



West Virginia Archives & History News



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GOLDEN HORSESHOE

From the Editor: _____

History Day 2004 was a great day, as always, especially the annual announcement of History Hero honorees. However, attendance by both individuals and groups was down this year. We missed seeing many people and organizations who usually participate, but who for various reasons did not make it to Charleston on January 29. You will notice that History Day 2005, scheduled for March 17 next year, is already included in our Calendar of Events. We strongly urge all interested organizations to include registration reminders and preparation plans in their agendas for fall meetings. Perhaps you can assign a specific person to be on the lookout for registration information and to be responsible for taking all the necessary steps for your group to be registered on time. We suggest forming a committee well ahead of time to study potential History Hero nominees from your area and to complete the nomination process accurately and on time. In turn, we will continue to include reminders in *Archives and History News*, and will supply contact information when available.

GOLDEN HORSESHOE

by Joe Geiger

Since 1931, more than 15,000 West Virginia students have received the Golden Horseshoe Award in recognition of their knowledge of West

Virginia history. Each year thousands of eighth graders across the State take the Golden Horseshoe examination, and 221 students are inducted into the prestigious Golden Horseshoe Society.

The Golden Horseshoe program began in 1929 when noted historian Phil Conley proposed the creation of West Virginia Clubs, designed to promote appreciation of the Mountain State. He presented his idea to state school superintendent William C. Cook, who believed that students “should learn more about the State, since they are our future citizens and should be fully prepared for citizenship. They should have a knowledge of the past and present status of the State in order to estimate its future possibilities.” The ideas of the two gentlemen developed into the Golden Horseshoe program, the longest running program of its kind in the United States. In 1931 the first Golden Horseshoe test was given, resulting in the awarding of pins to 87 students from 46 counties. These scholars were dubbed Knights and Ladies of the Golden Horseshoe.

A Golden Horseshoe searchable database has been added to the *West Virginia Memory Project* section of the West Virginia Archives and History Web site, accessible at <http://wvmemory.wvculture.org/goldenhorseshoe.html>. Most names of Golden Horseshoe winners included in the database were extracted from Golden Horseshoe awards programs from 1931 through 2003. A few additional names were found in the state superintendent’s reports. No program could be found for 1941, but African-

American winners for that year were listed in the Report of the State Superintendent of Free Schools. No programs for the years 1943 to 1946 were found, but names were provided by the State Department of Education. Because the information was taken directly from the programs, there may be errors in spelling. If you are unsuccessful in locating a name, you may try searching by county or by year. Corrections may be submitted to Joe Geiger, joe.geiger@wvculture.org.

MORE ON “BENONI”

The December 2003 issue of *Archives and History News* included a brief article by Carl Hommel originally published in *RootsWeb Review*, October 1, 2003, on the given name of Benoni with added comments by me, the *News* editor. Benoni is a Biblical name meaning “son of my sorrow,” given by the dying Rachel to her newborn son, who was later called Benjamin (Genesis 35:18). Mr. Hommel said “the name was often given in American Colonial times to a child whose mother died in childbirth or whose father died before the child was born.” I asked if anyone had a Benoni in their family tree that could be connected with a death or other sorrow to let us know.

Jim Peluso, a native of Fairmont now living in Richmond, Virginia, e-mailed that “one of the older, nicer residential streets in Fairmont is called Benoni Avenue.” He recalled that the street was named for a Benoni Fleming, who he thought may have been the wife of one of Fairmont’s early citizens. I did a little research in Marion County history and found that three Fleming brothers named Nathan, Boaz and Benoni were early settlers and prominent citizens in the area. According to an article on the Fleming Family from *A History of Marion County, West Virginia*, page 154, published by the Marion County Historical Society in 1985, the three were sons of William and Jane Fleming. Benoni was the last child of this couple, born February 17, 1768. His mother, Jane, died March 7, 1768, less than three

weeks after giving birth. I think we now have an example of the use of the name Benoni as outlined in the original article.

Just for the record, I can not state as a fact that Benoni Avenue in Fairmont is named after Mr. Benoni Fleming, but I did not find anyone else, male or female, named Benoni Fleming when I skimmed through a few Marion County census records. I’d love to hear from anyone in the Fleming family or from Marion County historians who can enlighten us further.

NEW TITLES

Four Families: Early Settlers of Western Virginia: Riddlebergers, Days, Heltzels and Barneys: Arthur R. Seder, Jr., 2003.

Tattered Uniforms and Bright Bayonets: West Virginia’s Confederate Soldiers, 2nd Revised Edition: Jack L. Dickinson, 2004. [Issued on CD-Rom and also available in book form in the Archives Library.]

Multiracial Pioneers of the Ohio Valley: Benjamin F. Bain, 1999.

Written on the Land: Robert E. Anderson, 2002.
Comparison of Peak Discharges Among Sites with and without Valley Fills for the July 8-9, 2001, Flood in the Headwaters of Clear Fork, Coal River Basin, Mountaintop Coal-Mining Region, Southern West Virginia: Jeffrey B. Wiley and Freddie D. Brogan, 2003.

Father’s Trouble\$: Carter Taylor Seaton, 2003.
The Gospel According to a Mountain Momma: Paul Dodd, 2003.

The Bridges of Washington County: Spanning Work and Nature: David P. Bridges, 2003. [Note: This is Bridges family history.]

Growing Up in Bloody Mingo, West Virginia: Andrew Chafin, 2003.

Coal Miner’s Kid: My Life in Berwind, West Virginia: John Burnett, 2002.

The Death and Rebirth of the Seneca: Anthony F. C. Wallace, 1970.

Arkansas 1850 Census Every-name Index: Bobbie Jones McLane and Desmond Walls Allen, 1995.

