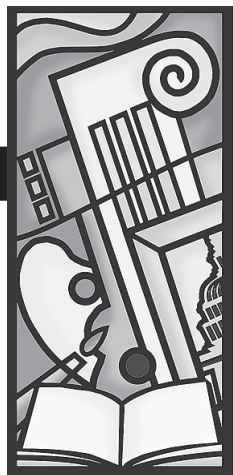


West Virginia Archives & History NEWS

VOLUME VI, No. 6 AUGUST 2005



WEST VIRGINIA
DIVISION OF
CULTURE & HISTORY

From the Editor:

One never knows where a telephone call answered at the Archives and History Library reference desk will lead. I recently received a postcard announcing the publication of *Warren Beatty: A Private Man*, by Suzanne Finstad, with a brief thank you note from the author. Somewhere in this biography readers will find information information provided from our library on Ira J. Partlow of McDowell County, who was Attorney General of West Virginia from 1944 to 1952, a judge, and the great-uncle of Warren Beatty (and therefore great-uncle of Shirley MacLaine, also). You will find a biography and photograph of Partlow in the 1949 *West Virginia Blue Book*.

Vital Research Records Project

The Vital Research Records Project is a collaborative venture between the West Virginia State Archives and the Genealogical Society of Utah (GSU) to place online via the West Virginia Archives and History Web site selected West Virginia county birth, death and marriage records, and statewide death records in a viewable, downloadable and searchable format. The project is ongoing, with more records being added when possible and the system undergoing refinement as needed. In Virginia/West Virginia, births and deaths were first reported to the counties in 1853, while marriages were recorded in the counties from the inception of each county. All three types of records are still reported to county clerks today. In 1917, the West Virginia Dept. of Health Vital Registration office began collecting the county reports of births and deaths and issuing official state certificates. The records made available online in the Vital Research Records Project come from both sources: county records as recorded on microfilm by the Genealogical

Society of Utah largely in the 1960's and 1970's, and statewide records as selected for release by the West Virginia Dept. of Health Vital Registration office.

State death certificates for individuals from all 55 counties dating from 1917 through 1954 are currently available online through this project. Additional death certificates will be added in a batch once a year as the certificates pass the 50-year mark of issuance. For example, in 2006 the

death certificates for 1955 will be added to the database. The addition of state birth certificates and of state delayed birth certificates to the database are not anticipated at any time in the future. (Some delayed births may show up in the regular county birth records.)

Six counties are included in the initial database for birth, death and marriage records: Calhoun, Gilmer, Hardy, Harrison, Mineral and

Continued on the next page

Henry Louis Gates Jr. to Speak in Celebration of the Centennial of the West Virginia State Archives

As part of the celebration of the centennial of the West Virginia State Archives, the Division of Culture and History and the Department of Education and the Arts are very excited to be hosting a lecture on "The Importance of History" by one of today's most prominent historians, West Virginia's own Henry Louis Gates, Jr., in the Norman L. Fagan West Virginia State Theater in The Cultural Center, Charleston, on

October 14, 2005, at 6:00 p.m. He also is expected to speak about *The Bondswoman's Narrative*, by Hannah Crafts, a novel by an African American slave, discovered as a handwritten manuscript and edited for publication by Gates. Seating will be limited. We hope you will join us for the lecture, and for the reception following in the Great Hall. Professor Gates will be available to sign copies of his books during the reception.

Continued from page 1

Pendleton. For these six counties marriage and death records are included up to the last record microfilmed for that county by GSU: Calhoun, Gilmer, and Mineral through 1969; Hardy, Harrison and Pendleton through 1970. For these six counties birth records are included up through 1930. Due to a change in the selection parameters since the initial records were chosen for inclusion, when subsequent counties are added only births recorded in those counties more than 100 years ago will be included, meaning currently only births for 1853 through 1905 will be made available, with additional births added some time after the records pass the 100-year mark.

The records are not fully transcribed and are searchable only by the information requested in the search boxes for each type of record. The county records are double-paged records, so if the record you want is not visible on the first page shown

on the screen, scroll right or left to the adjacent page to find your record. We are aware that the images are over-sized and that a user must scroll up and down, left and right, to view the entire record, and we are trying to address the situation in hopes of making the images a more convenient size. Before notifying the Archives of any problem encountered in downloading and printing, please fully explore all of your options on your own computer first.

