

# West Virginia Archives & History NEWS

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WEST VIRGINIA  
DIVISION OF  
CULTURE & HISTORY

## From the Editor:

*Families often communicate and visit with each other more during the holiday season than they do the rest of the year, sharing the ups and downs of the waning year as well as repeating the family stories and traditions of holidays past. This year, make an extra effort to write down some of the stories and to glean as much information as possible from the older family members to fill in gaps in the family tree chart. Make a New Year's resolution that 2008 will be the year you finally write up the family history, including an every-name index and some photographs, and make copies to share with the cousins. Don't forget to send a copy to the West Virginia Archives and History Library!*

## 9th Annual "Hoot Owl" Night in the Archives Set for April

The Mining Your History Foundation (MYHF) will be conducting its 9th annual "Hoot Owl" overnight research in the West Virginia Archives and History Library from 6:00 p.m. on Friday, April 4, through 8:00 a.m. on Saturday, April 5, 2008. Registered researchers will be "locked in" for events planned to include tours of the Closed Stacks and Processing areas of the Archives, as well as advice and assistance from recognized West Virginia genealogy experts. Although food and drink are not allowed anywhere in the Library and Collections areas, light refreshments, coffee and soft drinks are included in the \$25.00 registration fee and will be available in the staff conference room, plus a late night pizza delivery is usually arranged for those who care to contribute toward the cost. Participants are welcome to bring pillows and sleeping bags, but most actually stay awake all night!

Registration with a \$25.00 check or money order must be postmarked by March 28, 2008. Late registration,

if space is available, will be \$35.00. The event is limited to fifty participants and usually fills up quickly. Many attendees look forward to Hoot Owl every year, with friends and family members traveling to Charleston to research together. Photocopy service for books and change for self-service microfilm printers will be available.

"Hoot Owl" night offers both beginning and experienced family historians an opportunity to increase their knowledge and skills by meeting and talking with other West Virginia researchers, many of whom live out-of-state or who live in-state but seldom travel to Charleston. A prize will

be given to the person traveling the farthest. For additional information or registration, contact Joe Geiger, Archives and History, (304) 558-0230, [joe.geiger@wvculture.org](mailto:joe.geiger@wvculture.org), or Wes Cochran, MYHF, (304) 422-1774, [wescochran@juno.com](mailto:wescochran@juno.com).

Note: Being part of the "Hoot Owl" research experience also benefits Archives and History. The proceeds of registration fees for the all-nighter are dedicated to purchase and support the collections of the Archives and History Library.

## Joe Geiger Named Acting Director of Archives and History Section

Commissioner Randall Reid-Smith of the West Virginia Division of Culture and History today announced that he has named Joe Geiger of Huntington as acting director of the agency's Archives and History Section, effective immediately. Geiger will be re-

sponsible for administering the state archives, archives library, historical collections and the database for the Veterans Memorial.

Since 1998, Geiger has worked for Archives and History, serving as

*Continued on page 2*

*Continued from page 1*

historian, Webmaster and assistant director. For the past 10 years, he has also served as an adjunct professor in the history department at Marshall University. Before that, Geiger worked in the finance division for the City of Huntington.

“Joe has been a talented and valued employee in our agency for the last nine years,” said Reid-Smith. “His knowledge and leadership skills will be a great asset to the Division.”

Geiger has published numerous scholarly articles and a book, *Civil War in Cabell County, West Virginia, 1861-1865*. He has a bachelor’s degree in business administration with a major in marketing and a master’s degree in history from Marshall University.

For more information, contact Jacqueline Proctor, deputy com-

missioner for the Division, at (304) 558-0220.

The West Virginia Division of Culture and History, an agency of the West Virginia Department of Education and the Arts, brings together the state’s past, present and future through programs and services in the areas of archives and history, the arts, historic preservation and museums. Its administrative offices are located at the Cultural Center in the State Capitol Complex in Charleston, which also houses the state archives and state museum. The Cultural Center is West Virginia’s official showcase for the arts. The agency also operates a network of museums and historic sites across the state. For more information about the Division’s programs, visit [www.wvculture.org](http://www.wvculture.org). The Division of Culture and History is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer.

*West Virginia Division of Culture and History press release, November 6, 2007.*

## 12th Annual History Day at the Capitol Scheduled for February 21

Local groups with an interest in history or genealogy are invited to participate in the 12th West Virginia History Day on Thursday, February 21, 2008, at the State Capitol Complex in Charleston during the regular session of the West Virginia Legislature. Local historical groups are expected

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to provide displays and reenactments in the Rotunda of the State Capitol. Historians, genealogists, educators, preservationists, veterans, fraternal organizations, librarians, ethnic groups and families with an interest in West Virginia’s history are invited to provide exhibits featuring historical documents, photographs, artifacts and publications. Other attractions will include reenactments of events in the state’s history, music, and storytelling. Applications from groups interested in setting up displays on history-related projects are due by January 28, 2008.

