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**A Bibliography of Historic Archeology
in West Virginia
by
Robert F. Maslowski**

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Introduction

West Virginia is in need of a new comprehensive overview on its prehistoric and historic archeology. The last comprehensive overview of West Virginia archeology, *Introduction to West Virginia Archeology*, was written by Edward V. McMichael and published by the West Virginia Geological and Economic Survey in 1968.

The first step toward producing a comprehensive overview is producing a bibliography of all published references on West Virginia archeology. The first bibliography that included references to West Virginia archeology was *West Virginia Geology, Archeology, and Pedology: A Bibliography and Index* published in 1964. The first bibliography exclusively on archeology was *Bibliography of West Virginia Archeology* published in 1978.

Early archeology in West Virginia consisted

almost exclusively of prehistoric archeology. With the advent of cultural resources management in the 1970s, historic archeology became more prominent. Today, it is estimated that 25 to 50 percent of the archeology being done in West Virginia is historic archeology. While the vast majority of this work ends up as contract reports with limited distribution, several reports have been published.

This Bibliography of Historic Archeology in West Virginia includes all historic archeology articles published in the *West Virginia Archeologist*, book and film reviews, as well as publications from journals, books and edited volumes. References follow the *West Virginia Archeologist* and *American Antiquity* format.

This bibliography is part of a larger project that includes a complete Bibliography of West Virginia Archeology, including both prehistoric and historic references. The project was completed under a Fellowship Grant from the West Virginia Humanities Council. This bibliography, which includes a general category index and a county index, was published in the *West Virginia Archeologist* 57(1&2) in the fall of 2010 (Maslowski 2005). The publication date is 2005 since the *West Virginia Archeologist* is four or five years behind its publication schedule. In this bibliography, the references are listed in each index in a scientific format. Future updates of the bibliography will be made available in an electronic format for teachers, students and the general public through the Council for West Virginia Archaeology Web site www.cwva.org.

The county index is especially useful for researchers, teachers, students and the general public because people are always interested in what is available locally in archeology and history.

The historic portion of the bibliography is presented here to introduce historians to the range of historic archeology being done in West Virginia. In terms of long range archeological research projects in West Virginia, only two come to mind and both are historic projects. Steven and Kim McBride have been researching French and Indian War forts and Revolutionary War forts for the past 20 years. The other project consists of Paul Shackel's work on Harpers Ferry. Much of the published historic archeology is associated with Harpers Ferry National Park. During the 1990s Harpers Ferry National Park had a staff of research archeologists conducting prehistoric and historic

research within the park. Once the research was completed, the archeology center was disbanded. Paul Shackel moved to the University of Maryland where he continues his research on Harpers Ferry and continues publishing his research in several journals, monographs and books.

Only 19 of West Virginia's 55 counties are represented in published reports on historic archeology. The majority of these references are from Jefferson, Kanawha and Greenbrier counties. This is not an accurate reflection of the historic archeology being done in West Virginia. The Archeological Site Map in Figure 1 shows 13,838 recorded sites and many of these are historic sites or have historic components.

Research interests reflected in this bibliography include the French and Indian War, the American Revolution, the Civil War,



Figure 1. Archeological Site distribution map for West Virginia.

cemeteries, industrial archeology, historic structures, gender, public memory and slavery. Many of these publications contain historical references, deed searches, probate records, and agricultural data associated with the archeological sites being investigated. If a structure or site is historically significant, it probably has a significant historic archeological site associated with it.

References not included in this bibliography that may have some historic interest are those listed in Maslowski (2005) in the general index under Cult Archeology, Historic Indian, Indian Trails and Protohistoric. Cult Archeology deals mainly with the Ogam Petroglyph controversy (Irish Monks in southern West Virginia at AD 600) which is not supported by historic archeology. For those interested, many of the articles concerning the controversy are posted on the Council for West Virginia Archaeology Web site http://www.cwva.org/controversy/ogham_intro.html.

Whenever possible, links to articles available on Web sites are provided. The two historic archeology films, *Red Salt & Reynolds* and *Ghosts of Green Bottom*, can be viewed on the Archaeology Channel (<http://www.archaeologychannel.org/>). The films and recent issues of the *West Virginia Archeologist* are available at Tamarack, Grave Creek Mound and the Shop at the Culture Center. They can also be ordered from the West Virginia Archeological Society, P.O. Box 300, Hurricane, WV 25526.

This bibliography should be viewed as a working bibliography that is constantly being updated. Therefore, additions and corrections are welcome and should be sent to the author.

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“...coming home to die.”
“The brief life of Marshall S. Cornwell”¹
 by
Kenneth R. Bailey

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Shortly before his death in 1898, Marshall Cornwell wrote his family that he was ending his search for a cure for his illness and was “coming home to die.” Cornwell was writing from El Paso, Texas, where he had gone to seek relief from an

illness that was not identified, but was probably tuberculosis.² Cornwell’s journey to find relief from his illness was not unique. What made his journey and eventual death different was the newspaper publication of letters and poems from his travels. They were collected into a small pocket size volume of about 95 pages titled *Wheat . . . and Chaff*,³ a copy of which was recently donated to West Virginia Archives and History.



