealogy:** Charles Peckham, 2009.
- A Comprehensive History of the West Virginia State Society NSDAR:** Cora Teel, editor, 2008.
- Travelers on the Long the Road: Encyclopedia of West Virginia United Methodism:** 2 vols., Commission on Archives and History, West Virginia Conference, 1999.
- Carbon Fuel Family Reunion 2000:** Eugene Billanti, et als, 2000.

Volunteer Opportunities at Archives and History

In the Archives: Many of you tell us you would love to work in the Archives. Here's your chance, via a great volunteer opportunity. We need a volunteer to process the speeches, press releases and statements from the Senator Jennings Randolph Collection. Work involves removing paper clips from papers, placing materials in acid-free folders, labeling the folders, and typing the folder titles into a text document.

From your location: Even more of you tell us you would love to volunteer, but you don't live in Charleston or are unable to come during our working hours. Here's your opportunity also. We have a project you can work on from your

home or other location outside the Culture Center. We need a volunteer to type the text of newspaper articles about the 1960 presidential campaign in West Virginia to be placed online on the Archives and History Web site. This is a **time sensitive project** for an online exhibit that will premiere by the first of May 2010. We will provide photocopies of the newspaper articles. Our volunteer will need a computer with either Word or WordPerfect, and the capability either to send the finished documents by e-mail or to physically deliver them on a storage device such as a flash drive.

For more information, contact Joe Geiger, Archives and History director, at (304) 558-0230 or joe.n.geiger@wv.gov.



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- (1) The reprint is not used for commercial purposes, and
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longer forwarding e-mails from our old addresses to our new addresses since

March 1, 2010.

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he is co-author of an essay on non-strike violence in the coalfields for a forthcoming University Press of Kentucky publication. Paul Rakes currently teaches history at WVU Institute of Technology.

For a list of upcoming First Tuesday events, offered the first Tuesday of every month, visit <http://www.wvculture.org/history/workshops.html>. All Archives and History workshop and lecture sessions are free and the public is invited to attend. As usual on event evenings, the library will close at 5:00 p.m. and reopen at 5:45 p.m. on April 6 for participants only. To register in advance or for more information, contact Robert Taylor, library manager, bobby.l.taylor@wv.gov, (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.

Changes to Our Web Site

By Mary E. Johnson

We have made some changes and additions to the Archives and History Web site that we hope will make the site a little easier to navigate. On our main page (<http://www.wvculture.org/history/archivesindex.aspx>), we have added links under "Welcome: West Virginia Archives and History" for Visitors, Research Requests, Volunteers, Contact Us, Finding Information, and "What's Happening at West Virginia Archives and History." Adding these links near the top of our home page is intended to let users quickly access some information about Archives and History without having to search for it.

At the same time, we are in the process of modifying pages under History Center. With the dramatic increase in the amount of material

Guidelines for Events in the Archives and History News Calendar

The editor of *West Virginia Archives and History News* selects the events printed in the newsletter calendar from sources she finds herself and from notices e-mailed, mailed or telephoned to her by event organizers and sponsors. The criteria for inclusion are as follows:

- The event must be history and/or genealogy-related. Preference is given to events directly related to West Virginia history and genealogy.
- Regular meetings and annual meetings of historical, genealogical or other societies and organizations are only published if the meeting includes a speaker or other presentation

that meets the previously stated criteria.

- Notice must be received by the 15th of the preceding month for consideration of inclusion in the next issue's calendar. Although online readers and visitors to the Archives Library will have immediate access to each issue, other readers will not see it for a couple of weeks or more until mailed copies reach their organization or library, so publication in newsletters at least one month before the month of the event is advisable. Events that occur during the first week of the month should appear

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Evening Workshops and Lecture Schedule

Date	Conducted by:	Subject
April 6 Tuesday	Dr. Paul Rakes	<i>The Combat Scenario: Early West Virginia Coal Mining's Culture of Danger</i>
May 4 Tuesday		<i>Election 1960: The West Virginia Primary</i>
June 1 Tuesday	Joe Geiger	<i>West Virginia Statehood</i>
July 6 Tuesday		<i>Scrapbooking Workshop</i>
August 3 Tuesday	Archives Staff	<i>Beginning Genealogy</i>
<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.</i>		
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.		

added to that portion of our Web site, easily finding what is available under a given subject had become increasingly difficult. Subdivisions have been added in hopes of facilitating access. Additional

changes may occur over time as other information is added. If you find these changes helpful, please let us know. Feedback may be directed to Mary Johnson at mary.e.johnson2@wv.gov.

in the previous two months for better response. Most regular press releases, although sent in time for regular newspapers to print, are received too late to be included in *Archives and History News*.

- We depend on event sponsors to notify us. We would love to read all the society newsletters every month and pick up event news, but we just don't have the time. Send us event dates as soon as you set them. If you do not have full information yet, we can still list the date with the caveat of "details to follow" or "speaker to be announced." This is especially important for genealogy fairs and major events for which you would like to attract visitors from outside your community.

