



WEST VIRGINIA Archives and History NEWS

From the Editor:

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

In this issue Terry Lowry has an article entitled “Odd and Obscure Facts about West Virginia Civil War Medals” that is complementary to the general article about the Civil War medals that appeared in our May 2014 issue (<http://www.wvculture.org/history/ahnews/0514news.pdf>). Both as an Archives historian and as a Civil War researcher and author in his own right, he has gathered some interesting information about the medals and their history that we think you will enjoy. (A possibly obscure but definitely not odd fact: Lowry is a recovering Union Civil War soldier re-enactor, and appeared as an extra wearing his own uniform and gear in two Civil War films, *Glory* and *Gettysburg*).

Odd and Obscure Facts about West Virginia Civil War Medals

By Terry Lowry

Three types of Civil War service medals, totaling 26,099 in all, were minted by authority of the state for Union veterans of West Virginia military units. Authorized by the West Virginia legislature by Joint Resolution No. 11 in 1866, many of the medals minted for West Virginia troops failed to be issued or claimed because of the state’s inability to establish contact with the veterans, many of whom originated from adjacent states or left the region following the war.

The West Virginia Civil War medals have been discussed extensively in the past, and a history of the medals and procedures to claim a medal can be found at <http://www.wvculture.org/history/medals.html>. For a brief description and photographs of medals, see the article “West Virginia Civil War Medals” in the May 2014 issue of this newsletter, <http://www.wvculture.org/history/ahnews/0514news.pdf>.

Beyond the better known

aspects of the medals there are some interesting oddities and obscure facts regarding them. For instance, the original plan called for four types of medals, instead of three. The “died of disease” and “died of wounds” categories were originally to have separate medals, but it was eventually decided to combine the

two into one “For Liberty” category for those who died as a result of disease, wounds or other causes during their service, but were not killed in action.

No medals were issued for Confederate veterans by the state of West Virginia. Some Confederate
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“Time’s Runnin’ Out” Film to be Focus of July 1 Lecture

On Tuesday, July 1, 2014, Robert Beanblossom and Richard Fauss will present “*Time’s Runnin’ Out: Historical Perspective of a Movie and the Fight Against Southern West Virginia Forest Fires*” 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.

The documentary *Time’s Runnin’ Out* was made in 1969 by Wheeling filmmaker Ellis Dungan for the Cooperative Extension Service of the West Virginia Center for Appalachian Studies and Development and the

Division of Forestry of the West Virginia Department of Natural Resources. Scholars and educators with the cooperative extension service thought that a well-made film might help lower the number of forest fires in southern West Virginia.

As a high school student interested in the health of West Virginia’s forest land, Bob Beanblossom showed the movie to youth groups, service clubs and civic organizations as part of the program to bring attention to the harm that forest fires can do to the land and the ecosystem. Beanblossom was
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able to learn the background story of this film and how it came to be made by Dungan. Richard Fauss first saw the movie several years after it was made and was immediately impressed by the way it was presented and always remembered the name of the filmmaker who made it. Many years later, Dungan donated his collection to the West Virginia State Archives. Through a study of his collection and his autobiography, Fauss was able to see how some of what Dungan learned in his early career as a feature filmmaker in India translated into his later work as a documentary filmmaker in Wheeling.

The approximately 20-minute film *Time's Runnin' Out* will be shown to attendees. Beanblossom and Fauss will discuss the making and impact of the film.

Mingo County native Robert Beanblossom joined the West Virginia Department of Natural Resources' Division of Forestry in 1973 as a forest ranger and supervised forest fire control activities in his home county. In 1980 he transferred to DNR's Parks and Recreation Section as the superintendent of Panther State Forest in McDowell County, where he was charged with the administration of an 8,000 acre state forest. He later was superintendent of Watters Smith Memorial State Park before being promoted in 1989 to regional administrator with supervision of 25 state parks and forests.

[This article originally was prepared for the Archives and History Web site based on information provided by Beanblossom and Fauss.]