Marshall S. Cornwell, son of Jacob H. and Mary Cornwell, was born October 18, 1871, near Springfield, about 12 miles from Romney in Hampshire County. He grew up on his father’s farm and received a minimal amount of formal education. However, his native intelligence and, reportedly, excellent memory skills enabled him to become a self-educated man.⁴ In 1890, his older brothers, William B. Cornwell and John J. Cornwell (later governor of West Virginia), acquired the *Hampshire (County) Review* which may have stimulated Marshall’s interest in newspaper work. Soon after, he began editing and publishing another paper, the *Grant County Gazette*.

His success in making the *Gazette* profitable, and his well written editorials, caught the eye of Senator Stephen B. Elkins who, in 1894, invited him to take the leadership of *The Inter-Mountain* in Elkins. Cornwell again proved to be an adept editor and publisher, increasing *The Inter-Mountain* circulation, but his newspaper career

was short lived as he began to suffer ill health in 1896. Though the dates are not certain, he apparently began his quest for improved health in 1896 and traveled to Florida's eastern coast. For over a year, he journeyed in Florida, returned home to Hampshire County for a short time, and then moved to El Paso, Texas. Throughout his career, Cornwell wrote poetry in his spare time and published some of it. He continued the practice during his southern and western travel and also wrote short essays about places and people he met, some of which were published by his brothers in their newspaper, the *Hampshire Review*. After his death, W. B. and John J. Cornwell received numerous requests for copies of the poems and *Wheat . . . and Chaff* was published to both meet that demand and memorialize their youngest brother.⁵

Cornwell was a versatile writer and addressed various topics in his work. Much of his early poetry was about his environment (e.g., "When the Leaves Begin to Fall," "From the Valley"), celebrations (e.g., "A Christmas Toast," "The Blue and the Gray" written for a Civil War observance) and even an ode to editors. "The Editor-Man" was written in response to a request from the president of the West Virginia Editorial Association for a special poem to commemorate an annual meeting in 1896. Cornwell was too ill to attend that meeting in Elkins himself, so President J. Slidell Brown read it in his stead. Another poem honored an unnamed man who was killed by a WV C&P Railway train. "Only A Tramp" was a sensitive piece about a less fortunate man whose story would never be known but whose life was not to be scorned.

Only a tramp, no friends, no home.
Drifting out in the dark alone.
Only a wreck on the unknown tide,
Borne away to the unknown side.

Who shall say of the dead man there,
What was the weary load of care
That shut him out from the joys of life,
From a happy home and a loving wife.

A lonely grave on the mountain side,
In the heart of the wilderness, waste and wide,

Is all that's claimed by the lifeless clod,
Fashioned fair in the image of God.

Perchance if these dumb lips could tell,
The story of sorrow known full well,
By the sorrowing poor on life's highway,
We'd pity this wanderer, dead to-day.

A story, perchance, of a manly man,
In whose veins the blood of a freeman ran,
Of half-paid labor, of want and strife,
And this, the end of a ruined life.

Condemn him not, lest you, some day,
Should reach the end in the self-same way.
Lest you should live to be old and poor,
And ask for a crust at the stranger's door.⁶

Perhaps Cornwell thought of this poem when he wrote his final column before once again leaving West Virginia, this time for El Paso. "Dear reader, pray that you may never be a homeless and healthless wanderer."⁷

Many of Cornwell's later poems are (as might be expected of one suffering a terminal illness) introspective, poignant, even philosophical, but not sad. Rather, they are the words of a person who is at peace with himself and his circumstances. He showed his sense of humor in "The Socks the Golfers Wear," and continued interest in and appreciation of his surroundings (e.g., "The Old Spanish Mission" in New Smyrna).

His essays and/or letters about his experiences in Florida and Texas are interesting vignettes of life in those areas in the late 1800s. His delightful description of spring in Florida takes the reader there and a low-key but interesting account of El Paso and Juarez, its Mexican counterpart, no doubt stimulated interest for his readers to visit those far off places.

Despite the intellectual and comforting nature of most of his work, a couple of pieces jar the modern reader with the use of ethnic slurs and dialect attributed to Negroes. While such writing was not unusual in his era, it is strangely out of place in this volume. In the essays "Major Anderson, of Savannah" and "A Study in Black and White," and the poem "Summer in the South,"

racist views and a derogatory manner of depicting blacks detract from the otherwise straightforward newspaper style of writing and his obvious expertise in writing poetry.

In 1897, Cornwell sent a collection of his poems to James Whitcomb Riley who expressed praise for them. Riley particularly liked "Success,"⁸ a poem which had won the first place cash prize in a poetry competition sponsored by the West Virginia University paper, *Athenaeum*, and which had first appeared in that publication.⁹

Two ships sail over the harbor bar,
With the flush of the morning breeze,
And both are bound for a haven, far
O'er the shimmering summer seas.

With sails all set, fair wind and tide,
They steer for the open main;
But little they reck of the billows wide,
E'er they anchor safe again.

