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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>

West Virginia Archives and History has been very successful in recruiting speakers from all facets of West Virginia history and culture to share their knowledge and expertise with you through our First Tuesday, Third Thursday and additional programs in the Reading Room of our library. Although recorded versions of almost all are available on the Archives and History YouTube channel, we encourage those of you within driving distance to attend in person. Many presenters include projected images that don't always show up well in the recordings, and others bring artifacts and other materials to accompany their talks. All speakers give those in attendance an opportunity to ask questions and make comments, enriching the experience for both the questioners and the audience. We would love to have you join us for our evening events so we can meet you in person.

Finding Aid for Governor Joe Manchin Collection Now Online

The Governor Joe Manchin Collection, Archival Collection 2034



of the West Virginia State Archives, now has a finding aid on the West Virginia Archives and History Web site, <http://www.wvculture.org/history/collections/ar2034.html>. The collection and finding aid were presented to the public by Senator Joe Manchin, shown with Archives and History Director Joe Geiger, on June 13, 2014. The first five boxes of the collection contain the texts of speeches by Governor

Manchin, and 211 more boxes are full of correspondence, reports, press releases, the governor's files for work with state agencies and the legislature, and much more. In addition there are photographs and other items. If you would like to view some of the photographs, go to

the Photo Album Slide Show link at the top of the Collection's Web page to watch the Governor Joe Manchin Photo Album slide show. For more information and photographs from the event visit the Archives Newsroom at <http://www.wvculture.org/history/whats happening.html>.

“From Lost State to Mountain State” Subject of August 5 Lecture

On Tuesday, August 5, 2014, Kevin T. Barksdale will present “From Lost State to Mountain State: The State of Franklin and the Constitutionality of West Virginia Statehood” 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.

In 1784, the political leaders of what would become eastern Tennessee (then part of the state of North Carolina) initiated an effort

to create America's fourteenth state. Naming their new state after venerable statesmen Benjamin Franklin, the leaders of Franklin engaged in a four-year struggle to gain admission into the Union while battling the region's Native American communities and a determined internal opposition party. Over Franklin's tumultuous four-year existence, the leadership managed to erect a state government, judicial

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"Lost" continued from page 1
 system, and militia. The Franklinites also drafted a new state constitution and launched a determined campaign to win public and political support for their state. Despite their efforts, the state of Franklin ultimately collapsed in early 1788 but not before leaving behind a constitutional legacy that would play a central role in the creation of the state of West Virginia in 1863. Barksdale will explore the history of the state of Franklin and its impact on the drafting of the United States Constitution and the creation of the Mountain State nearly eighty years later.

Kevin T. Barksdale is an associate professor of history at Marshall

University where he teaches courses on West Virginia, Appalachian, and 18th-century American history. He has published a book on the state of Franklin entitled *The Lost State of Franklin: America's First Secession* (2008) and is currently working on a project that explores the history of the decade following the American Revolution in the lower Mississippi Valley. Barksdale also serves on the West Virginia Humanities Council and West Virginia Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission.

On August 5, 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.

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

Evening Workshops and Lecture Schedule

Date	Conducted by:	Subject
September 2, Tuesday	Brian Kesterson	<i>"Morgan's Raid"</i>
September 11, Thursday	Robert Taylor	<i>"West Virginia Fiddle Traditions"</i>
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.		

"Hippie Homesteaders" Topic of Seaton's Talk

Carter Taylor Seaton discussed her book, *Hippie Homesteaders: Arts, Crafts, Music and Living on the Land in West Virginia*, on June 19, 2014, in the West Virginia Archives and History Library, with several of the folks included in the book in



attendance to hear about the young people who moved to the state in the 1960s. More photographs are posted on the Archives and History Web site at <http://www.wvculture.org/history/workshops/2014junegenclubB.html> and a video of the evening is available on the Archives and History YouTube channel, <http://www.youtube.com/user/wvarchivesandhistory>.

A Letter of Appreciation from WVSTA

The West Virginia Trails Association (WVSTA) celebrated its 40th anniversary with a special meeting on June 12, 2014, in the West Virginia Archives and History Library. Several members of the group from across the state came together to celebrate their history and accomplishments with the public. WVSTA set up displays that were open to the public at 5:30 p.m. Following is a letter of appreciation received from Doug Wood, Secretary of the WVSTA Executive Committee.

