

West Virginia Archives & History NEWS

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WEST VIRGINIA
DIVISION OF
CULTURE & HISTORY

From the Editor:

The West Virginia Archives and History Library is resuming its Evening Workshop series this fall. All presentations will be held in the Library and are free to the public. Registration is not required, but we would appreciate a phone call or e-mail to let us know you plan to attend so we can be prepared with adequate seating and hand-outs. If you have an idea for a future workshop or speaker, please share it with us. You can call (304) 558-0230, or e-mail Robert Taylor, bobby.taylor@wvculture.org or Susan Scouras, susan.scouras@wvculture.org.

West Virginia Vital Research Records Update

The Good News—Eight New Counties Coming: Watch for notes on the West Virginia Vital Research Records (WVRR) Web page, http://www.wvculture.org/vrr/va_select.aspx, or updates in upcoming issues of *Archives and History News* announcing the addition the fall of birth, death and marriage records for the following eight counties: Jackson, Morgan, Taylor, Tucker, Upshur, Wayne, Wirt and Wyoming. As in the past, all records for all counties may not be posted at the same time, since all the new data must be reviewed and inevitably some glitches must be worked out in a section or two of the records before they can be uploaded into the system. In case you missed earlier notices, Clay, Hampshire, Pocahontas and Randolph counties were added in July.

The Bad News—Some Problems Found: As we have started using the newly added records for Hampshire County births and deaths in the West Virginia Vital

Research Records (WVRR) database, a problem has become apparent that is important for users of the microfilm record to know.

When the Genealogical Society of Utah microfilmed the original records, the pages of the original

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Evening Workshops Schedule

Date	Conducted by:	Subject
August 21 Thursday	Susan Scouras	<i>Using Newspaper Archive Online</i>
August 28 Thursday	Debra Basham	<i>Family Photographs</i>
September 18 Thursday	Greg Carroll	<i>Native American Resources in the West Virginia Archives and History Library</i>
September 25 Thursday	Greg Carroll	<i>Applying for a West Virginia Civil War Medal</i>
October 16 Thursday	Greg Carroll	<i>African American Resources in the West Virginia Archives and History Library</i>

Registration for these free workshops is helpful but not required.

Call our office at (304) 558-0230, or e-mail bobby.taylor@wvculture.org.

Workshops are held 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. in the West Virginia Archives and History Library, The Cultural Center, Charleston, West Virginia.

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volumes were loose from the binding, and had been reinserted into the volumes out of order. The left and right-hand pages of many records do not match, such as the left-hand page being the first half of a page of birth records, while the right-hand page is the second half of a page of death records. We are attempting to sort out the images for WVRR and connect matching halves, but until we come up with a solution, users should examine both pages of any record pulled up to make sure the two pages go together. Microfilm users also must take great caution to search for a matching set of pages for any record they seek.

A reminder for users of WVRR: When viewing records, particularly marriage records, be sure to scroll over and up and down to look at all of the full screen image. Most birth and death records are two-page records, with the individual record in a single line spanning the two pages. Some of the more modern records are recorded in a section of a single page, and the screen image in WVRR may include

two pages of the ledger book. Many marriage certificates were recorded in books with certificate-like pages, with either one or two records per page. When search results are called up, only the top left-hand record shows up on screen, so if the user does not see the record being sought, he needs to scroll to the bottom of the page and then over to the right-hand page, both upper and lower, to see the full image.

NewspaperARCHIVE.com

The West Virginia Archives and History Library now offers NewspaperARCHIVE.com free of charge to Library patrons using the Reading Room public access computers. The database is searchable by names, keyword, date and location, and contains almost 3,000 titles covering 761 cities over 240 years, from 1759 to the present. Newspapers from across the United States and around the world are included. The Adobe format of the newspaper page images allows users to extract a single article or a portion of a page rather than printing an entire page every time. Newspaper-

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ARCHIVE has some West Virginia papers, with the *Charleston Gazette* and *Daily Mail* proving most helpful to our patrons so far. Other patrons have found the large collections of Ohio and Pennsylvania newspapers very beneficial. We hope you will visit the Archives and History Library to try out this new resource. Although remote access is not available, a request to search the database can be included in a research letter. Online tutorials are available on the site, plus an Evening Workshop entitled "Using NewspaperARCHIVE.com" will be conducted in the Library on Thursday, August 21, 2008.