At an awards ceremony in the State Theater of The Cultural Center, “History Hero” awards will be presented to people who have made significant grass-roots contribu-

## History Hero Nominations Due by December 31

History Hero nomination forms must be postmarked by December 31, or hand-delivered to the Archives and History Library in The Cultural Center (Building 9, State Capitol Complex, Charleston) by 1:00 p.m., December 31, 2007. The Archives and History Library is open from 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Friday and Saturday, and is closed on Sunday. The Archives and History Library will be open regular hours from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, December 29. **Please note that all State Government offices and buildings, including the Archives and History Library and The Cultural Center, will be closing at 1:00 p.m. on Monday, December 31.**

**Archives and History News is available on the Archives and History Web site**  
<http://www.wvculture.org/history/ahnews/ahnews.html>

tions to the preservation of local or regional history. State, county, and local historical, genealogical, preservation, museum, patriotic and other similar groups are encouraged to provide nominations for the awards. Authorized by the Legislature, West Virginia History Day commemorates local groups’ efforts to preserve, protect and promote the study of the Mountain State’s past.

Organizers of this year’s efforts are the West Virginia Division of Culture and History, West Virginia Archives and History Commission, West Virginia Historical Society, West

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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.

**“USING A SCANNER FOR FAMILY HISTORY,” ARCHIVES AND HISTORY  
LIBRARY WORKSHOP, December 6:** Pam Gibson, guest speaker,  
Archives Library, The Cultural Center, Charleston.

**JENKINS PLANTATION MUSEUM HOLIDAY PARTY,  
December 15:** Lesage, Green Bottom Wildlife Management Area.

**CHRISTMAS EVE, December 24:** Archives Library will *close at 1:00 p.m.*

**CHRISTMAS DAY, December 25:** Archives Library will be *closed*.

**NEW YEAR’S EVE, December 31:** Archives Library will *close at 1:00 p.m.*

**NEW YEAR’S DAY, January 1, 2008:** Archives Library will be *closed*.

**“EARLY WEST VIRGINIA ART HISTORY,” January 15:** John Cuthbert, speaker,  
The Norman L. Fagan West Virginia State Theater, The Cultural Center, Charleston.

**LIBRARY DAY AT THE LEGISLATURE, January, 16:** The Capitol Complex, Charleston.

**MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY, January 21:** Archives Library will be open.\*

**“ABRAHAM LINCOLN,” February 12:** Kevin Barksdale, speaker,  
The Norman L. Fagan West Virginia State Theater, The Cultural Center, Charleston.

**PRESIDENTS’ DAY, February 18:** Archives Library will be open.\*

**HISTORY DAY AT THE LEGISLATURE, February, 21:** The Capitol Complex, Charleston.

**“CIVIL WAR,” February 25:** Peter Carmichael, speaker,  
The Norman L. Fagan West Virginia State Theater, The Cultural Center, Charleston.

**9TH ANNUAL “HOOT OWL” RESEARCH IN THE ARCHIVES,  
April 4-5:** Sponsored by Mining Your History Foundation,  
West Virginia Archives and History Library, The Capitol Complex, 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.

Virginia Historical Association, Preservation Alliance of West Virginia, West Virginia Humanities Council, West Virginia Association of Museums, Friends of West Virginia Culture and History, and the Mining Your

History Foundation. All West Virginia History Day events are free and open to the public. Anyone interested in the history of West Virginia and West Virginians is urged to attend. History Day is always a popular educational

outing for home-schooled students, as well.

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

West Virginia  
**Archives & History**  
**NEWS**



**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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## Archives and History Staff

Joe Geiger .....	Acting Director (Historian, Web page)
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)
Denise Ferguson.....	County Records Archivist
Allen Fowler .....	Special projects
Elaine Gates .....	Library Assistant (microfilming and microfilm repairs)
Ed Hicks.....	Photo Archivist (archival photography, darkroom)
Mary Johnson.....	Historian
Terry Lowry .....	Library Assistant (Veterans records)
Cathy Miller .....	Library Assistant (WV State documents, periodicals)
Sharon Newhouse .....	Secretary
Harold Newman .....	Library Assistant (microfilming, Revolutionary War)
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 .....	Secretary
Volunteers.....	Carolyn Conner, Bill Kelley, James Wilburn, Sue Shank, Ken Bailey, Maggie Powers, and Carol Vandevender

This newsletter is a publication of : The West Virginia Division of Culture and History  
Randall Reid-Smith, Commissioner