June 18, 2014

Mr. Joseph Geiger, Director
 State Archives
 WV Division of Culture and History

Dear Joe:

On behalf of the WVSTA, I would like to thank you and the rest of the Archives staff for assisting our association with the June 12 program commemorating the 40 year history of the WVSTA. One of the original incorporators in attendance, Arthur Foley (an accountant by trade and current treasurer of the Appalachian Trail Conservancy) counted 68 attendees and suspected there were a few more heads that he could not see in the crowd. This near capacity turn-out and our chosen, unusual presentation format was handled well by the Archives staff. I am sure that Randy Marcum is not normally expected to kneel while holding a microphone for a 94-year old, wheelchair-bound speaker who is notorious for his long soliloquies on subjects of history! Randy's dedication allowed us to hear about the once abundant American Chestnut [tree] from an individual
"WVSTA" continued on page 3

“WVSTA” continued from page 2

who remembered feasting on the nut crop while he was a boy hiking on a remote mountain trail. Talk about living history!

The room’s physical organization by staff was perfect for our need of display space to enhance the speakers’ agenda with imagery and historical items that called attention to the history of trail development in West Virginia from the Franklin Roosevelt administration forward to our present time. Having Dick Fauss???? [as in original] video the proceedings and displays was a very good idea as well. This will likely be the last time that the surviving WVSTA incorporators (i.e., Nick Lozano, Bob Tabor, Bruce Bond, and Arthur Foley) get together. We are particularly grateful to Jaime Simmons for participating off-the-clock with the program as a WVSTA volunteer. Having Jaime available 100% during the program, while other staff handled the members of the public who visited the Archives for other research reasons, was of inestimable value to the smooth running of the program. Thank you for allowing your employee the flexibility to do this.

The extra time you allotted to us served the attending public well as they milled around the room viewing the displays and speaking with various trail volunteers and aficionados. The time also allowed all of the surviving original incorporators and some of the early important figures in the development of the Allegheny Trail and the Mary Ingles Trail to network with younger trail enthusiasts and government employees. As you are undoubtedly acutely aware of, when an energetic and enthusiastic present generation learns from the mistakes and successes of past generations, social change can be smoother and more fully

supported by the general populace than during transitional periods marked by poor communication between generations. The history services provided by West Virginia’s Archives Unit are therefore much more beneficial to the Mountain State’s citizenry than is generally known. Thanks for making those services available to the WVSTA as our volunteers celebrate our 40th anniversary year of incorporation. And thanks particularly for assisting us in sharing our history with the

public at the June 12 event.

We look forward to future collaboration with the Division of Culture and History.

Sincerely,

Douglas McClure Wood
 Secretary of the WVSTA Executive Committee,
 Trail Coordinator for Section 4 of the Allegheny Trail,
 and Coordinator of the Mary Ingles Trail Blazers Chapter



For more photographs of the event, visit <http://www.wvculture.org/history/workshops.html>. You may also view a videotape of



the evening on the Archives YouTube channel, <http://www.youtube.com/user/wvarchivesandhistory>, “Volunteers for Forty Years: A History of the West Virginia Scenic Trails Association.”

A Longtime Archives Patron and a Veteran Archives Staff Member Team Up for First Tuesday in July

Forester Robert Beanblossom and Audio/Moving Images Archivist Richard Fauss worked together to present “Time’s Runnin’ Out: A Historical Perspective of a Movie and the Fight Against Southern West Virginia Forest Fires” on July 1, 2014. For more information



on the topic and the presenters, see the July issue of Archives and History News, <http://www.wvculture.org/history/ahnews/ahnews.html>. If you missed the live presentation, you can watch a video on the Archives and History YouTube channel.

For Your Reference

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

In Conclusion

While this column has not addressed every title in the Archives and History Library Reference Collection, all of the sections where a listing of specific titles and explanations of the types of resources available would be most helpful to researchers have been covered. Several other sections containing resources that are less diversified are the following:

- **Lists of names, abstracts of pension files and other aids for locating someone who served militarily or otherwise in the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812, with an emphasis on those who served from Virginia.** You will find reference books with national coverage compiled and published by the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution for military and pension records, and for service specifically by women, Native Americans and African Americans.
- **Lists of immigrants, port arrivals, passengers, etc.** Resources include *The Famine Immigrants* series for Irish

immigrants edited by Ira A. Glazier, 1982-86, and numerous books about Palatine immigrants (largely from Germany, Switzerland and Austria).