You may notice some dates earlier than 1853 for county births and deaths. These are either delayed records accepted by the clerks, or are errors. We have been correcting transcription errors as we find them; however, we can not correct errors in the original records, only errors made in the transcription and indexing process. To correct errors in the original information recorded by a county clerk or by the Dept. of Health, researchers must contact the relevant agency. To report transcription or indexing errors, send an

e-mail identifying the problem to wvvr@wvculture.org. Due to staff time limitations, please do not telephone Archives and History with questions about Vital Research Records, and please do not make research requests to this e-mail address. For instance, if a researcher does not find a record as expected, and would like the staff of the Archives to conduct further research to locate that record, or a substitute source such as a census record or an obituary, a written research request letter is required. Research requests must be sent in writing by regular mail, with the proper fee enclosed, to the West Virginia Archives and History Library (address and details posted at <http://www.wvculture.org/history/services.html>). For certified copies of records, most often needed for legal purposes, write to the issuing agency, either the county clerk or the West Virginia Dept. of Health Vital Registration office. The West Virginia State Archives can not provide certified copies of any of these records.

To date there is no timetable or definitive schedule for adding new counties. Please be patient with us, check the site periodically for new additions, and watch for announcements in *West Virginia Archives and History News*. Archives and History does not have the capability of maintaining a mailing list or of e-mailing individuals with updates to the records.

While there are limitations and restrictions pertaining to both the contents and the use of the Vital Research Records Project database, we are offering these records online as a public service to family history researchers. We think the ability of researchers to view digitized photographic images of the actual records rather than typed transcriptions only is very important and contributes to increased accuracy in family records research.

New Titles

- Three Sisters and Dozens of Cousins:** Jules M. Seletz, 2005.
Gilmer County, WV Marriages, 1933-1969: Wes Cochran, 2005.
Calhoun County WV Deaths, 1909-1940: Wes Cochran, 2005.
Calhoun County WV Deaths, 1941-1969: Wes Cochran, 2005.
Twenty-Four West Virginia Pioneers in (W)VA Before 31 Dec 1825: Frances Wentz Taber, 2005.
Carlin's Wheeling Battery: A History of Battery D First West Virginia Light Artillery: Linda Cunningham Fluharty and Edward L. Phillips, 2005.
A Brief History of the Descendants of Serick Pontzler Sr., and Eleanor Walkinshaw from 1801 to Ora Forbis Knapp, 1969: Olaf K. Walker, 2004.
Above the Smoke: A Family Album of Pocahontas County Fire Towers: LeAnna Alderman, 2005.
Tucker County: Cynthia Phillips, 2005.
In Their Footsteps: Roddy Johnson, 2005.
Wright Family Deed Records, 1782-1900, and Land Tax Lists, 1782-1850, Campbell County, Virginia: Robert N. Grant, 2005.
Further Materials on Lewis Wetzel and the Upper Ohio Frontier: Jared C. Lobdell, 1994.
International Vital Records Handbook: Thomas Jay Kemp, 1990.
Directory of American Libraries with Genealogy or Local History Collections: P. William Filby, 1988.

Continued on the next page

Continued from page 2

Hunting the Mountain State: A Collection of Short Stories and Photographs: Andy Hansroth, 1997.

Gary Hollow: A History of the Largest Coal Mining Operation in the World: Alex P. Schust, 2005.

Civil War Letters of Lt. Milton B. Campbell, 12th West Virginia Infantry: Linda Cunningham Fluharty, 2004.

Missouri Genealogical Gleanings: 1840 and Beyond: Volume 3: Sherida K. Eddlemon, 2003.

Craig County, Virginia Marriages, 1851-1881: Ruth G. Hale, 1994.

Craig County, Virginia Marriages, 1882-1910: Ruth G. Hale, 1996.

Craig County, Virginia Marriages, 1911-1938: Ruth G. Hale, 1998.

Pulse: Paul Elmo Keenan, 2005.

Campaigning with the 17th Virginia Cavalry Night Hawks at Monocacy: Brian Stuart Kesterson, 2005.

Golden Horseshoe Tests: Tyndall V. Samberson, 1967.

Society of the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick in the City of New York: 2001 Edition: The Society, 2005.

Sixty Years on the Great Kanawha and Other Rivers: The Life of Captain Harry White: Jim Comstock, [197?].

Beni Kedem Temple, 1897-1997: The order, 1997.

Virginia Militia in the War of 1812: Pay Rolls of Militia Entitled to Land Bounty: Virginia Auditor of Public Accounts, c1851, 2001.

They Rest Quietly: Cemetery Records of Barbour County, West Virginia: Odie Velta Nestor Chapman, 1999.

Robert C. Byrd: Child of the Appalachian Coalfields: Robert C. Byrd, 2005.

Vivid Companion: Poems: Irene McKinney, 2004.

Proceedings of an International Conference on Historic Bridges to Celebrate the 150th Anniversary of the Wheeling Suspension Bridge, October 21-23, 1999, Wheeling, West Virginia: Emory L. Kemp, editor, 1999.

