



WEST VIRGINIA Archives and History NEWS

From the Editor:

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**Archives and History News
is available on the
Archives and History Web site
[http://www.wvculture.org/history/
ahnews/ahnews.html](http://www.wvculture.org/history/ahnews/ahnews.html)**

I hope all of you in West Virginia are making plans for History Day at the Legislature, February 23, 2012. Give some thought to making your organization's display both eye-catching and informative. Plan to keep your table staffed at all times, if possible, with someone who can answer questions and encourage new members to join. Write an article about your History Hero nominee and have it ready for your local press to publish either when the nomination is confirmed, or after the award is made so you can include the photograph taken then. Not visiting with an organization? Come see the displays and enjoy talking with people from all across West Virginia who love history and genealogy as you do. Regardless, please include some time to visit the Archives and History Library during your visit—we would love to meet you in person.

Deeds in Historical and Genealogical Research

By Randolph Marcum Jr.

The deed books of the fifty-five counties of West Virginia have a great story to tell. It is the story of the dearest physical possession we hold—the land itself. Deed books tell us who has held the land and, to a certain extent, what has been done with the land. Some of the more populous counties have several thousand deed books while less populous ones have only a few hundred. These records are a permanent legal document, by statute, maintained in the county clerk's office of each county. There are two main sections to land records: the deed books themselves and the grantor (seller) and grantee (purchaser) indexes. Land books, surveyor's books, and trust deed books also deal with county land records; however, they are not

within the scope of this article. West Virginia Archives and History's microfilm collection includes most of the county deed books up to 1910

and the grantor (seller) and grantee (purchaser) indexes up to 1970. Actual date ranges for a particular

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Memoirs as Research to be Focus of January 3 Library Program

On January 3, 2012, Dr. C. Robert Barnett will present "Memoirs as History: Small Town Life in West Virginia in the 1950s" 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.

In a presentation that should be of interest to aspiring authors of memoirs as well as to historians who want to use memoirs as primary research, Dr. Barnett will discuss the differences in style and content

between history, autobiography, and memoir. He will use examples from his book about growing up in Newell in the northern panhandle in the 1950s to illustrate these differences and will show how his memoir is more than a personal story because it is set in a historical context. Barnett also will use other popular West Virginia memoirs to illustrate social history.

Bob Barnett is professor emeritus at Marshall University, where

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county can be found on the West Virginia Archives and History Web site at <http://www.wvculture.org/history/countrec.html>.

In many instances, an abstractor is hired by a legal firm or private citizen to search county deed books. The search usually is performed to establish ownership of a specific piece of land within a particular county's borders. When a person or firm wishes to buy land, a title search typically will be made by the abstractor to see if there are any liens, restrictions, or encumbrances attached to the land and ensure that clear ownership is established for the land in question. Sometimes a map will be made to document the boundaries. The map ensures that the land deed is as accurate as possible in the boundary description. Deed books usually contain land descriptions, agreements and company incorporation documents. Occasionally, an entry will be made that is seemingly out of place, such as a military discharge or an embalmer's certification renewal.

Both genealogical and historical information can be gleaned from county land deeds. For example: Who were the neighbors? Deed descriptions often reference neighboring tracts of land and who owned them, which gives us a good idea of who was living nearby and the date range of the ownership. Additionally, the deeds occasionally give the full names of the grantor and the grantee. This can provide a wealth of information for genealogical research.

Many phases of the industrial development of West Virginia can be examined through deed books. The beginning of the coal industry and its subsequent growth can be traced through the entries. Of the fifty-five counties, all except Jefferson and Hardy have coal reserves. The sheer

Evening Workshops and Lecture Schedule		
Date	Conducted by:	Subject
February 7 Tuesday	Tom Rodd	<i>J. R. Clifford and the Carrie Williams Case</i>
March 6 Tuesday	Sara Prior	<i>West Virginia's Civil War Historic Sites</i>
April 3 Tuesday	Bob Withers	<i>Presidential Whistle Stops in West Virginia</i>
May 1 Tuesday	Jack Dickinson	<i>Every Blood-Stained Mile: The Building of the Norfolk and Western in West Virginia</i>
June 5 Tuesday	Larry Rowe	<i>Malden and the Salt Industry</i>
<p><i>Registration for these free workshops is helpful but not required.</i> Call our office at (304) 558-0230, or e-mail bobby.l.taylor@wv.gov.</p> <p>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.</p>		

volume of coal companies is one aspect of the historical record that land deeds preserve. U. S. Coal and Oil, Dingess-Rum Coal Company, and Aracoma Coal Company are just a few of the Logan County coal companies documented in that county's deed books. Additionally, the locations of various mines, the equipment purchased to mine the coal, and even royalty rates for the mined coal are recorded. Sanctions and restrictions are recorded also; for example, some deeds included warnings against the sale of "spirituous liquors," which was prohibited, and work stoppages due to various reasons, mostly labor strikes.