- **African-American history and culture from a national perspective**, such as *Afrikana: the Encyclopedia of the African and African American Experience*, edited by Kwame Anthony Appiah and Henry Louis Gates, Jr.
- **Land grants and patents for Virginia and other geographic areas**, such as the *Cavaliers and Pioneers* series (original three volumes by Nell Marion Nugent in 1934, with additional volumes edited by Dennis Ray Hudgins, 1994-99) and the *Federal Land Series* in four volumes by Clifford Neal Smith, 1972.

Although not officially cataloged in the Reference Collection, several bound periodicals are shelved in the same area:

- **Goldenseal magazine:** West Virginia Division of Culture and History, 1975 to present.
- **West Virginia Historical Magazine Quarterly:** West Virginia Historical and Antiquarian Society, from January 1901 through July 1905.
- **West Virginia History journal:** West Virginia Archives and History, 1939-2006.

He likes us! He really likes us!

The staff members of West Virginia Archives and History have been thanked or acknowledged frequently in many publications (and film/video productions) over the years for their

assistance. One of the most recent is the "Acknowledgments" by Billy Joe Peyton for *Historic Charleston: The First 225 Years*, published by the City of Charleston in 2013.

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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**Archives and History
Library's Online
Public Access Catalog**

Click the
"Voyager Online Catalog"
link on the
Archives and History homepage
or go to
<http://archives.lib.wv.us/>.

- **West Virginia History: A Journal of Regional Studies.** West Virginia University, 2007 to present.

This brings the *For Your Reference* column to an end. We hope you have learned how helpful the Ready Reference and Reference Collections can be and that you have discovered some new resources to explore for your own interests. If you have any questions or suggestions regarding the Reference Collection or any of the specific topics or books discussed in the past year, please contact Susan Scouras at (304) 558-0230 or susan.c.scouras@wv.gov.



Peyton states "Many people have provided generous support and assistance on the project, especially the cheerful staff at the West Virginia State Archives . . ." Thanks for the compliment, Dr. Peyton!

Armentrout Contributes Multiple Biographies to West Virginia Veterans Memorial Archives Online

By Patricia Richards McClure,
 West Virginia Veterans Memorial
 Archives Volunteer

With more than 10,000 names carved on the West Virginia Veterans Memorial, West Virginia Archives and History's mission to post online profiles of the soldiers listed thereon remains a daunting task. Not only is it of enormous magnitude, time is of the essence, especially when writing about casualties of the World Wars whose families are increasingly difficult to locate. The good news, however, is that the work progresses and over the next few issues of the newsletter we'll report several recent, and we think exciting, developments.

Our best source of biographical information is obviously the veteran's family. One fortuitous occurrence happened in April, when Archives' Assistant Director Debra Basham was contacted by Leon Armentrout, who submitted a biography of his cousin Forrest William Armentrout, a casualty of World War II. Killed in the Battle of the Bulge, Forrest had been an assistant supervisor in the Civilian Conservation Corps prior to his enlistment in the army. Leon followed this article with another about his cousin (and Forrest's brother) James Shellace Armentrout, who was too young to serve in WWII with Forrest and with another brother Elwood, who survived the war. Jimmy was reported missing and presumed dead in Korea in 1951; his name is inscribed on the Courts of the Missing at the Honolulu Memorial. Later, Archives and History received the story of cousin Stanley William Armentrout who was killed in action in Vietnam in 1968. Although Stanley's family had moved to Ohio before he graduated from high school, his Armentrout

roots were in West Virginia—in fact, several generations of Armentrouths had a “Stanley.”

Because there were other Armentrouths in the Veterans Memorial database, Leon was asked if he knew anything about them and it turned out that two were relatives, though more distant. Thus were added biographies for Charles Frederick Armentrout and Raymond Lee Armentrout. Charles Frederick, a young father at the time of his death in Laos in 1970, is interred in the Kline Cemetery in Pendleton County. A helicopter crew member who died in Vietnam in 1971, Raymond Lee was born in Randolph County, lived in Lewis County and was buried in Tucker County.