2005 Betsy K. McCreight Lecture in the Humanities to Feature Joseph J. Ellis

One of the leading scholars of the founding fathers of the United States, Joseph J. Ellis, will deliver the annual Betsy K. McCreight Lecture, sponsored by the West Virginia Humanities Council, on October 27 at 8:00 p.m. in the Norman L. Fagan West Virginia State Theater in The Cultural Center, Charleston. His lecture, entitled "Our Founding Brothers: The Political Values of the Revolutionary

Generation," will undoubtedly draw upon the resources of three of his books: *American Sphinx: The Character of Thomas Jefferson* (1997 National Book Award winner); *Founding Brothers: The Revolutionary Generation* (2001 Pulitzer prize winner); and his newest best-seller, *His Excellency: George Washington*. A public reception and book signing will follow the lecture. All activities are free and open to the public.

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.

Patricia Pleska Named Distinguished West Virginian

Patricia Pleska, Manager of the West Virginia Veterans Memorial Archive, has been named a Distinguished West Virginian. The honor, bestowed by Governor Joe Manchin III, was awarded to Pat by Culture and History Commissioner Troy Body at a reception attended by the Archives and History staff and members of the Pleska family. In making the presentation of the Distinguished West Virginian framed certificate, Commissioner Body praised Pat for her dedication to the preservation of the memory of West Virginia veterans and to permanent archives recording their lives and service. The Archives and History staff is very proud of Pat and hopes you will all join us in congratulating her for a well-deserved recognition.

Jenkins Plantation News

The Jenkins Plantation Museum, located in the Green Bottom Wildlife Management Area of Cabell County in Lesage, has expanded its operating hours to 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday. The museum is closed on Sunday and Monday. A facility of the West Virginia Division of Culture and History, the museum is the former home of Confederate Brigadier General Albert Gallatin Jenkins. The 1835 house, built by slaves in the tradition of Tidewater, Virginia, is noteworthy for its architecture, is listed in the National Register of Historic Places and is a site on the Civil War Discovery Trail. For more information contact Matt Boggess, site manager, at (304) 762-1059. To learn more about Jenkins Plantation

Continued on the next page

Continued from page 3

Museum, view photographs and get driving directions, visit <http://www.wvculture.org/sites/jenkins.html>.

The Jenkins Plantation is the subject of the latest film from West Virginia State University's Paradise Film Institute and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, *Ghosts of Green Bottom: Uncovering a 19th Century Plantation*. The documentary explores how the combination of traditional research and modern archaeological techniques combine to reveal the "ghosts of Green Bottom." For more information about the film or about Paradise Film Institute, contact Daniel Boyd at (304) 766-3379, or at dboyd@wvstateu.edu, or visit <http://pfi.wvstateu.edu>.

Carpet Installation in The Cultural Center

The carpeting in the West Virginia Division of Culture and History and the West Virginia Library Commission libraries and offices housed in The Cultural Center in Charleston soon will be replaced over a several month period, September 2005 through January 2006. We anticipate closing the Archives and History Library sometime in January for an as yet undetermined number of days. While the staff will have to vacate their usual offices at some point, most will be working elsewhere in the building during the installation. Throughout the process we will be available by telephone and e-mail. Please check our Web site at <http://www.wvculture.org/history> or call (304) 558-0230 before visiting to verify which facilities and offices will be open on a given date. We appreciate your patience during the necessary disruption.

**Don't Forget History Day,
 February 16, 2006**

Donations of Mining Your History Foundation

1820 Cabell Co. Virginia/W. Va. Federal Census and 1823 Personal Property Tax List: KYOWVA Genealogical Society, 2005.

Louisa County, Virginia 1850 Federal Census: Marty Hiatt and Craig Roberts Scott, 1995.

Charles City County, Virginia Wills & Deeds, 1725-1731: Benjamin B. Weisiger III, 1995, c1984.

Elizabeth City County, Virginia Wills, 1800-1859: Joan Charles, 2002.

Vital Records of Three Burned Counties: Births, Marriages, and Deaths of King and Queen, King William, and New Kent Counties, Virginia, 1680-1860: Therese Fisher, 1995.

King William County, Virginia, From Old Newspapers & Files: Elizabeth Hawes Ryland, [no date], c1953.

Louisa County, Virginia, Death Records, 1853-1896, with Addendum from Records of Woodward Funeral Home, 1907-1911: Janice L. Abercrombie, 1997.

Prince George County, Virginia, Wills & Deeds, 1710-1713: Benjamin B. Weisiger III, 1995.

Prince George County, Virginia, Wills & Deeds, 1713-1728: Benjamin B. Weisiger III, 1994.

Prince George County, Virginia, Records, 1773-1792: Abstracts of the Remaining County Record Books for the Above Period Plus Miscellaneous Wills : Benjamin B. Weisiger III, 1993.