The oil and gas industry is another industrial giant in West Virginia. The activities of South Penn Oil Company, which began as a division of the Standard Oil Company, stand out in many counties' records through the company's leases and purchases of the rich oil and gas fields scattered throughout West Virginia. In some counties entire deed books are made up of leases and purchases

of oil and gas rights by various companies. Other major companies involved in the development of these resources include Hope Natural Gas Company and Pittsburgh and West Virginia Gas Company. Companies also purchased properties for their operation centers, pump stations, and transmission lines. The activity of these early gas and oil companies in property continues to have an effect on the industry today. The Marcellus and Utica Shale formations have led to considerable deed book use on the county level in recent years. Present-day gas companies are using them to determine ownership and how best to purchase or lease the mineral rights in order to develop this rich natural resource.

The development and construction of the railroads servicing West Virginia is another area of historical research where deed books can be of benefit. For instance, the Norfolk and Western Railway Company in the southern portion of West Virginia can be traced



Archives and History Showcase Was a Capitol Affair

By Mary Johnson

Dozens of friends of West Virginia Archives and History descended upon the Culture Center on December 5, 2011, for Archives and History's third annual showcase. In keeping with the theme for the event, "A Capitol Affair," architectural drawings, photographs, letters, audio-visual clips, and other materials dealing with West Virginia's state capitol building were on display in the library. In addition, rare books and pamphlets, as well as Civil War medals and documents, were available for viewing, and staff were on hand to discuss topics such as the Veterans Memorial biographies, microfilming, and document encapsulation. For those needing a break during the evening, assorted fruits, vegetables, cookies, and other light refreshments were provided in the Great Hall.

Due to changes in the tour part of the evening, whereby several staff stationed at different locations were involved, more than one tour could be under way at a time. As a result, the tours were less constrained by time and included areas not covered in prior years. Even those who on another occasion had taken a tour of the areas that normally are closed to the public found something new.

Photographs from the showcase are available on the Web site at <http://www.wvculture.org/history/workshops/showcase2011.html>.



New Titles

Sorting Some of the Wrights of Southern Virginia: Part I, Supplement No.1: John Wright (Montgomery County), His Wife Mary () Wright, and Their Descendants: Volume 3 of 3: Text and Descendants Chart: Robert N. Grant, 2011.
The Family Nida: From Germany to America, 1262-1998: R. J. "Jack" Nida, 1999.

No. 9: The 1968 Farmington Mine Disaster: Bonnie E. Stewart, 2011.

The Par(r)ish Families of West Virginia: A Notebook of Proofs & Probabilities: Parrish-Cooper Foundation, 2010.

West Virginia and the Civil War: Mountaineers Are Always Free: Mark A. Snell, 2011.

Touring Virginia's and West Virginia's Civil War Sites: 2nd ed., Clint Johnson, 2011.

Davidson W. Ross: Born 1831, Pike Co., KY-Died 1893, Roane Co., WV: His Known Ancestors, His Family and Their Descendants: Clara Mae (Alt) Ross, 2010.

The Search for the Ancestry of Joseph Forman: Doris Huffhines Gleason, Mary Lou Chaddick Klatt, and Ruth Chaddick Trim, 2011.

West Virginia: Barbara A. Somervil, 2009 [Juvenile literature].

Canoeing and Kayaking Guide to West Virginia: Paul Davidson, et al, 2003.

50 Hikes in West Virginia: Leonard M. Adkins, 2005.

West Virginia Curiosities: Rick Steelhammer, 2010.

Indiana Magazine of History: "Thomas Jefferson: A Special Issue": 1999.

Index to Genealogical and Personal Memoirs of Berkshire County, Massachusetts [1903]: Berkshire Family History Assn., 1995.

A Genealogy of the Curtiss Family: Frederic Haines Curtiss, 1903.

A Genealogy of the Curtiss-Curtis Family of Stratford, Connecticut: A Supplement to the 1903 Edition: Harlow Dunham Curtis, 1953.

Scenic Wonders of America: Reader's Digest, 1972.

Illustrated Guide to the Treasures of America: Reader's Digest, 1974.

Revolutionary War Soldiers Who Lived in Gallia County, Ohio: Gallia County Genealogical Society, 1985.