Robert Thompson was June "First Tuesday" Speaker

Robert Thompson presented "Wayne County: Slavery and the Civil War" on June 3, 2014, in the West Virginia Archives and History Library. Thompson also spoke about the life and career of Milton

Beanblossom is a member of the West Virginia Recreation and Parks Association and a life member of the West Virginia University Forestry Alumni Association. He has held several positions with the Society of American Foresters and has served on the West Virginia Fire Mobilization Advisory Council, the Governor's Advisory Committee to the State Forester, and the Governor's Advisory Committee on State-owned Forests. He routinely accepts Incident Management Team assignments and is deployed as a public information officer to critical wildfire situations and other emergencies throughout the United States. Beanblossom edited the 3rd edition of the *Histories of the Southeastern State Park Systems* (2011) and was presented the Ney C. Landum History Award at the National Association of State Park Directors Conference in Iowa this past September for his effort.

Audio/Moving Images Archivist Richard Fauss has worked at Archives and History since 1982. He is a longtime member of the Association of Moving Image Archivists (AMIA) and a founding member of the group's Local Television Task Force Steering Committee. He was honored by AMIA in 2002 with its Dan and Kathy Leab Award for service to the archival community.

On July 1, the library will close at 5:00 p.m. and reopen at 5:45 p.m. for participants only. For additional information, call (304) 558-0230.

Jameson Ferguson. More photographs are available at <http://www.wvculture.org/history/workshops/wkshp060314.html>.

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veterans received the Southern Cross of Honor medal during the postwar years, which were issued by their individual former Confederate states, such as Virginia.

Soldiers who deserted or were dishonorably discharged from West Virginia regiments were not eligible for medals. Members of the 16th West Virginia Infantry were not issued medals. The reason for this was that Gov. Francis H. Pierpont of the Loyal (or Reorganized or Restored) Government of Virginia [West Virginia] refused to accept them as a [West] Virginia regiment and said the organization was comprised entirely of "riff-raff from the Army of the Potomac, deserters, and army followers, and were disbanded before taking the field." This was not entirely true as documents in the West Virginia State Archives Adjutant Generals' Papers clearly illustrate that at least some members manned the outer defenses of Washington, D.C. for a brief period.

Although many members of the West Virginia Union Militia saw service, they were not issued medals as this was considered "state" or "local" service, called out only in emergency situations or for special detailed service, and were not part of the National service, as were the regular regiments. In addition, in April of 1861 Capt. Robert E. Johnston raised a company of loyal Virginians in Pennsylvania and they were mustered in as Co. B, 8th Pennsylvania Reserves. The ladies

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of Pittsburgh made them a 35-star flag in anticipation of the new state of West Virginia. There were no medals issued for these men.

The least claimed medal category has been for soldiers of the 45th United States Colored Troops. This was an African American regiment, with white officers, and is generally credited to the state of West Virginia. But in reality, only two companies of the regiment were officially credited to West Virginia, making it even more difficult to issue the medals. Only a handful of these have been issued by the state since the inception of the medals or claimed in later years by descendants.

There are two unissued medals remaining for Wesley Pullins, Co. H, 10th West Virginia Infantry. One is an "Honorably Discharged" medal and the other is a "Killed in Action" medal. His service record shows he was killed in action at the battle of Droop Mountain, November 6, 1863. It is unknown why a soldier killed in action would also be issued an "Honorably Discharged" medal. There are also two identical medals remaining to be claimed for James Walford, Co. A, 6th West Virginia Infantry. Another soldier with two medals stored in the State Archives is William W. Scritchfield, with one for service in Co. N, 6th West Virginia Infantry, and another for service in Co. C, 4th West Virginia Cavalry. There should be only one medal per soldier, even if the soldier served in more than one regiment.

Around 1894 M. F. Sellers found the medal of Joseph Morris, Co. F, 12th West Virginia Infantry, near a path which crossed the fields near Margery Run in Tyler County. He turned the medal over to J. H. Marshall of Middlebourne to help locate the owner. A newspaper article claimed the medal was "made from

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Two Thursday Events Scheduled for July

The Archives and History Library will offer two Thursday Night lectures in July. The first, on July 17, will be "The Riverine World." Gerald W. Sutphin will examine the impact that river life had on people living and working on the western rivers during the age of steamboats. His presentation will cover vessels from steam ferries to dish boats and showboats and the people who worked on them.