Not all of Leon's biographies carry the Armentrout surname. Another major contribution was the story of Owen David Kerens, lost at sea in 1945. Also from Randolph County, Owen graduated from Davis and Elkins College and taught in the local school system before he enrolled in the Naval Air Corps in 1941. Next, Leon reached further



back into American history and researched the life of Jacob Bruce Triplett, a casualty of World War I. Jacob was 29 years old at the time he registered for the draft, at which time he requested an exemption because of his responsibility to care for his farm at Huttonsville in Randolph County. Nevertheless, he was sent to France as a private in the 166th Infantry Regiment, 42nd Division of the U.S. Army, where he lost his life in 1918. Jacob is interred at the Oise-Aisne American

Cemetery at Fère-en-Tardenois. Another soldier of “The Great War” whose life has been chronicled by Leon Armentrout is James Done Kerns, who died in 1918 and is buried at Arlington National Cemetery. He served under his middle name as Done Kerns, and is so entered on the Veterans Memorial and in the Veterans Memorial Archives database. His biography is in progress and should be online soon.

In his own words, here's what Leon Armentrout has to say about himself and the motivation for his
“Armentrout” continued on page 6

African American Life in Charleston Discussed by Tyree

Thomas W. Tyree presented “African American Life in Charleston: A Personal Perspective” on June 26, 2014, in the Archives and History Library. His talk was the first in a series about “The Block,” the former predominately African American neighborhood of downtown Charleston, West Virginia. The series is supported by the Kanawha Valley Historical and Preservation Society, the



North Side Historic Community Group and the West Virginia Center for African-American Art & Culture, Inc.

New Titles

- ***Don Quixote de la Hyde Park: or, The Knight of the Bleeding Heart:** Henry B. Davenport, 1941.
The Life and Memoirs of Paul Smith Hornor: Paul Smith Hornor, 1953.
The House of Warwick: 1740-1892: W. T. Price, 1951, c1892.
The List of West Virginia Birds: George A. Hall, 1971.
Reveries: John Harrington Cox, 1943.
***The Killer's Handbook:** Robert P. Maroney, 2013.
The Old English Poem *Seasons for Fasting: A Critical Edition: Mary P. Richards, editor, 2014.
***Christians Disguised as Prisoners: A Call for Denominational Churches to Minister in Prisons:** Leonard M. Payne, Jr., 2013.
Monongah: 2nd edition, Davitt McAteer, 2014.
Historic Charleston: Billy Joe Peyton, 2013.
Spilman Thomas & Battle's History of Service: The First 150: Elizabeth Jill Wilson, 2014.
The Great Expectancy: Margaret Prescott Montague, 1918.
Of Water and the Spirit: Margaret Prescott Montague, 1919.
Lucky Lady: Margaret Prescott Montague, 1933.
Mountain Farm Boy: Harold Slater, 1973.
Papers Read Before the West Virginia Coal Exchange: 1940.
***"Believe It or Not City": Thurmond, W. Va.:** Eugene Lewis Scott, 1943.

*[Editor's note: You may wonder why you see titles like this from time to time in the "New Title" list that may not seem appropriate for inclusion in the West Virginia Archives and History Library collection. Some of the more startling titles, such as *The Killer's Handbook*, are probably fiction. *Don Quixote de la Hyde Park* is a political commentary about President Franklin D. Roosevelt that includes West Virginia topics and was written by a West Virginian. All acquisitions were written and/or published by West Virginians, or have West Virginia people or places as a subject. A few are newly published books in academic series published by West Virginia University Press and are retained as West Virginia imprints regardless of subject and author.



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- (1) the reprint is not used for commercial purposes, and
- (2) the following notice appears at the end of the reprinted material: Previously published in *West Virginia Archives and History News*, [Volume and issue numbers], [Month, Year], a publication of the West Virginia Division of Culture and History.

Medal of Honor Recipient Donates DVD

Hershel "Woody" Williams, West Virginia's only living Medal of Honor recipient, donated a copy of a new documentary, *Medal of Honor: The History*, to the West Virginia Archives and History Library on July 14, 2014. Williams is shown presenting the DVD to Archives and History Director Joe Geiger.



"Armentrout" continued from page 5
role in bringing to life the stories of "our West Virginia heroes":

I was born in Gladys, Randolph County, West Virginia, and am proud of my West Virginia heritage. My ancestors were among the early pioneers of Randolph County. Included are Isner, Kerns, Triplett, Lantz, Nelson, Canfield, Kittle, and many others. My Armentrout roots in America extend back eight generations to the Shenandoah Valley. Through my genealogy hobby, I have discovered several patriots in my family tree that had fought in the Revolution and other wars that molded our democracy.

