



WEST VIRGINIA
DIVISION OF
CULTURE & HISTORY

From the Editor:

*The West Virginia Archives and History staff welcomes the elevation of one of our own, Joe Geiger, to the position of Director of the Archives and History section of the West Virginia Division of Culture and History. As a staff historian and section Webmaster, he was primarily responsible for the publication of *Marking Our Past: West Virginia's Historical Highway Markers*, and the on-line exhibit, *A State of Convenience: The Creation of West Virginia*. As Acting Director, Joe has served as a steady captain at the helm for the past 14 months. We look forward to his tenure as State Historian and Archivist.*

Joseph Geiger, Jr. is Chosen as West Virginia's New State Historian and State Archivist

News release, December 15, 2008, West Virginia Division of Culture and History

Commissioner Randall Reid-Smith of the West Virginia Division of Culture and History today announced that he has named Joe Geiger of Huntington as director of the agency's Archives and History Section, effective January 1, 2009. Geiger will be responsible for administering the state archives, archives library, historical collections and the database for the Veterans Memorial. Since 1998, Geiger has worked for Archives and History, serving as historian, Webmaster and assistant director. In November 2007 he was appointed acting director of the section. For the past 11 years he also has served as an adjunct professor in the history department at Marshall University. Before that, Geiger worked in the finance division for the City of Huntington.

"I love West Virginia and its

people and am passionate about its history," said Geiger. "I am honored to assume the duties as director of Archives and History, and blessed to work with an experienced staff that does exemplary work in collecting, preserving and making accessible the history of West Virginia and is dedicated to serving the people of the state." Reid-Smith said, "I am

so pleased that Joe has accepted the position. For the last 10 years, he has shared his talents and enthusiasm for history and understands the value of our storied past. His knowledge and leadership skills are a great asset to the Division."

Geiger received his bachelor's
Continued on the next page

New Records Added to Vital Research Records Database

On January 1, 2009, another year's worth of records will be added to several categories of records available in the West Virginia Vital Research Records (WVRR) Database on the West Virginia Archives and History Web site at <http://www.wvculture.org/vrr>. Counties for which birth records were available through 1907 will now have records for 1908, and West Virginia Dept. of Health death certificates will now be available

through 1958. County death and marriage records will not change, already having been entered into the database up through the last year microfilmed, either 1967, 1968, 1969 or 1970, depending on the specific county. Also, the birth records of the six counties entered into WVRR up through 1930 will not change.

The following counties should be loaded into the database by the end of January 2009, barring technical

Continued on page 3

“Geiger” continued from page 1

degree in business administration with a major in marketing and a master’s degree in history from Marshall University. He has published numerous scholarly articles and a book, *Civil War in Cabell County, West Virginia, 1861–1865*. In addition, Geiger is a member of the Commission on Archives and History for the West Virginia Conference of the United Methodist Church, the West Virginia Historical Society, and the Mining Your History Foundation.

Web Sites of Interest

- **Live Roots**, liveroots.com, a service of Genealogy Today, is a combination search engine and resource catalog that connects hits on a name, place or other keyword with resources relating to those results. (Read the announcement of its release at http://www.genealogytoday.com/info/pr/live_roots_launch.html.)
- **Genealogy Software Reviews**, www.gensoftreviews.com, has user reviews for family tree software of all types, including freeware and shareware.

Genealogy Fair News

Since the West Virginia Genealogical Society will not be holding its annual genealogy fair in 2009, the Kanawha Valley History Center will be hosting one in its place on April 4. Whether you are a vendor or a genealogist and would like more information, contact:

Mrs. Linda Hoskins, Director
 Kanawha Valley History Center
 Rand Community Center, 2nd Floor
 5701 Church Drive
 Rand, WV 25306-6001
 (304) 542-3817 / (304) 925-2438
kvhc06@yahoo.com
<http://www.geocities.com/kvhc06>

