

West Virginia Archives & History NEWS

VOLUME VI, No. 8 OCTOBER 2005



WEST VIRGINIA
DIVISION OF
CULTURE & HISTORY

From the Editor:

*I hope to compile another list identifying missing, mislabeled or incorrectly microfilmed West Virginia county records in the near future, similar to the articles in the February 2001, August 2001 and May 2004 issues of West Virginia Archives and History News. With fifty-five counties to cover, I need your help in identifying specific damaged, missing or mis-identified records in the counties in which you research. Please review the previous articles mentioned, as well as sources such as *West Virginia Sources & Resources*, by Carol McGinnis, and *West Virginia Courthouses: A Pictorial History*, by Mary Thrash, and contact me with additions and corrections to the information provided in any of these works. E-mail susan.scouras@wvculture.org or call (304) 558-0230, Ext. 742.*

Dr. Henry Louis Gates Jr. to Speak at The Cultural Center on October 14

Noted scholar, author and West Virginia native Dr. Henry Louis Gates Jr. will present a lecture entitled "The Importance of History" at 6:00 p.m. on Friday, October 14, 2005, in the Norman L. Fagan West Virginia State Theater at The Cultural Center, State Capitol Complex, Charleston. The talk is sponsored by the West Virginia Division of Culture and History and the West Virginia Department of Education and the Arts in celebration of the centennial of the West Virginia State Archives. A book signing and reception in the Great Hall will follow the speech. The program is free and open to the public.

Gates is one of the most powerful academic voices in the United States. In 1997 he was voted one of *Time Magazine's* "25 Most Influential Americans." He is most recognized for his extensive research of African-American history and literature, and for developing and expanding the African-American studies program at Harvard University. Born and raised in

Piedmont, West Virginia, Gates grew up during a period of racial transition in the 1950s and 1960s which influenced him greatly and is reflected in his writings. He has held appointments at Yale, Cornell and Duke

universities and is now the chair of the Afro-American Studies Department and director of the W.E.B. Du Bois Institute for Afro-American Studies at Harvard University. His

Continued on the next page

Ulster Historical Foundation Seminar

Dr. Brian Trainor and Fintan Mullan, of the ever popular Ulster Historical Foundation of Belfast, Ireland, will present a seminar, *Researching Your Scots-Irish Ancestors*, as the workshop portion of the annual meeting and workshop of the Mining Your History Foundation (MYHF) on November 5, 2005. Co-sponsored by the West Virginia State Archives, all activities will take place in The Cultural Center in Charleston, in the Great Hall and the Norman L. Fagan West Virginia State Theater, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. As well, the West Virginia Archives and History Library will be open regular Saturday hours, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., for researchers.

The day-long program on tracing your Irish and Scots-Irish ancestors

will encompass many areas and will include:

- Introduction to Irish and Scots-Irish family research
- Irish/Scots-Irish research: "Not always at the bottom of the pile."
- A video, "Searching for Your Ancestors in Ireland, a Professional Guide"
- Protestant church records in Ireland
- Learning history from headstones
- An introduction to researching in Scotland

(Note: Topics are subject to change without notice.)

Registration is required, with a pre-registration fee of \$15.00, with an option of \$7.00 for lunch, due by

Continued on the next page

"Gates" continued from page 1

works include *Colored People: A Memoir*, which traces his childhood experiences and makes Piedmont a microcosm of multicultural living; *Thirteen Ways of Looking at a Black Man*; *Figures in Black: Works, Signs, and the "Racial" Self*; and *The Signifying Monkey: A Theory of Afro-American Literary Criticism*; among others.

In 2001, he saw a modest auction catalog listing for an "Unpublished Original Manuscript" which he purchased. After extensive research, Gates found that the handwritten manuscript was the only known novel by a female African-American slave and possibly the first novel written by a black woman anywhere. *The Bondswoman's Narrative* by Hannah Crafts and edited by Gates, tells of a self-educated young house slave who knows all too well slavery's brutal limitations, but never suspects that

–West Virginia Division of Culture and History press release, Sept. 26, 2005.

ANCESTRY LIBRARY EDITION NOW AVAILABLE IN THE ARCHIVES AND HISTORY LIBRARY

Ancestry Library Edition is now available through the computers in the Archives and History Library Reading Room. Some of the databases included in the library's subscription are:

- U.S. Federal Census collection, 1790-1930, with every-name indexes and original images
- U.K. and Ireland Census collection
- Birth, Marriage and Death Records collection, including the Social Security Death Index, and government and church vital records for the United States, England, Scotland, Ireland and Wales
- Immigration collection, including original images of passenger and immigration lists

the freedom of her beautiful new mistress is also at risk and that a devastating secret will force them both to flee the South and make a desperate bid for freedom.