A Goodly Heritage: Volume II: Jordan/Brightwell: Mary Eleanor Spencer, 2011.

Gentleman Soldier of Greenbottom: The Life of Brig. Gen. Albert Gallatin Jenkins, CSA: Jack L. and Kay Stamper Dickinson, 2011.

"It Ain't Much, But It's All I Got": Beth Spence, 1988.

Continued from page 2

through the deed books of Mercer, McDowell, Mingo, and Wayne. These county records document the right-of-way locations, incorporation papers, bond statements, and town establishment along the path of the rails. The large railroad companies and even the small local railroads are well documented. As can be traced in the deed books, the smaller railroad lines eventually were either absorbed by the larger lines or abandoned. These types of entries can be found in many counties that have railroad company operations within their borders.

Another great example of how county deed books can shed light on historical events is embodied by the story of the growth and operation of the W.M. Ritter Lumber Company and the Panther Lumber

Company. McDowell County deed books reveal that these two giants eventually combined. This process was mirrored in other counties, for instance, through lumber companies such as the Cherry River Boom and Lumber Company in Webster County and the Little Kanawha Log and Tie Company in Gilmer County. In addition to land and timber purchases, some deeds record the location of company offices, locomotive purchases, machinery

purchases and sales, and even the numbers of trees harvested and the price paid for them. Deeds even contain horse and mule transfers that reference the names bestowed on the individual animals. When the large timber companies began to decline, deeds recorded the liquidation of assets they owned.

For the historian, the genealogist, or merely the curious, the land deeds of the fifty-five counties of West Virginia have much to offer.

Weirton Area Museum and Cultural Center

While many societies and local museums are struggling to survive, a few are fortunate to have an inspiring vision, sound community support and a strong base of volunteers that allow them to grow and expand. A prime example is the Weirton Area Museum and Cultural Center. To

learn more about their new museum building and many exciting history-related activities, visit their Web site at <http://weirtonmuseum.com> and check out their newsletter at <http://weirtonmuseum.com/WAMCC2011November.pdf>.

History Day Display Space Applications Due January 31

By Mary Johnson

The deadline for submitting reservations for display space at the sixteenth annual West Virginia History Day at the Legislature is Tuesday, January 31. (The deadline for History Hero nominations was December 31, 2011.) This year's History Day will be held on Thursday, February 23, at the State Capitol Complex in Charleston.

West Virginia historical, museum, preservation, genealogical, and like organizations were mailed forms around the first of November. If your organization did not receive a Display Space Reservation Form in the mail, forms are available on Archives and History's Web site at <http://www.wvculture.org/history/historyday/historyday2012announcement.html>. To receive one in the mail, contact Mary Johnson at (304) 558-0230, mary.e.johnson2@wv.gov.

In completing the Display Space Reservation Form, remember to mark if you need electricity or WiFi. The availability of these resources is limited to certain areas of the capitol rotunda, and assignments are made on a first come, first served basis. Participants are encouraged to consider displays that do not require access to one of the few outlets in the display areas.

If you submitted a reservation form more than two weeks ago but have not received an e-mail or postal mail acknowledgement of receipt, please contact Mary Johnson at West Virginia Archives and History. Likewise, if your organization has not received an acknowledgement of receipt for a History Hero submission, contact us immediately.

On History Day, in addition to displays at the capitol, the History

Hero awards ceremony will be held at the Culture Center at 9:30 a.m., and Preservation Alliance of West Virginia will announce its 2012 list of endangered properties at mid-day in the capitol. That evening, Raamie Barker, leader of Robert F. Kennedy's 1968 campaign in Logan County, will speak on "Bobby Kennedy and West Virginia's 1968 Presidential Primary" in the Archives and History Library.

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.**

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he taught sport history for 35 years. He has written numerous articles, reviews, and academic papers, and his work has appeared in such publications as *Goldenseal*, the *West Virginia Encyclopedia*, and the *Journal of Sport History*. His most recent publication is a memoir, *Growing Up in the Last Small Town: A West Virginia Memoir* (2010). Dr. Barnett currently is working on a book on the history of sports in West Virginia.

On January 3, 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

150 Years Ago in January 1862

Jan. 4: 8,000 Confederates began a 3-day occupation of Berkeley Springs, Sir Johns Run, Alpine, and Great Cacapon

Jan. 7: Union and Confederate troops skirmished at Hanging Rock Pass (Blue's Gap)

Jan. 8: Union troops under Capt. George Latham were ambushed by the Dixie Boys along the Dry Fork of Cheat

Jan. 10-13: Delegates at the Constitutional Convention debated representation

Jan. 15: Union soldiers burned the courthouse and other public buildings in Logan

Jan. 25: Confederate officers at Romney requested movement to a "more favorable position."