Charleston City Directories on Microfilm

The earliest volumes of Charleston city and business directories, from 1882 through 1934, were printed on types of paper that have begun to deteriorate badly and/or break away from the bindings. Since these directories by various publishers are a heavily used resource in the West Virginia Archives and History Library for genealogy, business and local history research, microfilm copies of the books are being made. We will be making photocopies of selected volumes as well. Original paper copies of most years will still be available until they become too brittle to handle, but for the editions for which only one copy exists in our

collection, use of the microfilm or a bound photocopy will be necessary. The Charleston city directory microfilm will be housed in the microfilm cabinet located in the Reading Room of the Library and easily accessible to the public. The bound photocopies will be shelved with the collection in Closed Stacks.

Please be patient with us until the microfilm has been developed and proofread, and photocopies are made and bound. There will be a few months when only the microfilm will be available for certain years, until a bindery order is shipped and returned. The original volumes will

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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)**

Touring Railroad Exhibit in Pennsboro

The West Virginia Division of Culture and History is installing a touring railroad exhibit in the Pennsboro B&O Depot, located in Pennsboro, Ritchie County. The exhibit, entitled *Riding the Rails: Railroad Connecting West Virginia*, is

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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.

THE STORY OF NEWSPAPERS IN UPSHUR COUNTY, June 8–September 28:
 Summer Exhibit, Upshur County Historical Society, The History Center Museum, Buckhannon.

“RIDING THE RAILS: RAILROADS CONNECTING WEST VIRGINIA,”
June 13–August 17: West Virginia Division of Culture and History touring exhibit,
 Pennsboro B&O Depot, Pennsboro.

**“LOOK! SEE HOW WE HAVE GROWN,” HACKERS CREEK PIONEER
 DESCENDANTS 27TH ANNUAL GATHERING, August 7–10:** Horner. For more information
 visit <http://www.hackerscreek.com>, call (304) 269-7091, or e-mail hcpd@hackerscreek.com.

FRENCH CREEK PIONEER GATHERING, August 16–17: French Creek Presbyterian Church,
 French Creek. For more information about this biennial meeting of descendants of the original dozen
 French Creek families, contact Mary Albaugh, president, (304) 473-0738, IWABYF@aol.com, or
 Amy W. Tenney, vice-president, (304) 472-5174, buckhannon@hotmail.com.

250TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FRENCH AND INDIAN WAR PROGRAM, August 30:
 Doug Wood and members of Trails, Inc., re-enactors. Tomlinson Run State Park, New Manchester.
 For more information visit http://www.wvstateparks.com/French_Indian_War.html

LABOR DAY, September 1: Archives Library will be *closed*.

“THE CONTROVERSIAL CONFEDERATE FLAG,” September 19: Lecture by
 Dr. John M. Coski. Sponsored by Rich Mountain Battlefield Foundation, Beverly.
 For reservations, call (304) 637-7424, or e-mail richmt@richmountain.org

14TH ANNUAL ROANE COUNTY GENEALOGICAL FAIR, September 27: Roane County
 Historical Society, Heritage Park Community Building, 110 Church Street, Spencer.

FALL FESTIVAL AT WEST VIRGINIA INDEPENDENCE HALL, October 11:
 Displays, demonstrations, and activities relating early Appalachian life in the Civil War era.
 West Virginia Independence Hall Museum, Wheeling. For more information call (304) 238-1300,
 or visit <http://www.wvculture.org/sites/wvih.html>.

**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.

“Exhibit” continued from page 2
 on display through August 17, 2008. The exhibit will contain artifacts from the West Virginia State Museum collection and a photograph display courtesy of the museum, Delegate Lynwood “Woody” Ireland (R-Ritchie), and the West Virginia State Archives Photograph Collection.

The Pennsboro Depot is open 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Saturday, noon to 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, or by appointment (call James Jones at 304 659-2946 to make arrangements). For more information about the *Riding the Rails* exhibit, contact Charles Morris, director of museum collections and exhibitions for the Division, at (304) 558-0240, ext. 704.

“Directories” continued from page 2
 all be retained until they crumble to dust, and will be available for our archival photographer to make photographic copies should a higher quality copy be needed for reproduction in a print, digital or film publication.

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The Cultural 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.

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