Gates earned his master's and doctoral degrees in English literature from Clare College at the University of Cambridge. He has won numerous prized and awards, including the Zora Neale Hurston Society Award for Cultural Scholarship, 1986; *Chicago Tribune* Heartland Award, 1997; 1997 New England Award for Editorial Excellence; Tikku National Ethics Award, 1996; the West Virginian of the Year, 1995; the 1995 Humanities Award, West Virginia Humanities Council; and the National Humanities Medal, 1998, to name a few.

Seating for Dr. Gates's talk will be limited and is available on a first-come, first-seated basis. For more information about the program call (304) 558-0162.

–West Virginia Division of Culture and History press release, Sept. 26, 2005.

- Military Records collection, including WWI Draft Registration Cards, Civil War Service Records, and more
- Family and Local History collection, containing the 200-volume American Genealogical-Biographical Index, the Federal Writers Project Slave Narratives; the Dawes Commission Index (1898-1914) and the DAR Lineage Books
- Other collections such as court, land and probate records; family trees and message boards; charts and forms; and much more

Remote access is not offered with Ancestry Library Edition, so plan to visit the Archives and History Library and explore this valuable tool for genealogy.

"Ulster" continued from page 1

October 25, 2005. Registration at the door will be \$25.00, with no option to order lunch. For additional information about the seminar or MYHF, contact Wes Cochran at wescochran@juno.com or Kellis Gillespie at Kellisgill@aol.com, or write: Mining Your History Foundation, P.O. Box 6923, Charleston, WV 25362-0923. Visit <http://www.rootsweb.com/~myhf/> for more details and a registration form.

The Ulster Historical Foundation, which conducts lecture tours of the United States annually and visited this past spring at the Dunbar Public Library, Dunbar, West Virginia, has a Web site at <http://www.ancestryireland.co.uk/>.

GRAVE CREEK MOUND ARCHAEOLOGY WEEKEND

Grave Creek Mound Archaeology Complex, operated by the West Virginia Division of Culture and History, will present its annual Archaeology Weekend program entitled American Indian Skills from the Past on Saturday, October 15 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and on Sunday, October 16, from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. The program is timed to coincide with West Virginia Archaeology Month and is free and open to the public. Owen Brown, a member of the Catawba Indian Nation, and Joe Candillo, a member of the Pascua Yaqui Indian Nation, and educational cultural resource consultant for Grave Creek Mound, will lead the demonstrations showing various ways that American Indians of prehistoric times adapted to and lived in harmony with the environment. The program will take place on the grounds and include Native American flint knapping, hide tanning, storytelling, animal calls and

Continued on the next page

Continued from page 2

traditional dancing. For more information about Archaeology weekend, contact Susan Yoho, site manager, at (304) 843-4128. To learn more about the Grave Creek Mound Archaeology Complex, featuring one of the largest and most famous burial mounds built by the prehistoric Adena people, visit our Web site at <http://www.wvculture.org/sites/gravecreek.html>.

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 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.

Web Site of Interest

Ghost Town USA, located at <http://freepages.history.rootsweb.com/~gtusa>, offers extensive information on towns in all 50 states. At least a dozen West Virginia towns are described, with Sewell in Fayette County having been "Ghost Town of the Month" in March 2004.

New Titles

- Jefferson County, [West] Virginia Death Registers, 1853-1880:** Patricia B. Duncan, 2004.
Jefferson County, [West] Virginia Death Registers, 1880-1903: Patricia B. Duncan, 2004.
Jefferson County, Virginia 1803-1813 Personal Property Tax Lists: Patricia B. Duncan, 2003.
Jefferson County, Virginia 1814-1824 Personal Property Tax Lists: Patricia B. Duncan, 2003.
Jefferson County, Virginia 1825-1841 Personal Property Tax Lists: Patricia B. Duncan, 2003.

Gifts of Goldenseal Magazine

- Rough Lumber Stories From Spurlock Creek:** Justine Felix Rutherford, 2002.
A Place Called Smoke Hole: D. Bardon Shreve with Estyl C. Shreve, 1997.
More About Smoke Hole: D. Bardon Shreve with Estyl C. Shreve, 2000.
Heartland of the Middle Fork Revisited: Shirley Gower, 2000. [Note: Revised edition of *The Heartland of the Middle Fork*, 1988.]
The Rugged Southern Appalachia: Willard Mounts, 1996.
It Wasn't Easy: From Cradle to Grave: Stories of an Appalachian Coal Miner: Minnie Jane Boserman, 2002.
Appalachia: Spirit Triumphant: A Cultural Odyssey of Appalachia: B. L. Dotson-Lewis, 2004.
Hometown Reflections: Life and Times in Martinsburg, West Virginia: Ethel Wayble Bovey, 2004.
Hometown Memories: Growing Up in Martinsburg, West Virginia: Ethel Wayble Bovey, 2003.
Coal Bloom: Thurmon I. Miller, 2003.