Orange County marriages, 1747-1850: John Vogt and T. William Kethley, Jr., Revised edition, 1990.

Fluvanna County Marriages, 1781-1849: John Vogt and T. William Kethley, Jr., 1984.

Mathews County Virginia Records: Jane B. Goodsell, 2000.

Washington County Virginia Marriages, 1853-1880: Thomas Colley, [no date].

Alexandria & Alexandria (Arlington) County Virginia: Minister Returns & Marriage Bonds, 1801-1852: T. Michael Miller, 1984.

Index to Early Wills and Estates of Jefferson County, Ohio up to 1853: Linda Daily, 1993.

Index to Early Marriages of Jefferson County, Ohio, Jan. 1798 thru Dec. 1820: Jackson County Chapter of the Ohio Genealogical Society, 1995.

1890 Veterans and Widows Census, Jefferson County, Ohio: Jackson County Chapter of the Ohio Genealogical Society, 1995.

An Every Name Index to the 1900 Census of Jefferson County, Ohio: Richard Roe, Jackson County Chapter of the Ohio Genealogical Society 1997.

The following titles were published as individual township pamphlets. These pamphlets have been grouped and bound into multi-township volumes:

Jackson County, Ohio Birth and Death Records: Jackson County Chapter of the Ohio Genealogical Society, 1983.

1860 Census, Jackson County, Ohio: Jackson County Chapter of the Ohio Genealogical Society, [no date].

1850 Census, Jackson County, Ohio: Frances Hixon, Jackson County Chapter of the Ohio Genealogical Society, 1980.

1880 Census, Jackson County, Ohio: Jackson County Chapter of the Ohio Genealogical Society, [no date].

1900 Census Jackson County, Ohio: Jackson County Chapter of the Ohio Genealogical Society, 1990.

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.

LABOR DAY, September 5: Archives Library will be *closed*.

**CIVIL WAR LECTURE “DR. JONATHAN LETTERMAN: THE FATHER OF
AMERICAN BATTLEFIELD MEDICINE,” September 28:**

Gordon C. Dammann, D.D.S., speaker, West Virginia Independence Hall, Wheeling.

ARCHIVES AND HISTORY COMMISSION MEETING, October 7:

Organ Cave Community Center, Ronceverte.

FAMILY HISTORY FAIR, October 8: The Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter Day Saints, Sissonville.

COLUMBUS DAY, October 10: Archives Library will be open.*

“THE IMPORTANCE OF HISTORY,” October 14: Henry Louis Gates Jr.,
with reception and book signing, The Norman L. Fagan West Virginia State Theater,
The Cultural Center, Charleston.

MUSEUM IN THE PARK CLOSED TEMPORARILY,

October 10-28: New exhibit installation, Logan.

**CIVIL WAR SCHOLARS LECTURE “THE BLOCKADE WILL BE BROKEN:
THE UNION BLOCKADE OF THE EAST COAST DURING THE CIVIL WAR,”**

October 18: Dr. Robert Browning Jr., speaker, sponsored by the
Kanawha Valley Civil War Roundtable and the West Virginia Division of Culture and History,
The Norman L. Fagan West Virginia State Theater, The Cultural Center, Charleston.

**2005 BETSY K. MCCREIGHT LECTURE IN THE HUMANITIES “OUR FOUNDING
BROTHERS: THE POLITICAL VALUES OF THE REVOLUTIONARY GENERATION,”**

October 27: Joseph J. Ellis, speaker,
sponsored by the West Virginia Humanities Council, with reception and book signing,
The Norman L. Fagan West Virginia State Theater, The Cultural Center, Charleston.

MUSEUM IN THE PARK REOPENS, October 29: New exhibit opens, Logan.

MINING YOUR HISTORY FOUNDATION ANNUAL MEETING AND WORKSHOP,

November 5: The Cultural Center, Charleston.

VETERANS DAY, November 11: Archives Library will be open.*

**CIVIL WAR LECTURE “THE CIVIL WAR IN GREENBRIER COUNTY,
WEST VIRGINIA,” November 15:** Tim McKinney, speaker, sponsored by the

Kanawha Valley Civil War Roundtable, South Charleston Public Library, South 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.

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 (*West Virginia History*)
Terry Lowry Library Assistant (Civil War)
Cathy Miller Library Assistant (WV State documents, periodicals)
Sharon Newhouse Secretary
Harold Newman Library Assistant (microfilming, Revolutionary War)
Pat Pleska Manager of the Veterans Memorial Archives
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, Shari Haywood, Angela Tolbert, Bob and Lucile Foster,
 John McClure, Carol de la Riva, Lorene Mullins, and Kellis and Virginia Gillespie

This newsletter is a publication of : The West Virginia Division of Culture and History
 Troy O. Body, Commissioner