There is one, perchance, e'er the summer is
done.

That reaches the port afar,
She hears the sound of the welcoming gun
As she crosses the harbor bar.

The haven she reaches, Success, 'tis said
Is the end of a perilous trip,
Perchance e'en the bravest and best are dead,
Who sailed in the fortunate ship.

The other bereft of shroud and sail,
At the mercy of wind and tide,
Is swept by the might of the pitiless gale
'Neath the billows dark and wide.

But 'tis only the one in the harbor there
That receiveth the meed (sic) of praise;
The other sailed when the morn was fair,
And was lost in the stormy ways.

And so to men who have won renown
In the weary battle of life,
There cometh at last the victor's crown,
Not to him who fell in the strife.

For the world recks not of those who fail,
Nor cares what their trials are,

Only praises the ship that with swelling sail,
Comes in o'er the harbor bar.¹⁰

No amount of traveling, success in his career, or critical acclaim could cure Cornwell of his illness. After nearly a year in El Paso, he "gave up the battle" and returned home where he was confined to his bed. Despite his grave condition, he kept up his spirits. In their preface to *Wheat . . . And Chaff*, his brothers wrote, "His sick room was never a chapel of gloom, and he was never so happy as when friends surrounded him and little children played by his side."¹¹ The end came May 26, 1898, and Marshall S. Cornwell was laid to rest in Romney's Indian Mound Cemetery. A large crowd of his friends, relatives and admirers gathered for his service. In reporting his brother's death in the newspaper, John J. Cornwell wrote that Marshall had written a poem, "SOME DAY," after a particularly difficult night during his convalescence. Before beginning his funeral service, the Reverend E. D. Washburn read the poem at the grave site.¹²

SOME DAY

SOME day, through the mists of the early night,
We shall catch the gleam of the harbor light,
That shines forever on the far off shore,
Where dwell the loved ones who have gone
before;

We shall anchor safe from our stormy way,
In that haven of rest, some day, some day.

Some day our sorrows will all be o'er,
And we will rest from trouble forevermore;
When over the river's rolling tide,
We shall "strike glad hands" on the other
side;

It (sic) the city celestia, at last, we may
Rest in peace, some day, some day.

Some day will close these weary eyes,
That shall look no more on the early skies,
And over the heart that has ceased to beat,
Kind hands will place fresh flowers sweet;
But my soul shall hear the celestial lay,
Sweet paens of praise, someday.

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1. The author wishes to thank Ms. Susan Scouras, librarian at WV Archives and History for informing him of this volume and providing the research materials for this article.
 2. Tuberculosis was endemic in the 1800s. Though its cause and cure were still unknown, it was believed that fresh air and warm climates could improve the condition. No less a notable than Ralph Waldo Emerson traveled to the southern United States seeking relief from his lung condition. Closer to home, Francis P. Pierpont, West Virginia's first adjutant general, sought to improve his lung condition by traveling to New Orleans late in the 1860s but failed to find a cure and died at the early age of 28.
 3. The title of the book was taken from a column of the same name which appeared in the *Hampshire Review* and in which Marshall S. Cornwell's writings were featured. *Hampshire Review*, June 1, 1898.
 4. W. B. Cornwell and John J. Cornwell, eds., *Wheat . . . and Chaff, Verses, Letters and Extracts from the Writings of M. S. Cornwell* (Cornwell Brothers: Romney, WV, 1899), preface.
 5. *Ibid.*
 6. *Ibid.*, 23.
 7. *Ibid.*, 91.
 8. Hu Maxwell and Howard Llewellyn Swisher, *History of Hampshire County, West Virginia: From Its Earliest Settlement to the Present* (Broughner, 1897) 448-451.
 9. *Wheat . . . and Chaff*, 17. This poem was later printed in the *St. Louis Globe* and in the 1906, Volume 23 edition of the *Railroad Trainman*.
 10. *Ibid.*, 17-18.
 11. *Ibid.*, preface.
 12. *Hampshire Review*, June 1, 1898.
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Annual Meeting

The West Virginia Historical Society held its annual meeting on December 4, 2010, at the West Virginia Library Commission Library. During the business portion of the meeting, the current officers were re-elected to another term.

The program featured Garland S. Tucker III, author of the recently published book *The High*

Tide of American Conservatism: Davis, Coolidge, and the 1924 Election. Tucker gave a very interesting talk that focused on West Virginia native John W. Davis.

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Archives and History Lecture Series

West Virginia Archives and History holds a monthly lecture series the first Tuesday evening of each month in its library in the Culture Center in Charleston. Programs begin at 6:00 p.m. and last approximately 1½ hours.

March 1	Michael Workman <i>The Forgotten Battles of the Mine Wars: The Fairmont Field</i>
April 5	Lloyd Lewis <i>An Introduction to the Railroad History of West Virginia</i>
May 3	Bobby Taylor <i>West Virginia's Heritage Music</i>
June 7	Dick Fauss <i>Archives and History Movie Night: Footage from the Collection</i>



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