Donations of Mining Your History Foundation

- Louisa County, Virginia, Marriage Bonds, 1769-1856:** Genealogical Society of Utah, c1936.
The 1850 Federal Census, Prince George County, Virginia: Dr. Stephen E. Bradley, Jr., 1990
Grayson County, Kentucky Marriage Records, 1852-53-54-55-56-57-58-59, 1861, 1875-76-77-78, 1903, 1904, & some 1906 & 1907: Frances Terry Ingmire, c1984.
Grayson County, Kentucky Death Records, 1852-53-54-55-56-57-58-59, 1861, 1874-75-76-77-78, 1903, 1903-04-06 & 1907: Frances Terry Ingmire, c1985.
Greenup County, Kentucky, Marriage Records, 1852-53-55-56-58-1875-76-1877 & 1878: Frances Terry Ingmire, c1985.
Greenup County, Kentucky, Birth Records, 1852-1859, 1875-1878: Frances T. Ingmire, 2003.
Greenup County, Kentucky Death Records: 1952-53-55-56-57-58-59-1874-75-7[6]-77-78 & 1904: Frances T. Ingmire, c 1985.

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.
-

Archives and History Web Site Features “On This Day in West Virginia History”

by Mary Johnson

As part of Archives and History’s centennial celebration, our Web site has been featuring “On this day in West Virginia history” throughout 2005. For each day, staff have selected an event in the state’s past and placed information about that event online. We have attempted to document events from various time periods, places, and topics. The year began with the arrival in Wheeling of the first B&O train from Baltimore on January 1, 1853. The first day of October featured the strike at the Elk River Coal and Lumber Company in Widen. Violence erupted there on October 1, 1952, a few days after the 15-month strike of 1952-1953 began. We have covered such topics as West Virginia ratification of the 19th amendment to the U.S. Constitution giving women the right to vote, the first annual Italian Heritage Festival in Clarksburg, the death of African-American educator Fannie Cobb Carter, and the 1778 attack on Fort Donnally near Lewisburg, to name a few. Our upcoming speaker on October 14, Dr. Henry Louis Gates Jr., was featured on June 12 for his graduation as valedictorian of the Piedmont High School class of 1968.

Materials from Archives and History’s collections have been used whenever possible. For the Widen strike, we used a union leaflet and sample ballot from the William Blizzard Collection. West Virginia Day at the New York World’s Fair, on August 3, includes selections from Dan B. Fleming’s scrapbooks of the fair. Several days offer clips from our Audio-visual Collection.

Often, the featured illustration is an image from our Photograph Collection. A few times an event has come to our attention solely because

we have a dated photograph. The run on the Citizens Bank of Weston on October 3, 1931, is one such event.

The featured event of the day may be found on our main Web page at <http://www.wvculture.org/history>. Previously featured events are available by following links from the day’s featured event or at <http://www.wvculture.org/history/thisdayinwvhistory/thisday.html>. Be sure and check out “On this day in West Virginia history” during our centennial year!

Genealogy Today Calendar

Genealogy Today, a Web site with both free and subscription services, offers a free Genealogy Calendar that includes family reunions, school and military reunions, local society workshops, genealogy fairs, national conferences and more. An online form is provided for submitting an event. For more information and to view the calendar, visit <http://news.genealogytoday.com/calendar/index.html>.

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

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.

**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.

**ARCHAEOLOGY WEEKEND PROGRAM:
 “AMERICAN INDIAN SKILLS FROM THE PAST,” October
 15 and 16:** Grave Creek Mound Archaeology Complex, Moundsville.

**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.*

Please check our web site (<http://www.wvculture.org/history>)

Calendar of Events

for genealogical and historical society meeting announcements,
and for more complete information on activities listed below.

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.

REGISTRATION DEADLINE FOR ULSTER HISTORICAL SOCIETY SEMINAR,

October 25: Mining Your History Foundation Annual Meeting and Workshop
to be held November 5, 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.

THANKSGIVING DAY, November 24: Archives Library will be *closed*.

FRIDAY AFTER THANKSGIVING DAY, November 25: Archives Library will be open.*

SATURDAY AFTER THANKSGIVING DAY, November 26: Archives Library will be open.*

CHRISTMAS EVE, SATURDAY, December 24: Archives Library will be *closed*.

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY, MONDAY, December 26: Archives Library will be *closed*.

NEW YEAR’S EVE, SATURDAY, December 31: Archives Library will be *closed*.

NEW YEAR’S HOLIDAY, MONDAY, January 2, 2006: Archives Library will be *closed*.

HISTORY DAY, February, 16, 2006: The Capitol Complex, Charleston.

**Only the Archives Library will be staffed—all other Archives offices will be closed.*

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

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

West Virginia
Archives & History
NEWS



We would love to hear from you.

Let us know what you find helpful in the newsletter, and what new topics you would like covered.

Contact *West Virginia Archives and History News* Editor
 Susan Scouras, (304) 558-0230, Ext. 742,
 or by e-mail: susan.scouras@wvculture.org.

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