New Titles

- A Gathering of the Clan:** Carl Steele, Jr., 1995.
A Miner’s Education: Schools in the Coal Company Towns of Southern West Virginia, 1863–1933: Lydia Wright, 2007.
About Dreams and Memories: Irv Francis, 2005.
Ancestors of Robert Hallis Brooks: [no date].
Art & Soul: Jennifer Alkire, Appalachian Education Initiative, 2005.
Brooke County (WV) Index, Volumes 70–75, Index to Law Order Books 1844–1882: Gwendolyn Mackey Hubbard, Bobbie Britt Elliott and Kenneth Fischer Craft, Jr., 2008.
Cemeteries in Roane County: photocopy of WPA manuscript printed from LDS microfilm.
Cindy Says “You Can Find Health in Your Hectic World”: Cindy Boggs, 2007.
Cobbet-Cuppet Lineage in America: 1765: T. Jeff Cuppett, 2007.
Descendants of John Cooke: 2002.
Dorothea Dix and Dr. Francis T. Stribling: Alice Davis Wood, 2008.
Global Squeeze on Rural America: Amy Glasmeier, [no date].
Images of Labor: 1981.
James Hively Day Book of Accounts, 1853–1882: transcribed by Kim Johnson.
Kanawha County Census, 1920, Washington District: West Virginia Genealogical Society, 2007.
Lincoln Legends: Edward Steers, Jr., 2007.
Memories and Morning Glories: Amazetta Jackson, 2005.
Monongah: Davitt McAteer, 2007.
No More Tears: Creative Resistance to the Union Carbide Corporation in the Kanawha Valley, West Virginia: Tracey A. Duncan, 2006.
Prospectus of Preston County, West Virginia: Duncan McRa, 1891 [photocopy].
Putnam Co. WV Death Index Only, 1853–1916: West Virginia Genealogical Society, 2008.
Resources for Interpreters: National Park Service, 1982.
Sketches of Western Adventure: John A. M’Clung, 1852, c1836.
Telling the Stories, by Ron Thomson, 2000.
The Ancestors of Solomon Harpold: Michael Harpold, 2005.
When Whip-poor-wills Call: W. F. “Bill” Armstrong, 2006.
Willie’s Wild Wonderful Wildcats: Brad Browning, 2004.

John Henry Exhibit

The West Virginia Humanities Council now offers a new traveling exhibit about the legendary John Henry entitled *John Henry: The Steel Drivin’ Man*. Designed by West Virginia University students, the exhibit explains the famous legend of John Henry’s steel driving match with a steam drill in West Virginia. Currently scheduled exhibition dates and locations:

- B&O Railroad Heritage Center, Grafton, December 8, 2008–

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

January 3, 2009

- Dora B. Woodyard Memorial Library, Elizabeth, January 12-30, 2009
- Moomau Library Arts Center, Petersburg, February 4-25, 2009
- Ice House Gallery, Berkeley Springs, March 2009

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.

NEW YEAR'S DAY, January 1: Archives Library will be *closed*.

MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY, January 19: Archives Library will be open*.

**WEST VIRGINIA ARCHIVES AND HISTORY COMMISSION MEETING,
 January 30:** Grave Creek Mound Archaeological Complex, Moundsville.

**HISTORY DAY EXHIBIT/TABLE REGISTRATION DEADLINE,
 February 13:** Postmarked or hand-delivered.

PRESIDENTS DAY, February 16: Archives Library will be open*.

HISTORY DAY, March 5: The West Virginia State Capitol and The Cultural Center, Charleston.

GENEALOGY FAIR, KANAWHA VALLEY HISTORY CENTER, April 4: Rand.
 For more information call (304) 542-3817 or (304) 925-2438, or e-mail kvhc06@yahoo.com.

**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.

"Records" continued from page 1

difficulties: Lincoln, McDowell, Monongalia, Monroe, Nicholas, Pleasants, Preston, Putnam, Raleigh, Ritchie, Roane, Summers, Webster, and Wetzel. As always, please notify us via the e-mail link (vrr@wv.culture.org) provided on the WVRR Web site of any broken links, transcription errors, mismatched links and pages, etc. Remember that we can not correct any errors in the original record; however, in some circumstances we can add a cross-reference entry with the correctly spelled name for one badly garbled in the record itself, such as Swann for "Guom." (We do not have the staff time available to cross-reference names that are still recognizable or searchable as recorded, such as Bill and Bell, Dotson and Dodson, etc.)

Please read the article on Vital Research Records posted on the main WVRR Web page for a full explanation of the records available

and for search tips. The article will be updated this month once the next batch of counties are added. For an overview of West Virginia birth, death and marriage records, please refer to the **Quick Guides** posted on our Web site, and the accompanying full articles in *West Virginia Archives and History News*:

- Quick Guide to Birth Records, <http://www.wvculture.org/history/quickguidetobirth.pdf>
- *Vital Records in West Virginia: Births*, <http://www.wvculture.org/history/ahnews/1007news.pdf>
- Quick Guide to Death Records, <http://www.wvculture.org/history/quickguidetodeath.pdf>
- *Vital Records in West Virginia: Deaths*, <http://www.wvculture.org/history/ahnews/0907news.pdf>
- Quick Guide to Marriage Records, <http://www.wvculture.org/history/quickguidetomarriage.pdf>
- *Vital Records in West Virginia: Marriages*, <http://www.wvculture.org/history/ahnews/1107news.pdf>

The Quick Guides appear within the newsletter issues with the full article, but are posted separately as convenient one-page PDF's that easily can be printed as reference sheets. Printed copies are always available in the Archives and History Library. We encourage libraries and societies to print them off as handouts as well. Also, the Quick Guides and the newsletter articles may be reprinted in society newsletters, as long as the source is properly identified.

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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.

Archives and History Staff

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Dick Fauss Archivist (microfilm and moving images collection)
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Mary Johnson Historian
Terry Lowry Library Assistant (Veterans records)
Cathy Miller Library Assistant (WV State documents)
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