Notices of regular history and genealogical society meetings, as well as special events, can be submitted to Mary Johnson in writing, either by e-mailing mary.e.johnson2@wv.gov or by regular mail to the agency address, for inclusion in our Upcoming Events and Meetings Web page, <http://www.wvculture.org/events.aspx?Agency=Archives&Subcategory>. Also, please notify her anytime your

National Census Day 2010 Census April 1

Have you returned your 2010 Census questionnaire? It is never too late. If you haven't done so, complete the 10 simple questions and mail it now. April through July, census takers will be visiting households that did not return their forms to collect this important information. If you would like to learn more about the 2010 Census, visit <http://2010.census.gov/2010census>.

organization has an address change, change in officers, creates a Web page or e-mail account, etc., that you would like included in the West Virginia organization list maintained on our Web site at <http://www.wvculture.org/history/histsocs.html>. Very importantly, anyone who forms a new history, genealogy or preservation-related organization should provide Archives and History with their name and contact information in order to ensure inclusion on this list in order to receive annual

Archives and History Genealogy Club Continues to Meet Weekly

The Tuesday Morning Genealogy Club and Workshop, a weekly gathering sponsored by the West Virginia Archives and History Library, which held its first meeting in January 2010, continues to meet in the Library Reading Room in The Culture Center. The purpose of the free club is to provide personalized help to people wishing to learn genealogy research techniques and use of the Archives Library resources in order to better record their family history. Archives and History staff will be on hand to get people started and to help them navigate their way through the process. Most Tuesdays we will offer a brief program regarding a record group or search strategy, such as newspapers, military records, photographs, HeritageQuest Online, surname and clipping files, etc. Check our Web site, <http://www.wvculture.org/news.aspx?Agency=Archives&Id=1255>, to see scheduled topics and speakers. Also, we invite representatives of genealogy societies to introduce themselves and talk about their services.

Although designed for beginning genealogists, everyone is welcome to participate. More experienced researchers have been attending in

mailings regarding West Virginia History Day at the Legislature and History Hero nominations.

Contact *West Virginia Archives and History News* editor Susan Scouras at susan.c.scouras@wv.org, (304) 558-0230, ext. 742, or by mail to the agency address. Please do not add her to your newsletter mailing list as a means of event notification—send specific event descriptions only, with your own contact information in case of questions by the editor or the reading public.

order to meet new fellow genealogists in hopes of finding common lines of research, and have shared their expertise and insight with all newcomers. Anyone interested in learning more about the West Virginia Archives and History Library or joining the Genealogy Club may contact Bobby Taylor at bobby.l.taylor@wv.gov or call (304) 558-0230. If you are in the Charleston area on a Tuesday morning, feel free to drop in and join us.

Microfilm Reading Room Improvements

The Microfilm Reading Room of the Archives and History Library has received another upgrade of the counters for the microfilm readers and reader-printers. New built-in counters have replaced the old ones in another section of the room in order to accommodate the larger size of the new machines that have replaced some of the older ones. Visit the Archives and History Newsroom to view photos of the completed work, and of the fantastic Division of Culture and History crew that designed the counter and performed the installation.

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.

LIFE IN A RALEIGH COUNTY COAL CAMP, April 6: Thurman Miller, speaker, Erma Byrd Higher Education Center, Beckley. Coal Culture of West Virginia Lecture Series, sponsored by Concord University and The Coal Heritage Highway Authority. For more information, contact the Beckley Center of Concord University, (304) 256-0270.

FESTIVAL OF NATIONS, April 10: Sponsored by Weirton Area Museum and Cultural Center, Weirton. For more information, visit <http://www.weirtonmuseum.com/> or call (304) 723-2346 or (304) 723-5200.

“UNDERGROUND RAILROAD” LIVING HISTORY PRESENTATION,

April 10: Ilene Evans, presenter, Gilmer County Historical Society, Glenville.

Includes dinner (charge for non-members) and tour of Holt House.

For more information visit <http://www.wvculture.org/eventdetail.aspx?Id=1082>.

“THE MINE WARS’ IMPACTS ON JEFFERSON COUNTY,” April 12: Doug Estep, speaker, Shepherdstown Men’s Club and Jefferson County Historical Society, Shepherdstown. For more information, visit <http://jeffersonhistoricalwv.org/events.html> or call (304) 724-7008.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT OF COAL MINING, April 13: Dr. Dave Matchen, speaker, Erma Byrd Higher Education Center, Beckley. Coal Culture of West Virginia Lecture Series, sponsored by Concord University and The Coal Heritage Highway Authority. For more information, contact the Beckley Center of Concord University, (304) 256-0270.