The Spanish in America, 1513-1979: A Chronology and Fact Book: Arthur A. Natella, Jr., 1980.

West Virginia Tough Boys: Vote Buying, Fist Fighting and a President Named JFK: F. Keith Davis, 2003.

Report for the Year 2002: The Central Zionist Archives: World Zionist Organization, 2003.

Springs of West Virginia: Jane S. McColloch, 1986.

West Virginia Disasters: Mountain State Tragedies That Have Changed Our Lives: CNHI Newspapers in West Virginia, 2003.

My Father, Daniel Boone: The Draper Interviews with Nathan Boone: Neal O. Hammon, Editor, 1999.

Forgotten Grave Yards: Alex Mish, 2003. [Doddridge County cemeteries]

The Official Museum Directory: The American Association of Museums, 2003.

The Blizzard Family: Debbie Anderson, 1988.

Public Rights in West Virginia Watercourses: A Unique Legacy of Virginia Common Lands and the *Jus Publicum* of the English Crown: Larry W. George, 1999.

List of Inhabitants in Washington County, Pennsylvania, 1800 or Before, with Maps of Early Townships: Raymond Martin Bell, 1961. [Includes 1776-80 petitions and 1800 census]

The Center: A Guide to Genealogical Research in the National Capital Area: Christina K. Schaefer, 1996,

Frederick County, Maryland Land Records: Volumes L, K, J, G&H, F, E, and B. Patricia Abelard Anderson. [Covers 1748-1773. There are no gaps in the records—the books were not designated with successive letters. As in many early county clerk's books, these records include many civil transactions and notices that are not land records.]

The Wheeling Bridge Case: Its Significance in American Law and Technology: Elizabeth Brand Monroe, 1992.

The Allen Family of Little Creek: Allen G. Hamann, 1992.

The Family of William Alexander Taylor: Earl Thomas Browder, 1979.

1900 Kanawha County, West Virginia Census: Cabin Creek District: West Virginia Genealogical Society, 2003.

Kanawha Co., WV Cemeteries: Book V: West Virginia Genealogical Society, 2003.

Obituary Index: 1897-2001: *The Parsons Advocate:* *The Parsons Advocate* staff, 2001.

Job and Catharine (Hamilton) White: Descendants 1781 to 1986: Beulah P. Turner, 1987.

Western Maryland Genealogy: Volumes 2, 3, 5, 6, 8, 10-14: (Periodical last published in 1998.) [Index accessible online at <http://www.rootsweb.com/~mdallegh/wmgindex-all.htm>]

“HOOT OWL” 2004

Dig out your sleeping bag and sharpen your pencils! Mining Your History Foundation's next annual all-nighter in the West Virginia Archives and History Library is scheduled for March 26-27, 2004. Registration is required and must be postmarked by March 17. Forms may be picked up in the Library or printed from the Website: <http://www.rootsweb.com/~myhf/hootowl.html>. If you have questions, contact Pat Pleska: (304) 558-0230, Ext. 116, pat.pleska@wvculture.org.

FRONTIER FORTS IN WEST VIRGINIA

NOW AVAILABLE FROM SHPO

The West Virginia State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) has published *Frontier Forts in West Virginia: Historical and Archaeological Explorations*. The guide explores the history, nature and function of 18th-century forts as a defensive system which helped promote the European westward movement into present West Virginia. The guide describes various military engagements, explains the frontier defensive system and the role forts played in that system, and

summarizes archaeological attempts to rediscover and examine fort locations throughout the state.

The publication has already been distributed to schools, libraries, historical and genealogical societies and archaeologists. For additional information or to obtain a copy, contact:

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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.

WEST VIRGINIA STATE MUSEUM CLOSED FOR RENOVATIONS: Reopening date will be announced at a later time. The Cultural Center, Charleston.

“HOOT OWL” NIGHT, MARCH 26-27: Mining Your History Foundation, WV Archives and History Library, The Cultural Center, Charleston.

VANDALIA HERITAGE GARDEN FESTIVAL, APRIL 3: The Cultural Center, Charleston.

BLUE AND GRAY DINNER, APRIL 20: Bing Spitler, speaker. West Virginia Independence Hall, Wheeling.

“A VISUAL HISTORY OF NAVIGATION ON THE GREAT KANAWHA,” APRIL 25: Gerald Sutphin, speaker. West Virginia Humanities Council, Little Lecture Series. MacFarland-Hubbard House, Charleston.

WEST AUGUSTA GENEALOGY FAIR, APRIL 24: Parkersburg/Wood County Public Library.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION WEEK, MAY 8-15. *Check with local groups for scheduled observances.*

CIVIL WAR CAMP, MAY 8: Jenkins Plantation, Lesage.

ELECTION DAY, MAY 11: The Archives Library will be open.*

VANDALIA GATHERING, MAY 28-30: The Cultural Center, Charleston.

MEMORIAL DAY, MAY 31: The Archives Library will be closed.

ARCHIVES AND HISTORY COMMISSION MEETING, JUNE 11: Jenkins Plantation, Lesage.

WEST VIRGINIA DAY, observed JUNE 21: The Archives Library will be open.*

INDEPENDENCE DAY, JULY 4: The Archives Library will be closed.

HISTORY DAY, MARCH 17, 2005: The Capitol and the Cultural Center, Charleston.

**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.*

ARCHIVES AND HISTORY STAFF

Fredrick Armstrong: Director

Debra Basham: Archivist (photographs, special collections)

Constance Baston: Researcher (Veterans Memorial Archives)

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 Archives

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 :

The Division of Culture and History

Archives and History

The Cultural Center

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Nancy P. Herholdt, Commissioner

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