Gerald Sutphin is recognized as one of the United States' foremost inland rivers and river transportation historians. Since working for the Huntington District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for twenty years, he has been the owner/operator of a visual communication arts company for two decades and specializes as a consultant in the research, development, and presentation of inland rivers projects such as museum exhibits, publications, and motion picture production. His credits include *Sternwheelers on the Great Kanawha River* (co-author, 1991), *Two Hundred Years of Steamboating, 1811-2011* (researcher/writer/producer of DVD), and *The Great Kanawha, An American Story* (researcher/writer/featured historian on film, 2012).

On July 24, Charles H. James III will present "African American Life in Charleston: A Personal Perspective Part II." A native of Charleston, James will discuss his family's history in

Charleston and the Kanawha Valley from 1865 to the present. His great-grandfather started a retail produce business, later the wholesaler C. H. James & Co., in Charleston in 1883.

Charles H. James III graduated with honors from Morehouse College in Atlanta in 1981 and earned his master's degree in Business Administration from the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania in 1985. He has served as the Chairman and CEO of C. H. James & Co. since 1988. The company celebrated its 130th anniversary in 2013 and has been recognized as one of the oldest family-owned businesses in the United States. James represents the fourth generation of his family to own and operate the business. Under his leadership, C. H. James & Co. grew from a local food distributor in southern West Virginia to a leading international supplier to the U.S. government and multinational foodservice clients. In 1992, C. H. James & Co. was named "Company of the Year" by *Black Enterprise* magazine and has been listed numerous times in the magazine's annual BE 100 listing of the nation's largest black businesses.

Both lectures will be held in the Archives and History Library in the Culture Center in Charleston and will begin at 6:00 p.m. For additional information, call (304) 558-0230.

40 Years of West Virginia Scenic Trails

The West Virginia Scenic Trails Association celebrated 40 years of developing and supporting trails in the Mountain State from 1974 through 2014 with a gathering in the Archives and History Library on June 12, 2014. The displays and presentations were open to the public. For more photographs of the evening, visit [http://www.wvculture.org/history/](http://www.wvculture.org/history/workshops/2014junegenclubA.html)



[workshops/2014junegenclubA.html](http://www.wvculture.org/history/workshops/2014junegenclubA.html).

For Your Reference

A monthly column discussing the Reference Collection of the West Virginia Archives and History Library

Resources for African American History and Genealogy in West Virginia

Selected resources for researching African American history and genealogy have been grouped together in the Reading Room Reference Collection under the Dewey catalog number R 305.896. The Reference Collection section holds the resources most frequently used and most helpful in beginning African American research.

We are currently shifting the guidelines by which books are chosen for placement in the African American section of the Reference Collection. Unlike the Native American resources in the Reference Collection which tend to be national, tribal or regional in scope, many of our African American books focus on the population of specific West Virginia counties. A book which records and discusses the lives of African Americans in a specific county now being cataloged and shelved with the history books of that county in the Reading Room. For instance, *The Black People of Pendleton County, West Virginia*, by William D. Rexroad, 2013, is shelved at 975.491 with Pendleton County histories, because it is just as much or more a history of the county and its culture as it is a resource for genealogists searching for African American ancestors who lived in Pendleton County.

Evening Workshops and Lecture Schedule

Date	Conducted by:	Subject
August 5, Tuesday	Kevin Barksdale	"The Lost State of Franklin"
August 21, Thursday	Melody Bragg	"West Virginia Mine Disasters"
September 2, Tuesday	Brian Kesterson	"Morgan's Raid"
September 18, Thursday	Robert Taylor	"West Virginia Fiddle Traditions"

For information, call our office at (304) 558-0230, or
 e-mail bobby.l.taylor@wv.gov.

Lectures are held 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. in the West Virginia Archives and History Library, Culture Center, Charleston, West Virginia.

