Archives and History NEWS From the Editor: WEST VIRGINIA

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October is American Archives Month, an opportunity for institutions to make people aware of the importance of archives. The institutions that collect, preserve, and make accessible historical materials play a vital role in keeping history alive for current and future generations. Have you considered the federal records preserved by the National Archives that innumerable people have looked at on microfilm, on the Internet, or via copywork received from research requests? Or the small, local newspapers that West Virginia Archives and History is microfilming, which otherwise would be lost to history because some of the publishers themselves dispose of them after only a few weeks? Or any of the other historical materials that didn't get thrown away or left abandoned in some damp or bug-infested corner but, instead, are being preserved and made available to the public? This October, let people know about the important work being done at archives all across the country and the world.

Thinking Outside the Box: Finding the **Unexpected at Archives and History**

By Mary Johnson

Although the Archives and History collection's focus is West Virginia, over the years, the library has acquired some materials unrelated to—or seemingly unrelated to—the state. A case in point is the content of some of our microfilm holdings. Recent issues of the newsletter. including the current one, have noted the acquisition of Civil War-era newspapers from Ohio; at present, these are filed in a drawer labeled "Out of State Newspapers/Civil War Era Newspapers" located in the county newspaper section. Our reason for acquiring this film has been discussed previously.

If you have visited the Archives and History Library, have you noticed that on the opposite side of the microfilm room are two drawers labeled "Out of State Microfilm"?

In these two drawers are rolls of film whose content might seem surprising. From Kentucky, we have an alphabetical index to Boyd County

marriages, 1861–1939, Greenup County marriage records, 1911-1920, and Greenup County index to

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Ohio and Kanawha River Valley Slavery Will **Be Topic of October Tuesday Night Lecture**

On October 11, 2011, Dr. Philip Sturm, professor of history at Ohio Valley University in Vienna, West Virginia, will present "Slavery in the Ohio and Kanawha River Valleys: Using Local Primary Sources to Uncover the Past" at the Tuesday evening lecture in the Archives and History Library. The program will begin at 6:00 p.m. and is free and open to the public.

Dr. Sturm plans to have an interactive presentation with a lot of audience participation. Using actual primary source materials like slave inventories, slave narratives, estate administration records, and census information, he will pose questions to the audience that call for conclusions. Handouts will be provided.

A native of Parkersburg, Philip Sturm holds degrees from Ohio Valley University, Harding University in Arkansas, and West Virginia University, where he earned his Ph.D. in U.S. history and Appalachian studies. For his dissertation, he

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wrote on "Kinship Migration to Northwestern Virginia, 1785-1815: The Myth of the Southern Frontiersman." Dr. Sturm is a 41year veteran of the Ohio Valley University faculty and also has taught at the University of New Orleans and at Loyola University of the South.

Genealogy Club

Archives and History Library

Every Thursday Evening 6:00-7:00 p.m.

Once a month, on the second Thursday, there will be a special program with a speaker. 6:00-7:30 p.m. He was a James Still Fellow at the University of Kentucky in 1987, a John B. Stephenson Fellow at WVU in 2000, and received summer fellowships from the West Virginia Humanities Council in 1980 and 1991. Phil Sturm has received recognition for his teaching on several occasions, including selection as West Virginia Professor of the Year by the Faculty Merit Foundation and as Professor of the Year by Ohio Valley's students.

Dr. Sturm has served as president of both the Parkersburg Bicentennial Commission and the Wood County Bicentennial Commission and, since 2001, has been a member of the Fort Boreman Historical Park Commission. He is the author of A River to Cross: The Bicentennial

History of Wood County, West Virginia (1999), Wood County Reflections: A Pictorial History (2005), an article on Peter G. Van Winkle for West Virginia History (1999-2000), and several articles for the West Virginia Encyclopedia.

On October 11, the library will close at 5 p.m. and reopen at 5:45 p.m. for participants only. To register in advance, contact Robert Taylor, library manager, by e-mail at bobby.l.taylor@wv.gov or at (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. For additional information, contact the Archives and History Library at (304) 558-0230.

[This article originally was prepared by Mary Johnson for the Archives and History Web site based on information provided by Phil Sturm.]

Archives and History Creates Forest Festival Photo Exhibit

By Debra Basham

The Mountain State Forest Festival celebrates its 75th anniversary this October 1–9 in Elkins. In honor of this anniversary, for its next photo exhibit in the Archives and History Photo Gallery, the State Archives will feature the Forest Festival. It will focus on the first fifty years of Forest Festival activities and the assortment of events available to visitors.

