



West Virginia Archives & History News



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45th United States Colored Troops

From the Editor:

Just a reminder to those of you who may be planning a visit to the West Virginia Archives and History Library over the holiday season: Please check our Web site and/or call us to be sure we will be open on the day and time you hope to come in. Our **Christmas week schedule for 2003** for the Archives and History Library is as follows:

Dec. 24 (Wed.)	Closing at 1:00 p.m.
Dec. 25 (Thurs.)	Closed.
Dec. 26 (Fri.)	Closed.
Dec. 27 (Sat.)	Open 9:00–6:00.

Please drive safely, and plan to include a few hours of research in the Library in your itinerary for West Virginia.

45TH UNITED STATES COLORED TROOPS

by Terry Lowry

During the American Civil War, approximately 178,000 African Americans served in the Union military forces in units most often referred to as United States Colored Troops (U.S.C.T.). The regimental officers of the Colored Troops were commissioned white officers. The nearly 170 organized African American troop units were involved in 449 engagements, of which 39 were major battles. Most Americans learned about African American participation in the Civil War through the movie “Glory.”

Although the 45th Regiment, United States Colored Troops, was primarily credited to the service of the state of Pennsylvania, two companies of the regiment, comprising some 232 men, were credited to the new state of West Virginia. The men were recruited in the summer of 1864 at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and fought at such Virginia battles and locations as Arlington Heights, Chaffin’s Farm, Fair Oaks, the Petersburg Campaign, and the Appomattox Campaign. They also served in Texas immediately after the Civil War itself ended. As a result of their service in the Union Army through the state of West Virginia, each man who served in one of the two companies became eligible for a medal from West Virginia in recognition for his service.

The Archives and History Library has a document identified as “List of colored men mustered into the service of the United States, to the credit of the State of West Virginia, since April, 1864. Assigned to the 45th Regiment U.S. Colored Troops.” The list names each soldier, his date of enlistment and “Remarks.” Not all entries contain added information, but the remarks sometimes include county and state of birth, a valuable clue for tracing the identity and descendants. The original list is in papers of the West Virginia Adjutant General and a bound photocopy is available in the Library Reading Room collection. Other documents relating the day-to-day operations and administration of the companies are included in the Adjutant General’s papers, but no

documents with personal information about individual soldiers are in the collection.

Most of the medals earned by the soldiers of these two companies remain unclaimed at the West Virginia State Archives, not necessarily because tracing African American family history is more difficult, but because most of the men were not West Virginians. Their living descendants, who are less likely to be West Virginians, probably are not aware of the existence of the West Virginia medals. A descendant of a man (or of his close kin) named on the list of unclaimed medals who can show documented lineage of himself/herself to the specific soldier may file a claim for the medal issued to that man. Visit our Web site at <http://www.wvculture.org/history/medals.html> for a list of unclaimed medals and complete information on the origin, history and claim process for West Virginia Civil War medals, or see the December 2002 *Archives and History News*, <http://www.wvculture.org/history/1202news.html>, to read an article about the West Virginia medals. Linda Fluharty has a wonderfully informative site on the 45th West Virginia which includes the roster as well as a list of the 45th's soldiers whose names appear on the list of unclaimed medals: <http://www.lindapages.com/45/cw-45us.htm>.

NEW TITLES

Mr. Lincoln's Navy: Richard S. West, Jr., 1957.
The Formative Years, 1607-1763: Clarence L. Ver Steeg, 1964.
Swedish Immigrants in Lincoln's Time: Nels Hokanson, 1942.
Early English and French Voyages: Chiefly from Hakluyt, 1534-1648: Henry S. Burrage, 1959, c1906.
Narratives of the Indian Wars, 1675-1699: Charles H. Lincoln, editor, 1959, c1913.
Narratives of Early Carolina, 1650-1708: Alexander S. Salley, Jr., editor, 1959, c1911.
Kate Field: Chief Memorialist of John Brown: Carolyn J. Moss, 2003.

Itinerary of General Washington from June 15, 1775 to December 23, 1783: William S. Baker, 1970, c1892.
Numbers & Losses in the Civil War in America, 1861-65: Thomas Leonard Livermore, 1957.
The President Who Wouldn't Retire: [John Quincy Adams] Leonard Falkner, 1967.
History of the Second Seminole War, 1835-1842: John K. Mahon, 1967.
All the President's Kin: Barbara Kellerman, 1981.
The New Nation, 1800-1845: Charles Maurice Wiltse, 1961.
Congress and the Civil War: Edward C. Boykin, 1955.
Fundamental Law and the American Revolution, 1760-1776: Charles F. Mullett, 1966, c1933.
Ark of Empire: The American Frontier, 1784-1803: Dale Van Every, 1963.
July 4, 1776: The Dramatic Story of the First Four Days of July, 1776: Donald Bar Chidsey, 1958.
Those 163 Days: A Southern Account of Sherman's March from Atlanta to Raleigh: John Mendinghall Gibson, 1961.
Kennedy and Johnson: Evelyn Lincoln, 1968.
The American Quest, 1790-1860: An Emerging Nation in Search of Identity, Unity and Modernity: Clinton Lawrence Rossiter, 1971.
Zach Taylor's Little Army: Edward Jay Nichols, 1963.
The American Testament: Mortimer J. Adler and William Gorman, 1975.
Dawn Like Thunder: The Barbary Wars and the Birth of the U.S. Navy: Glenn Tucker, 1963.
The Thinking Revolutionary: Principle and Practice in the New Republic: Ralph Lerner, 1987.
Ordeal of Ambition: Jefferson, Hamilton, Burr: Jonathan Daniels, 1970.
Confederate Cavalry West of the River: Stephen B. Oates, 1961.
Infernal Machines: The Story of Confederate Submarine and Mine Warfare: Milton F. Perry, 1965.