Genealogy Guides:

- *Finding a Place Called Home: A Guide to African-American Genealogy and Historical Identity:* Dee Parmer Woodtor, PhD, 1999. This is a good basic guide for genealogical research in general and is a sound resource for all beginners, regardless of ethnicity or race. In fact, with its emphasis on oral history and on research methods designed to cope with lack of government records, *Finding a Place Called Home* is a resource I recommend to anyone tracing families in places and time periods in Virginia/West Virginia where written primary resources are scarce or totally missing. Woodtor's bibliography provides many resources to be explored by the more advanced researcher also.
- *Finding Your People: An African-American Guide to Discovering Your*

- Roots:* Sandra Lee Jamison, 1999.
- *Black Roots: A Beginner's Guide to Tracing the African American Family Tree:* Tony Burroughs, 2001. Burroughs addresses specific types of records and resources, and also has an extensive bibliography.
- *A Genealogist's Guide to Discovering Your African-American Ancestors: How to Find and Record Your Unique Heritage:* Franklin Carter Smith and Emily Anne Croom, 2003. Croom, one of our favorite genealogy writers, expands upon the basics using her methodology of looking sideways beyond the straight line of descent to find more information. Use of specific examples of families enlivens the how-to's in each chapter.
- *Guide to Tracing Your African American Civil War Ancestor:* Jeanette Braxton Secret, 1997. The following federal and state records are discussed: military records and pension records; U.S. Colored Troops' records; Union Navy Seamen's records; General Index to Pension Files, 1861-1865; miscellaneous records relating to veteran's claims; general correspondence of the Record and Pension Office, 1889-1920; and national

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**Check out Archives and History's
 YouTube and Facebook Pages**

<http://www.youtube.com/user/wvarchivesandhistory>
<http://www.facebook.com/pages/West-Virginia-Archives-and-History/168933289812323>

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a cannon that Lee surrendered to Grant," but there is apparently no truth to that claim.

A number of West Virginia Civil War medals have been found that bear no inscription of a soldier's name and regiment on the edge. It is assumed, although not a certainty, that these were "salesmen samples" used to promote the medals. These "samples" are mentioned in correspondence between the engraver and the Adjutant General of West Virginia. Quite a few of these blank-edged medals have been shown to Archives staff members over the years, but neither the Archives nor the West Virginia State Museum have an example in their collections.

In 1920 the West Virginia State

Hacker's Creek Pioneer Descendants 34th Annual Gathering, August 7-10, 2014

Hacker's Creek Pioneer Descendants (HCPD) will hold their 34th Annual Gathering August 7-10, 2014. Three full days of tours, workshops, entertainment, library research, meals, and a memorial service are planned, plus a church service and lunch on the fourth day, Sunday, August 10. Workshop I features guidance in using sites through the Portal in Latter Day Saints (LDS) family history libraries, led by Mary Glass. Workshop II, by Joy DeFazio, is titled "Rocking Horse to Rocking Chair," addressing the question of what becomes of your research collection when you pass away. Registration deadline is July 30, 2014. For more information contact HCPD, 45 Abbotts Run Road, Horner, WV 26372. Web site is <http://www.hackerscreek.com/>. HCPD Library phone (304) 269-7091, fax (304) 269-4430.

Historian and Archivist stated the attempt to locate medal recipients that year "will probably be the last attempt to prevent them from being left here as museum curios." Thankfully his prophesy failed to come true.

In 1959, on the eve of the Civil War Centennial, State Archives director Dr. James L. Hupp said it had been many decades since a concerted effort had been made to distribute the remaining medals and he felt the time was right to renew the effort. He said it should be based upon a first come, first served effort by those who could prove their lineage to the soldier, but after a specific deadline, the final unclaimed medals could possibly be sold to collectors. Thankfully, again, that did not occur. The unclaimed medals still rest in their original boxes, awaiting claim applications from their awardees' descendants.

Gen. Isaac Duval, West Virginia Adjutant General at the time of the initial issue of the medals, a veteran officer of the 9th West Virginia Infantry and a Brigadier General, was the only person who was issued a gold-plated medal.

If you have questions about West Virginia Civil War medals not answered in this article or on the Archives and History Web site, contact Terry Lowry, Archives and History historian, terry.d.lowry@wv.gov, (304) 558-0230, Ext. 736. He is also the person to contact if you would like to discuss a claim for a specific soldier's medal.