My parents raised six sons, which included two sets of twins. We lived in Elkins until after WWII, when my dad, who was an engineer on the Western Maryland Railway, was transferred to Cumberland, Maryland. At the age of 19, I joined the Navy, which ultimately led to a career as an electrical engineer. My employment included positions as a designer and project engineer at RCA, Sylvania Electric, and Litton Laser Systems. Included were the Minuteman missile system, a helicopter radio, and lasers for military aircraft.

I have always had a driving curiosity about family history, which has resulted in a 34-year genealogy hobby. Along the way, I have encountered records of many family members who had died on foreign battlefields. It has inspired me not to allow their sacrifices to be forgotten, but to honor and celebrate their lives that helped to secure our freedom. I am grateful to the West Virginia Veterans Memorial project for the opportunity to do my part in keeping alive the memory of those brave warriors.

Leon Armentrout is a meticulous researcher with an aptitude for
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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.

“HOMETOWN TEAMS,” A MUSEUM ON THE ROAD SMITHSONIAN TRAVELING EXHIBIT, August 17-September 27: Weirton Area Museum and Cultural Center, Weirton. For more information, contact Dennis Jones, (304) 479-7266, or visit www.weirtonmuseum.com

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

HACKER’S CREEK PIONEER DESCENDANTS 34TH ANNUAL GATHERING, August 7-10: Horner. For more information contact HCPD, (304) 269-7091, or visit www.hackerscreek.com/.

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

THE EARLY WOODLAND PERIOD OF SOUTHWESTERN PENNSYLVANIA AND THE WEST VIRGINIA PANHANDLE: IS BIG REALLY BETTER?, September 25:

Mark A. McConaughy, speaker, Grave Creek Mound Archaeological Complex, Moundsville.

ROANE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY GENEALOGICAL FAIR, September 27: Heritage Park, Spencer.

PRICKETTS FORT LECTURE SERIES: “A WAR WILL BE INEVITABLE”: LORD DUNMORE AND THE CONQUEST OF THE OHIO COUNTRY, October 12:

Travis Henline, presenter, Pricketts Fort.

COLUMBUS DAY, October 13: Archives Library will be *closed*.

VIRGINIA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY AND AUGUSTA COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY COMBINED FALL CONFERENCE, October 17-18: Waynesboro and Staunton, Virginia.

For more information contact Chuck Novak, (703) 444-2445, chucknovak@msn.com, or visit <http://www.vgs.org/shop/events/vgs-2014-fall-conference-detail>.

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

accuracy and detail. We are very appreciative of his contributions of veterans’ biographies. He has several more biographies in progress. Check out the West Virginia Veterans Memorial pages of the West Virginia Archives and History website at

<http://www.wvculture.org/history/wvets.html> to learn about the Memorial itself, and at <http://www.wvculture.org/history/wvmemory/wvvetmem.html> to explore the full Veterans Memorial Archives database. If you want to read the

biographies mentioned here, as well as dozens of others about very exceptional West Virginians, go straight to the Veterans Biographies page at <http://www.wvculture.org/history/wvmemory/vets/vetbios.html>.

WEST VIRGINIA
Archives
 and **History NEWS**

West Virginia Division of Culture and History
 The Culture Center
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 Charleston, WV 25305-0300

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
- Debra Basham Assistant Director/Archivist (photographs, special collections)
- Jillian Barto Cultural Program Associate (county records preservation project)
- Constance Baston Cultural Program Associate (Project Access)
- Kyle Campbell Cultural Program Specialist (county records preservation project)
- Matt Dailey Part time
- Dick Fauss Archivist (microfilm and moving images collection)
- Denise Ferguson County Records Archivist
- Allen Fowler Part time (special projects)
- Elaine Gates Library Assistant
- Ed Hicks Photo Archivist
- Susan Holbrook Secretary
- Mary Johnson Historian/Webmaster
- Terry Lowry Historian (Veterans records, Civil War, Civil War medals)
- Randolph Marcum Part time
- Randy Marcum Historian (map collection)
- Matt McGrew Cultural Program Coordinator (History Bowl, highway historic markers)
- Cathy Miller Library Assistant (WV State documents)
- Harold Newman Library Assistant (microfilming)
- Susan Scouras Librarian (cataloging, library collection, newsletter editor)
- Jaime Simmons Library Assistant
- Bobby Taylor Library Manager
- Temporary part time/summer Matt Daily, Jimmy Fauss, Eric Aluise
- Volunteers Carolyn Conner, Hayes Strader, Bill Kelley, James Wilburn, and Patricia Richards McClure