To learn more about events from January 1862, visit the Archives and History Web site at <http://www.wvculture.org/history/sesquicentennial/186201.html>. Check out all the Archives and History online sesquicentennial projects at <http://www.wvculture.org/history/sesquicentennial.html>.

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

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



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History News, [Volume and issue numbers], [Month, Year], a publication of the West Virginia Division of Culture and History.

Mitchell to Discuss West Virginia Glass in the State Museum on January 12

On January 12, 2012, the West Virginia State Museum's chief curator James R. Mitchell will present "West Virginia Glass in the State Museum" 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.

Mitchell will discuss the variety of glass factories in the state from the antebellum days of western Virginia to the present. Since 1815, there have been about 450 glass factories in western Virginia and West Virginia. In addition, about 50 dependent craftsmen, who made glass in larger companies and marked their ware with their name or initials, have been identified.

The State Museum generally has accumulated glass objects based on what has been donated and in the past two decades has attempted to expand the collection to include as many factories and dependent craftsmen as possible. When the museum's glass exhibition opened in 1996, 92 were represented in the collection. At present, the number is 175. As part of his presentation,

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

number and the name and date of the session. For additional information, contact the Archives and History Library at (304) 558-0230.

Mitchell will provide a video tour of the museum's glass, and he also will have examples on hand during the program.

Mitchell has been a professional decorative arts and technological history curator for 50 years. In addition to the West Virginia State Museum, he has worked for state museums in Wisconsin, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania, as well as The Bennington (Vt.) Museum and the defunct Carborundum Museum of Ceramics in Niagara Falls, New York. In his spare time, Mitchell is a woodworker and an amateur musician, singing and playing bass instruments.

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, 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.

Confederate Receipt Book

Confederate Receipt Book: A Compilation of Over One Hundred Receipts, Adapted to the Times, West & Johnston, Richmond, Va., 1863. Text available online at <http://docsouth.unc.edu/imls/receipt/menu.html>, reprints available from Amazon.com and other sources. This 28-page booklet offers substitutes and “make do” hints for items made scarce due to the war or due to lack of money due to the deprivations of war.

Advertisement: *The accompanying receipts have been compiled and published, with a view to present to the public in a form capable of preservation and easy reference many valuable receipts which have appeared in the Southern newspapers since the commencement of the war. With these have been incorporated receipts and hints derived from other sources, all designed to supply useful and economical directions and suggestions in cookery, housewifery, &c., and for the camp. Should the present publication meet with favor, another edition with additional receipts will be published, contributions to which will be thankfully received by*
THE PUBLISHERS.

This pamphlet includes the following sections: *Culinary Receipts; Beer, Vinegar, &c.; Soap and Candles; Remedies, &c.; Miscellaneous Receipts; and an Appendix with*

Recipes for Making Bread, &c., from Rice Flour, and Hints for the Ladies.

To Raise Bread Without Yeast—Mix in your flour subcarbonate of soda, two parts, tartaric acid one part, both finely powdered. Mix up your bread with warm water, adding but little at a time, and bake soon.

Indian Sagamite—Three parts of Indian meal and one of brown sugar, mixed and browned over the fire, will make the food known as “Sagamite.” Used in small quantities, it not only appeases hunger but allays thirst, and is therefore useful to soldiers on a scout.

Confederate Candle—Melt together a pound of beeswax and a quarter of a pound of rosin or of turpentine, fresh from the tree. Prepare a wick 30 or 40 yards long, made up of three threads of loosely spun cotton, saturate this well with the mixture, and draw it through your fingers, to press all closely together, and to keep the size even. Repeat the process until the candle attains the size of a large straw or quill, then wrap around a bottle, or into a ball with a flat bottom. Six inches of this candle elevated above the rest will burn for fifteen or twenty minutes, and give a very pretty light, and forty yards have sufficed a small family a summer for all the usual purposes of the bed-chamber.

SHPO 2012 Calendar Available

The State Historic Preservation Office of the West Virginia Division of Culture and History has published “Transportation in the Mountain State by Water, Road, Rail and Air,” a 13-month calendar highlighting how the state’s mountainous terrain, abundant rivers, narrow valleys and dense forests have challenged its people and industries. The public is invited to request a copy of the free calendar while supplies last.