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New Titles

- Wright Family: Birth, Marriage, and Personal Property Tax Records, Montgomery County, Virginia:** Robert N. Grant, 2014.
- Wright Family: Census, Land Grants, Land Tax, Deed, Death, and Probate Records, Montgomery County, Virginia:** Robert N. Grant, 2014.
- The Upland Alleghenies: (Sixteen Years of West Virginia and Woodcock and Grouse Coverts):** Bob Fala, 2013.
- My Poor Dear Syl: The Upshur County Civil War Diary and Letters of Marcia Louise Sumner Phillips:** Prepared for publication by Upshur County Historical Society, 2013.
- Memoirs of Elleanor Eldridge: Original text by Frances Harriet Whipple with Elleanor Eldridge:** 2014 (memoirs originally published 1838).
- Pen, Ink, & Evidence: A Study of Writing and Writing Materials for the Penman, Collector, and Document Detective:** Joe Nickell, 1990.
- Since You've Been Gone:** Carlene Thompson, 2001.
- Few Among the Mountains: Slavery in Wayne County:** Robert Michael Thompson, 2012.
- The American Revolution: A Historical Guidebook:** Frances H. Kennedy, editor, 2014.
- Wesley Methodist Church 100th Anniversary, 1849-1949:** [Morgantown, W. Va.], 1949.
- Social Purity:** Gertrude Fitz Randolph, 19??.

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and state archives. Appendix A is *Tabular Analysis of the Records of the U.S. Colored Troops and Their Predecessor Units in the National Archives of the United States*, by Joseph B. Ross, National Archives and Records Service, General Services Administration, 1973. Appendix B is National Archives' microfilm catalog, *Military Service Records*.

- *Generations Past: A Selected List of Sources for Afro-American Genealogical Research*: Sandra M. Lawson, 1988.
- *Finding Your African American Ancestors: A Beginner's Guide*: David T. Thackery, 2000.

Secondary Resource Material:

- *Virginia Slave Births Index: 1853-1865*: Leslie Anderson Morales, editor, Alexandria Library Local History/Special Collections, 2007. Five volumes provide an alphabetical list by slave owner's surname of children born into slavery. The information is organized thusly: (1) Slave owner surname, given name (including an owner's estate or heirs); (2) Infant's name (including the following when noted in the record: sex, multiple birth, stillbirth, and occasionally "free Negro"); (3) Mother's name (most are given name only, but some include a surname and in a few, both parents' names); (4) Birth date; (5) Place of birth.
- *Free Negro Heads of Families in the United States in 1830: Together with a Brief Treatment of the Free Negro*: Carter G. Woodson, 1925.

The lists of names of free African Americans who were heads of their own households in the 1830 census are by state, with a separate name index. Free African Americans who were living in households headed by someone else (possibly even another free African American) are not listed since their individual names would not have been recorded in the 1830 census, only tally marks by age, sex, race and free or enslaved status.

- *Multiracial Pioneers of the Ohio Valley*: Benjamin Bain, 1999. Time period covered is up through 1900, plus a few records that occurred after 1900 in order to establish correct relationships. The material focuses on Washington County, Ohio, but many of the people had West Virginia ties and records. Bain sought records for any person identified as other than white only, including mixes of Native American and African American ancestry. Many identified as Melungeon or "Guinea" are included. The preface explains the author's research methodology, and includes a list of names used to identify multiracial groups in the time period. Individuals are listed alphabetically by surname with each piece of information about the individual from a specified source in numbered notes beneath.
- *People of Color: Cemeteries and Short Histories: West Virginia, Ohio & Virginia and Points Beyond*: 2 volumes, Cynthia Cain Buskirk, 2011. Buskirk has researched deaths and burials, and transcribed many newspaper articles about African

Americans in this geographic area.

- *Free African Americans of North Carolina and Virginia: Including the family histories of more than 80% of those counted as "all other persons" in the 1790 and 1800 census*: 3rd edition, Paul Heinegg, 1997.
- *Black Residents of Greenbrier, Monroe, Pocahontas and Summers Counties: Notes of Carol L. Haynes*. This resource is not available elsewhere. Ms. Haynes began researching her own family in Greenbrier County and eventually expanded her efforts to include all African Americans in the counties listed. Her notes include census, birth and death records, finds on Web sites, family histories, interviews, newspaper research, photographs and more. She has provided updated versions of her notes to the West Virginia Archives and History Library over the years. The most recent version is shelved in Reference, while older versions are in Closed Stacks.