Freedom and Reform: Essays in Honor of Henry Steele Commager: Harold M. Hyman and Leonard W. Levy, editors, 1967.

37th Annual Smithsonian Folklife Festival: Appalachia, Heritage and Harmony; Mali, From Timbuktu to Washington; Scotland, at the Smithsonian [program]: Smithsonian Institution and the National Park Service, 2003.

DAR Patriot Index: National Society Daughters of the American Revolution, 2003.

Armor Park Residents in 1936–Revised: Ed Thomas, 2003.

JonBenét: The Police Files: American Media Inc., 2003.

Pine Twist Cemetery: Wirt County, West Virginia: Don Seabolt, 2003.

Drone Genealogy 1620-2000: Ancestors and Descendants of Joseph F. and Margaret (Bartel) Drone of Gallatin County, Illinois: Volume 1: Rebecca Wright. [Note: Includes separate 43-page booklet inserted in back cover: 2002 Supplement.]

Summers County: Ed Robinson, 2003.

West Virginia Newspaper Directory: West Virginia Press Association, 2003.

Disloyalty in the Confederacy: Georgia Lee Tatum, 2000, c1934.

One Third of a Nation: Lorena Hickok Reports on the Great Depression: Lorena A. Hickok, 2000, c1981.

Campaigning with Grant: Horace Porter, 2000, c1897.

Wayne County, West Virginia in the Civil War: Jack L. Dickinson, 2003.

The Pritchard Family History: Revised Edition: Emily Pritchard Cary, 2001.

Sayre Family. . .Another 100 Years: [Five Volumes], Ralph Hall Sayre, 2003.

The Green Chair: Mark DeFoe, 2003.

Virginia Soldiers of the American Revolution: [Two volumes], Hamilton J. Eckenrode, 1989. [Note: This replaces *List of the Revolutionary Soldiers of Virginia* and its supplement, originally published 1912-13.]

DONATIONS

We have not noted individual donors for the past few months due to time and space constraints. We very much appreciate both the individual authors and the genealogical/historical societies who donate copies of their books and other materials to the West Virginia Archives and History Library. The majority of new titles added to the book collection are through their generosity and their recognition of the importance of both preserving their work and making it accessible to a wider audience. This month's New Titles List provides a good overview of those who typically donate to the Archives and History Library.

Carolyn Moss used Archives resources in researching her booklet about Kate Field, a staunch supporter and defender of John Brown. The *DAR Patriot Index* is the most recent of many donations by the **John Young Chapter, NSDAR**, Charleston, WV, whose current and potential members frequently research their Revolutionary ancestral ties in the Archives and History Library. Local historians **Ed Thomas** and **Don Seabolt** donated information about places important to them and to researchers in Charleston and Wirt County, respectively. **Ed Robinson** sent a copy of *Summers County*, a pictorial work published by Arcadia for which he obtained copies of photographs in the State Archives collection. Family historians **Rebecca Wright**, **Emily Pritchard Cary** and **Ralph Hall Sayre** made sure the Library had the most recent editions of their family histories, and have assured us they will continue to do so as they update their works. West Virginia poet **Mark DeFoe** first became aware of the Archives and History Library's need for works by West Virginia authors several years ago and now faithfully sends us two copies of his new books as they are published.

Without donors like these the West Virginia Archives and History Library would not be able to offer the rich buffet of history and genealogy currently found on the Library's shelves. The bulk of our limited acquisitions funds are of necessity dedicated to maintaining our extensive collection

of West Virginia newspapers. We must not only subscribe to each paper individually, we must then purchase commercially-produced microfilm copies when available, or microfilm them in-house for preservation and storage purposes. None of these services or materials can be donated or offered at reduced cost, leaving us with no flexibility in making acquisition choices; therefore, we are grateful for gifts of books that we would otherwise be unable to obtain. Although we are not always able to recognize donors individually in *Archives and History News*, each donor receives a letter of appreciation from Fredrick H. Armstrong, Archives and History director, and a bookplate identifying the donor is placed in each book.

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.

THANKSGIVING DAY, NOVEMBER 27: The Library will be *closed*.

THANKSGIVING WEEKEND, NOVEMBER 28 AND 29: The Library will be open.* *NOTE: The State Museum will be closed both days.*

JENKINS PLANTATION MUSEUM ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY, DECEMBER 6: Lesage.

CHRISTMAS EVE, DECEMBER 24: *Closing at 1:00 p.m.*

CHRISTMAS DAY, DECEMBER 25: *Closed.*

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 26: *Closed.*

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 27: Open regular hours, 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.*

NEW YEAR'S EVE, DECEMBER 31: *Closing at 1:00 p.m.*

NEW YEAR'S DAY, JANUARY 1: *Closed.*

*Only the Archives Library will be staffed--all other Archives offices will be closed. The State Museum will be open any time the Archives Library is open. The West Virginia Library Commission Library in The Cultural Center is closed weekends and all holidays.

Fredrick Armstrong: Director

Debra Basham: Archivist (photographs, special collections)

Constance Baston: Researcher (Veterans Memorial Archive)

Greg Carroll: Historian (Civil War, Native American history)

Dick Fauss: Archivist (microfilm and moving images collection)

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 Archive

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: Office Assistant

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

Volunteers: **Carolyn Conner, Bill Kelley, Angela Tolbert, Bob and Lucile Foster, John McClure, and Carol de la Riva.**

This newsletter is a publication of :
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Nancy P. Herholdt, Commissioner

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ARCHIVES AND HISTORY STAFF