MUSIC OF THE COALFIELDS, April 20: Elaine Purkey, performer, Erma Byrd Higher Education Center, Beckley. Coal Culture of West Virginia Lecture Series, sponsored by Concord University and The Coal Heritage Highway Authority. For more information, contact the Beckley Center of Concord University, (304) 256-0270.

BERKELEY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY GENEALOGY FAIR, April 24:

Christ Reformed United Church of Christ, Martinsburg. For more information, contact the society at (304) 267-4713 or bchs@bchs.org.

“SHOW AND TELL” WITH THE UPPER VANDALIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY,

April 25: Putnam County Board of Education Office, Winfield.

“THE ART AND ARCHAEOLOGY OF THE ADENA,” April 29: Dr. Robert F. Maslowski, speaker, Grave Creek Mound Archaeological Complex, Moundsville. For more information, contact Andrea Keller, (304) 843-4123, andrea.k.keller@wv.gov.

ORAL HISTORY PRESENTATIONS, May 4: Erma Byrd Higher Education Center, Beckley. Coal Culture of West Virginia Lecture Series, sponsored by Concord University and The Coal Heritage Highway Authority. For more information, contact the Beckley Center of Concord University, (304) 256-0270.

HERITAGE DAY CELEBRATION, May 8: Berkeley County Historical Society, Belle Boyd House, Martinsburg. For more information, visit <http://www.bchs.org/new.html> or call (304) 267-4713.

**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.

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.

“I AM A SON OF VIRGINIA, AND HER DESTINY SHALL BE MINE,” May 10:
Doug Perks, speaker, Shepherdstown Men’s Club and Jefferson County Historical Society, Shepherdstown.
For more information, visit <http://jeffersonhistoricalwv.org/events.html> or call (304) 724-7008.

PRIMARY ELECTION DAY, May 11: Archives Library will be open*.

“EVIDENCE FOR SIOUAN-SPEAKING NATIVE AMERICANS IN SOUTHERN WEST VIRGINIA BEFORE EUROPEAN CONTACT,” May 27: Darla I. Spencer, speaker, Grave Creek Mound Archaeological Complex, Moundsville. For more information, contact Andrea Keller, (304) 843-4123, andrea.k.keller@wv.gov.

MEMORIAL DAY, May 31: Archives Library will be *closed*.

WEST VIRGINIA ARCHIVES AND HISTORY COMMISSION MEETING, June 4: Wheeling.

“SOUL OF THE PEOPLE: THE FEDERAL WRITERS PROJECT,” June 14:
Jerry Thomas, speaker, Shepherdstown Men’s Club and Jefferson County Historical Society, Shepherdstown.
For more information, visit <http://jeffersonhistoricalwv.org/events.html> or call (304) 724-7008.

WEST VIRGINIA DAY (SUNDAY), June 20: Archives Library will be *closed*.

WEST VIRGINIA DAY (HOLIDAY), June 21: Archives Library will be *closed*.

INDEPENDENCE DAY (SUNDAY), July 4: Archives Library will be *closed*.

INDEPENDENCE DAY (HOLIDAY), July 5: Archives Library will be *closed*.

“ROSIE THE RIVETER,” July 25: Janice Wright, speaker, Upper Vandalia Historical Society, Putnam County Board of Education Office, Winfield.

LABOR DAY, September 6: Archives Library will be *closed*.

“THE JACKPOT ROCKSHELTER MYSTERY,” September 30: David N. Fuerst, speaker, Grave Creek Mound Archaeological Complex, Moundsville. For more information, contact Andrea Keller, (304) 843-4123, andrea.k.keller@wv.gov.

COLUMBUS DAY, October 11: Archives Library will be *closed*.

“THE EARLIEST AMERICANS: CURRENT PERSPECTIVES ON PALEOAMERICAN ORIGINS, ARRIVALS, AND LIFE WAYS,” October 28:
Jerry N. McDonald, Ph. D., speaker, Grave Creek Mound Archaeological Complex, Moundsville.
For more information, contact Andrea Keller, (304) 843-4123, andrea.k.keller@wv.gov.

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The West Virginia Library Commission Library in the Culture Center is closed weekends and all holidays.

West Virginia Division of Culture and History
 The Cultural Center
 1900 Kanawha Boulevard East
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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.

New e-mail: susan.c.scouras@wv.gov

Archives and History Staff

Joe Geiger Director
 Bryan Ward Assistant 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)
 Ed Hicks Photo Archivist (archival photography, darkroom)
 Mary Johnson Historian
 Terry Lowry Historian (Veterans records)
 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
 Nancy Waggoner Secretary
 Kyle Campbell Part time
 Interns James Adkins, Aimee McNurlen, Scott Rubin, and Jada Taylor
 Volunteers Carolyn Conner, Bill Kelley, James Wilburn, Sue Shank, Charlotte Thurston, Patricia Richards McClure, and Ken Bailey

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