Bibliographies and Guides to Primary Sources:

- *Afro-American Sources in Virginia: A Guide to Manuscripts*: Michael Plunkett, 1990. The term manuscript covers all written or printed materials that are not published books, including personal and business correspondence, account books, diaries and journals, receipts, legal documents, financial records, broadsides, minute books of organizations, and much more. Bible records may be included here, as well. Generally speaking, these collections are often called by such names as "Daniels Family Papers," or "William Ellsworth Daniels Papers." Relevant manuscript holdings for 23 Virginia institutions, large and small, are listed.
- *Finding and Using African American Newspapers*: Timothy N. Pinnick, 2008. In addition to listing



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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.

QUILTS AND WALL HANGINGS 2014 EXHIBIT, through September 8:

Division of Culture and History, Culture Center, Charleston.

“1915 TO 1945: TWO WARS AND THE GREAT DEPRESSION VIEWED FROM THE UPSHUR COUNTY HOME FRONT” EXHIBIT, through September 28:

Upshur County Historical Society History Center Museum, Buckhannon.

BRIDGES TO THE PAST: HISTORIC PRESERVATION 101 AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS PRESENTATION, July 1: New River Gateway CVB, Hinton.

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

LUNCH WITH BOOKS: BLACK DAMP CENTURY, July 8:

Kerry George, presenter, Ohio County Public Library, Wheeling.

BRIDGES TO THE PAST: HISTORIC PRESERVATION 101 AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION FUNDING SOURCES, August 4: Town Hall, Sophia.

The West Virginia Library Commission Library in the Culture Center is closed weekends and all holidays.

newspapers printed specifically for black readers, Pinnick discusses news and social columns for African Americans and segregated communities carried regularly in local newspapers.

- *A Comprehensive Name Index for “The American Slave”*: Howard E. Potts, 1997. *The American Slave: A Composite Autobiography*, published in nine volumes in 1972, includes 10,000 pages of interviews with more than 2000 former slaves recorded by workers for the Federal Writers Project of the Works Progress Administration between 1936 and 1938. Potts has categorized the interviews in separate subject indexes, using the term “narrator” for the person interviewed: County & State Index (alphabetical by county and state name, with narrator, birth year, age at interview, name of master), Narrator Index, Master Index (alphabetical by surname of

slaveowner), Interviewer Index, and Narrator Birth Year Index.

Histories and Topical Studies:

- *The Negro Citizen of West Virginia*: Thomas E. Posey, 1934. Published by the West Virginia State College Press, the foreword states: “The author of the following pages attempts to portray, in an organized and readable form, the extent to which the Negro in the State of West Virginia meets the foregoing requisites of good citizenship, and, likewise, the extent to which he does not.” Posey also states “The story is told in chronological order, mainly, and shows clearly how the Negro has played a consistently unique part in the history of this ‘border’ state even from its birth . . .” The bibliography contains resources seldom listed elsewhere, especially theses.
- *Free Negro Labor and Property Holding in Virginia, 1830-1860*:

Luther Porter Jackson, 1971, c1942.

- *The Free Negro in Virginia: 1619-1865*: John H. Russell, 1969, c1913.
- *The Negro in West Virginia Before 1900*: John Reuben Sheeler, 1954.
- *History of the American Negro: West Virginia Edition*: A. B. Caldwell, 2012, c1923. For researchers who have a family member with a biography and portrait included among the 117 men and two women (other women are discussed in their husbands’ bios) profiled, this is a genealogical treasure. For others, it provides a snapshot of the most prominent members of the African American community in West Virginia. The “West Virginia Classics” series edition by West Virginia University Press has a new introduction by Joe William Trotter, Jr. Trotter states “Through the lens of biography, the *West Virginia Edition* underscores key themes in the state’s African American history.”

WEST VIRGINIA
Archives
 and **History NEWS**

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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

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