The first Forest Festival was held in 1930, with many of the traditions being introduced at that time. Margaret Straley of Ripley was crowned Queen Silvia I by Governor William G. Conley, and, with only a few exceptions, the governor has crowned all the successive Silvias. The forest industry has been a major focus of the events, with exhibits about wood products, guest speakers from industry, government, and agricultural groups being featured,

and competitions such as the wood-chopping contest drawing spectators. Presidents who have attended the festival include Franklin Roosevelt, Harry Truman, Richard Nixon, Gerald Ford, and Jimmy Carter. Famous West Virginians who have been parade grand marshals and speakers include Chuck Yeager, Eleanor Steber, Jerry West, and Rod Hundley. Because of World War II and its immediate aftermath, the festival was not held during the years 1942–1948 but resumed in 1949 and has been continuously held since.

The festivities illustrated in the photo exhibit include both the Grand Feature Parade and Firemen's Parade, the coronation activities, usually held on the grounds of Davis and Elkins College, the woodchopping contest, jousting, and some of the area visits made by the queen during the week. The State Archives is fortunate to be the repository for thousands of negatives of the West Virginia Photo Company of Parsons, who served as the photographers to the Forest Festival for many years. Part of a more extensive collection of negatives, most of the pre-World War II years were numbered on the edge, using the year as part of the numbering system. As a result, we were able to sort them by year and organize them. More recent years, many of them 4x5 negatives, only had a number without any year and arrived mixed in with thousands of other negatives not relating to the festival. Over the years, volunteers and staff attempted to sort out the Forest Festival negatives into several boxes and, more recently, to try sorting the undated ones by film type and handwriting. The staff also relied heavily on the library's collection of Forest Festival programs, which, although incomplete, helped to identify some of the queens and other events by year.

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grooms, 1920–1989. We also have Ohio marriage records for Meigs County, 1819–1913, and Washington County, 1789–1918. Meigs and Washington counties are across the Ohio River from Mason, Jackson, Wood, Pleasants, and Tyler counties, while Boyd County is across the Big Sandy from Wayne County, with Greenup northwest of Boyd. These records are on 22 rolls of microfilm that were donated to Archives and History a decade ago.

The other out-of-state rolls in these drawers are for Virginia counties—Alleghany, Augusta, Bath, Botetourt, Franklin, Frederick, Giles, Montgomery, Orange, Rockbridge, Rockingham, Russell, Shenandoah, Tazewell, and Wythe. If you look at a map of West Virginia that includes surrounding Virginia counties, vou will see that many of these Virginia counties arc around the eastern and southern boundaries of West Virginia. In addition to being our nearest neighbors, many of these counties at one time extended into parts of what is now West Virginia. For example:

- Berkeley was formed from Frederick in 1772
- Greenbrier from Botetourt and Montgomery in 1778
- Hampshire from Augusta and Frederick in 1754
- Kanawha from Greenbrier and **Montgomery** in 1788
- Logan from Cabell, Giles, Kanawha, and Tazewell in 1824
- Mercer from Giles and Tazewell in 1837
- McDowell from Tazewell in 1858
- Pendleton from Augusta, Hardy, and Rockingham in 1788
- Pocahontas from Bath, Pendleton, and Randolph in 1821

In 1753, none of West Virginia's counties existed and the region Continued on the next page

October Genealogy Program Asks "Can Genealogy Kill You?"

On October 13, 2011, genealogist Nancy Sparks Morrison will present "Can Genealogy Kill You?" at the Thursday evening lecture in the Archives and History Library in the Culture Center in Charleston. The program will begin at 6:00 p.m. and is free and open to the public.

A person's ancestry can play an important role in health. Inherited illnesses and mutated genetic traits can cause severe damage to the health of the family as a whole or to one individual in that family. Sometimes, these illnesses are recognized, but more often, finding one of them in the family line comes as a surprise. Knowing who you are and where you came from can save your life or that of a family member.

DNA research, while in its infancy, is revealing much about the source of family illnesses. Starting with death certificates and family Bibles as sources for causes of death, DNA can give further credence to family stories. Though not a doctor, Sparks Morrison will share information on several specific inherited illnesses that she has researched as well as her own

personal history with DNA and family illness.