Each month, the calendar focuses upon a different aspect of travel or a structure built to facilitate navigation in West Virginia. To request a free copy, write to:

West Virginia Division of Culture
and History
2012 Calendar
The Culture Center
1900 Kanawha Blvd. E
Charleston, WV 25305

You may also call Conni McMorris at (304) 558-0240, or e-mail her at conni.l.mcmorris@wv.gov. The 2012 calendar was funded in part by the National Park Service, U.S. Dept. of the Interior.

[Extracted from the Division of Culture and History press release of December 7, 2011.]

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.

“THE WAY WE WORKED,” SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION EXHIBITION TOUR,
through January 28, 2012: Morgantown History Museum, Morgantown.

NEW YEAR’S DAY HOLIDAY, January 2 (Monday): Archives Library will be closed.

UNCOMMON VERNACULAR: THE EARLY HOUSES OF JEFFERSON COUNTY, WV,
1735–1835 EXHIBIT, January 10–February 13: Culture Center, Charleston.

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MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY, January 16: Archives Library will be open.*

“THE WAY WE WORKED,” SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION EXHIBITION TOUR,
February 4–March 17: Carnegie Hall, Lewisburg.

**“HIKING THROUGH HISTORY: VISITING KANAWHA VALLEY PLACES OF
SIGNIFICANCE DURING THE BEGINNING OF THE CIVIL WAR,”**
February 8: Doug Wood, Clay Center, Charleston.

PRESIDENTS DAY, February 20: Archives Library will be open.*

“QUILTS AND THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD,” February 21: Kate Quinn, speaker,
Ohio County Public Library Lunch with Books, Wheeling.

HISTORY DAY AT THE WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE,
February 23: Capitol Complex and Culture Center, Charleston.

FOURTH ANNUAL KANAWHA VALLEY HERITAGE FAIR,
March 3: Rand Community Center, Rand.

“WEST VIRGINIA: BIRTH OF A STATE,” March 14: Dr. Billy Joe Peyton, speaker,
Clay Center, Charleston.

**“STUBBORN ADVOCATES: HOW SHEPHERDSTOWN CAME TO CARRY A TORCH
FOR JAMES RUMSEY,” March 29:** Nick Blanton, speaker, Shepherdstown.

“TOWN RUN: ECONOMIC HEARTBEAT OF EARLY SHEPHERDSTOWN,”
May 2: Dr. Keith Alexander, speaker, Shepherdstown.

PRIMARY ELECTION DAY, May 8: Archives Library will be *closed*.

MEMORIAL DAY, May 28: Archives Library will be *closed*.

WEST VIRGINIA DAY, June 20: Archives Library will be open.*

INDEPENDENCE DAY, July 4: Archives Library will be *closed*.

LABOR DAY, September 3: Archives Library will be *closed*.

**“MYTHS, ELUSIVE ‘TRUE FACTS’ AND SURPRISING TIDBITS OF
SHEPHERDSTOWN HISTORY,” September 5:** Dr. Jerry Bruce Thomas, speaker, Shepherdstown.

“LIKE AN AWFUL DREAM: SHEPHERDSTOWN AT WAR, 1861–1865,”
September 20: Nicholas Redding, speaker, Shepherdstown.

**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.

WEST VIRGINIA
Archives
 and **History NEWS**

West Virginia Division of Culture and History
 The Culture Center
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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.

www.wvculture.org/history

Archives and History Staff

- Joe Geiger Director
- Bryan Ward..... Assistant Director
- Debra BashamArchivist (photographs, special collections)
- Constance Baston Researcher (Veterans Memorial Archives)
- Kyle CampbellCultural Program Specialist (county records preservation project)
- Greg Carroll..... Historian (Civil War, Native American history)
- Dick FaussArchivist (microfilm and moving images collection)
- Denise Ferguson..... County Records Archivist
- Allen Fowler..... Special projects
- Elaine Gates..... Library Assistant (microfilming and microfilm repairs)
- Ed Hicks..... Photo Archivist (archival photography, darkroom)
- Susan Holbrook Secretary
- Mary Johnson.....Historian
- Terry LowryHistorian (Veterans records)
- Randy Marcum Cultural Program Associate (county records preservation project)
- Cathy MillerLibrary Assistant (WV State documents)
- Harold NewmanLibrary Assistant (microfilming, Revolutionary War)
- 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
- Part time James Balch
- Volunteers Carolyn Conner, Bill Kelley, James Wilburn, Sue Shank,
 Jerry Grady, Charlotte Thurston, Patricia Richards McClure, and Ken Bailey