Nancy Sparks Morrison holds a B.S. from West Virginia State University and an M.A.L.S. from Hollins College in Virginia. While working on a second master's degree, she became sick with an inherited illness. Before her genealogical research, Sparks Morrison believed that her family was English, Irish, German, and Native American, but DNA revealed a very different history and gave her the proof that she needed to convince doctors that she had an illness considered "rare" in the United States.

Advance registration for the program is not required but is encouraged to help plan seating arrangements. To register in advance, contact Robert Taylor, library manager, bobby.l.taylor@wv.gov or at (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. For additional information, contact the Archives and History Library at (304) 558-0230.

[This article originally was prepared by Mary Johnson for the Archives and History Web site based on information provided by Nancy Sparks Morrison.]

Evening Workshops and Lecture Schedule

Date Conducted by: Subject

October 11 Phil Sturm Slavery in the Ohio and Kanawha River Valleys: Using Local Primary Sources to Uncover the Past

November 1 Merle Cole Tuesday History of the West Virginia State Police: The First Two Decades

Registration for these free workshops is helpful but not required. Call our office at (304) 558-0230, or e-mail bobby.l.taylor@wv.gov.

Workshops are held 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. in the West Virginia Archives and History Library, The Culture Center, Charleston, West Virginia.



Out-of-State Virginia Microfilm

ALLEGHANY Marriages, 1822–1916 (unindexed 1822–54; indexed

1854-1916)

AUGUSTA Chancery Order Books, 1831–67

District Court Order Books, 1789–1842

Militia Court of Inquiry, 1807–12 Militia Court Martials, 1756–96

Probate Records Wills, 1753–60, 1789–1828, 1831–70

Surveyors Records, 1744-1906

BATH Probate Court, 1809–71

Surveyors Records, 1791–1897

Wills, 1791-1876

BOTETOURT Deed Index, 1770–1889; Deeds, 1770(?)–96

Surveyors Records, 1774–1883

Wills, 1770-1824

FRANKLIN Index to Births, 1853–79, Marriages, 1853–98, Deaths,

1853-71

Birth Register, 1853–79 Death Register, 1853–71 Marriage Bonds, 1786–1853 Marriage Register, 1853–1915

Circuit Court Wills, Estates, 1804–1901 District Court Land Suits, 1805–18, 1821–22

Plat Books, 1792–1891

FREDERICK District Court Order Books, 1789–1852

Militia Records, 51st Reg. Court of Inquiry, 1796–1813 Militia Records, 31st Reg. Court of Inquiry, 1796–1821

Mixed Probate Records, 1791–1824, 1830–58

Petitions, Muster Rolls, 1861–65

Superior Court Chancery Records, 1784–1825

Superior Court Deeds, 1793–1826 Surveys, 1736–58, 1782–1878

GILES Chancery Index Orders; Court Orders, 1806–44

Deed Index, 1806–1923; Deeds, 1806–36

Surveys, 1807-1926

MONTGOMERY Deed Index, 1773–1933; Deeds, 1773–1815

Mixed Probate General Index, 1773–1955

Mixed Probate, 1797–1823

Order Book Index, 1773-1855; Order Books, 1774-

1807

Records Plotts, 1773–1890

Wills, 1773-97

ORANGE Index to Wills, 1734–1947; Wills, 1735–78

Order Books, 1734–47

Orders and Minutes General Index

that eventually would become West Virginia was part of Augusta and Frederick counties. In turn, those two counties had been formed from Orange in the preceding decade. Conversely, parts of both Alleghany and Giles once were in Monroe County, while Greenbrier contributed to the area of Bath County.

If you trace your family back far enough, you will realize the need to understand county formations. Many of you who have been at it awhile already know that and may have followed your family from, for example, Clay through Nicholas and Kanawha to Greenbrier, with them residing on the same piece of property the whole time. However, you may not have been aware of these non-West Virginia resources in the Archives and History Library that might provide additional information.

In addition to understanding county formations, it is also helpful to understand that the records for the district courts, which heard cases that had originated at the local level, encompassed more than just the county where the court was held. Between 1789 and 1808, Virginia had 18 district courts. When it was created, the District Court at Winchester (Frederick County) heard cases originating in Berkeley, Frederick, Hampshire, Hardy, and Shenandoah counties, as well as the city of Winchester. The District Court at Staunton (Augusta County) heard cases originating in Augusta, Pendleton, Rockbridge, and Rockingham as well as the city of Staunton. At some point, that changed to Augusta, Bath, Rockbridge, and Rockingham. There were other district courts at Lewisburg or Fincastle (Botetourt County) and at Morgantown. Obviously, as other western counties were created, cases originating in them were heard in one of the district courts.



The district courts were replaced by Superior Courts of Law in 1808.

When the Superior Courts of Chancery district courts were created in 1802, the Staunton Superior Court of Chancery district encompassed 28 counties including the present-day West Virginia counties of Berkeley, Brooke, Greenbrier, Hampshire, Hardy, Harrison, Jefferson, Kanawha, Monongalia, Monroe, Ohio, Pendleton, Randolph, and Wood. Additional courts were added in 1812. Cabell, Greenbrier, Kanawha, Mason, Monroe, and Pendleton cases were heard at Staunton; Berkeley, Hampshire, Hardy, and Jefferson at Winchester: and Brooke, Harrison. Ohio, Monongalia, Randolph, and Wood at Clarksburg. The addition of Greenbrier County Superior Court of Chancery in 1814 moved cases originating in Cabell, Greenbrier, Kanawha, Mason, and Monroe to that jurisdiction. In 1831, both the Superior Courts of Law and the Superior Courts of Chancery were replaced by Circuit Superior Courts of Law and Chancery, which continued until 1852. They continued to operate within districts, which explains why the records in the accompanying list contain district court order books as late as 1852.

For some counties, Archives and History has microfilm that extends beyond the period when they included present-day West Virginia areas. These may prove useful to researchers looking for antecedents who lived in one of these Virginia counties during the available years. In addition, remember that people's lives didn't necessarily end at the county border. It is possible to find someone in more than one county during the same period, acquiring land in two different counties or traveling across county lines to get married. That's why it is important to think outside the box sometimes.

ROCKBRIDGE Deed Index, 1778–1887; Deeds, 1778–1812

Estrays, 1831–56 Marriages, 1782–1866

Mixed Records Probate Index, 1778–1925 Mixed Records Probate, 1778–1825

Surveys, 1789–1806

ROCKINGHAM Court Judgments Orders, 1778–1804

Deed Index, 1778–1863; Deeds, 1778–1815

Guardian Bonds, 1779–1831 Land Tax Books, 1782–1819

Surveys General Index, 1761-1880; Surveys, 1761-91

Wills, 1803–63

RUSSELL Births, 1853–66

Deaths, 1853–66 Marriages, 1853–1908

General Index to Marriage Licenses, 1853-1930

SHENANDOAH Superior Court Wills and Accounts, 1809–63

Superior Court Wills and Settlements, 1856–92

Surveys, 1785–1921

TAZEWELL Births, 1853–70

Chancery Orders, 1832–63 Court Orders, 1800–56

General Index to Law and Chancery, 1832–1940

Deaths, 1853-71

Deed Index, 1800-76; Deeds, 1800-69

Marriage Index, 1800–1939; Marriages, 1800–1920

Index to Surveys, 1801–1922 Surveyors Land Books, 1801–91

Index to Wills, 1800–1908; Wills, 1800–65

WYTHE Circuit Superior Court, 1832–50

Court Orders, 1790–1805 Court Records, 1810–28, 1845 District Court, 1824, 28

District Court, 1824–38

Deed Index, 1790–1907; Deeds, 1790–1817 Militia Court, 100th Reg., 1797–1808

Militia Roster, 1813

General Index to Surveys, 1790–1910

Surveys, 1790-96, 1799-1808

Index to Wills, 1790-1911; Wills, 1790-1831



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The exhibit will include photos from the earliest years, many printed from the original 8x10 negatives. Other large collections of negatives that will have photos displayed include the Clarksburg newspaper collection of mostly 4x5 negatives from the *Exponent* and *Telegram*, the Division of Natural Resources collection of 4x5 and 2.25x2.25

September Programs Well Received

Robert Beanblossom presented a history of the West Virginia State Park System on September 6 at the monthly Tuesday evening lecture in the Archives and History Library, and Alex P. Schust discussed how coal mining built McDowell County on September 8 at the Thursday night genealogy program. The programs were attended by 32 and 29 people respectively. Images from the programs are available at http://www.wvculture.org/history/ workshops/wkshp090611.html and http://www.wvculture.org/history/ workshops/2011septembergenclub. html.

negatives from the mid-1950s to mid-1960s, and the Commerce collection of 35mm negatives. The exhibit will remain up through the rest of 2011.

For those interested in learning more about the Mountain State Forest Festival, the A. Spates Brady Collection at the State Archives has a box of correspondence and other materials concerning the early years of the festival. We also have a small number of items about Princess Winifred Woods, 1932, and Forest Festival programs.

More Civil War Era Newspapers from Ohio

A few more rolls of Civil War era newspapers from Ohio were received in September. With the rolls that were purchased earlier this year (see the April and September issues of Archives and History News for a listing of those acquisitions), Archives and History now has microfilm of more than two dozen Ohio newspapers from the Civil War era.

OHIO

Cleveland Morning Leader, Cleveland May 1861-March 1865

Jackson Standard, Jackson January 6, 1859–March 19, 1863; Court House September 10, 1863–June 7, 1866

Newark American series, Newark

Newark North American July 22, 1858-March 20, 1863

(scattered issues)

True American October 28, 1864–April 14, 1865;

February 22 and March 15, 1867

(scattered issues)

Newark American October 20, 1865–December 7, 1866;

April 24, 1868–April 15, 1870; October 3–November 28, 1873 (scattered

issues)

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.

75 YEARS OF THE MOUNTAIN STATE FOREST FESTIVAL EXHIBIT, through October: The Culture Center, Charleston.

"THE WAY WE WORKED," SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION EXHIBITION TOUR, through October 22: Marlinton Community Building, Marlinton.

ON INLAND WATERS: STEAMBOATS AND THE OHIO RIVER, 1811–2011 EXHIBIT, through November 6: Huntington Museum of Art, Huntington.

AN AMERICAN TURNING POINT: THE CIVIL WAR IN VIRGINIA EXHIBIT,

through December 30: Virginia Historical Society, Richmond. Exhibit includes West Virginia.

"ELEANOR ROOSEVELT (BAYARD YOUNG PHOTOS) AT ARTHURDALE," October 4: Judi Tarowsky, storyteller, Ohio County Public Library Lunch with Books, Wheeling.



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SPECIAL ELECTION DAY, October 4: Archives Library will be closed.

"NATIVE AMERICAN CULTURE PAST AND PRESENT," October 6: Larry TwoRivers Brown, speaker, North House Lecture Series, Carnegie Hall, Lewisburg. Call (304) 645-3398 to register.

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

"A NEW HOME FOR LIBERTY': HUMAN RIGHTS, SLAVERY, & THE CREATION OF WEST VIRGINIA," October 18: Living history program, as well as pre-show panel with historians, Civic Center, Charleston. Sponsored by the J. R. Clifford Project of Friends of Blackwater.

"A BRIEF AND ENTERTAINING HISTORY OF MEDICINE," October 20: Dr. Peter Ward, speaker, North House Lecture Series, Carnegie Hall, Lewisburg. Call (304) 645-3398 to register.

OHIO VALLEY HISTORY EXPO, October 22: Ohio County Public Library, Wheeling. Sponsored by Wheeling Heritage Roundtable.

WEST VIRGINIA BOOK FESTIVAL, October 22–23: Civic Center, Charleston.

"TO BE OR NOT TO BE: THE PUBLIC VOTE ON WEST VIRGINIA STATEHOOD," October 24: West Virginia Independence Hall, Wheeling.

"THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONSERVANCY IN THE MIDWEST," October 27: Josh McConaughy, speaker, Grave Creek Mound Archaeological Complex, Moundsville.

"THE REVOLUTIONARY ORIGINS OF THE CIVIL WAR," October 27: Gordon Wood, speaker, West Virginia Humanities Council Betsy K. McCreight Lecture in the Humanities, Culture Center, Charleston.

"SCOTS-IRISH QUILTS IN WEST VIRGINIA," October 27: Fawn Valentine, speaker, North House Lecture Series, Carnegie Hall, Lewisburg. Call (304) 645-3398 to register.

"THE WAY WE WORKED," SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION EXHIBITION TOUR, October 29–December 10: Mary H. Weir Public Library, Weirton.

GUYANDOTTE CIVIL WAR DAYS, November 4-6: Huntington.

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

"AN ASTRONOMER'S LOOK AT THE GRAVE CREEK MOUND AND ITS ENVIRONS,"
November 17: Dr. Francis Graham, speaker, Grave Creek Mound Archaeological Complex, Moundsville.

Trainers Grandin, speaker, Grave Greek Would Thendeological Complex, Wouldsvine

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

THANKSGIVING FRIDAY AND SATURDAY, November 25–26: Archives Library will be *closed*.

*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.

Archives and 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.c.scouras@wv.gov.

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