We hope many of you will be able to visit with us on December 7 as we show off some of the most interesting items in the collections of the West Virginia State Archives. We will also be giving attendees an opportunity to review changes in rules and procedures for patrons of the West Virginia Archives and History Library. What better time to introduce changes for the protection and preservation of the Archives collections than while displaying some of the Archives’ most historically significant possessions? We understand and appreciate our roles as caretakers of West Virginia’s treasures, and we hope you will, too.

Archives Showcase December 7

You are cordially invited to attend the West Virginia Archives and History Showcase on December 7 from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. in The Culture Center in Charleston. Activities will take place in both the Archives and History Library and in the Great Hall, where refreshments will be served. In a casual, open house atmosphere intended both to show appreciation for our patrons and to welcome first-time visitors, the staff will present unique items from the Archives collections, including photographs, rare books and manuscripts, newspapers, Civil War documents and West Virginia Civil War medals. Many of the items are rarely made available to the general public. Staff will conduct behind-the-scenes tours and will discuss Veterans Memorial biographies, conservation techniques and genealogy tools. You may enjoy little before seen video clips and listen to musical selections from the audio/visual archives.

Visitors will be able to enjoy the results of the recent renovations and updates to the West Virginia Archives and History Library Reading Room, and may use the newly installed free lockers to store personal items while partaking in the discussions or a tour. While some of the treasures that belong to the people of West Virginia are on display, you can learn more about how we strive to protect them. New and updated rules for use of the Archives Library and its collections will be reviewed.

“A Glimpse at Some Lesser-Known Prominent West Virginians” on December 1

By Mary E. Johnson

Dr. Kenneth R. Bailey, historian, will present a program on lesser-known West Virginians on December 1 from 6:00 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. at the Archives and History Library in the Culture Center. He will discuss ten to fifteen West Virginians whose lives were unique in the history of the state but who are not known to most West Virginians and who do not appear in most written histories.

“Over the years, I have been struck by how many folks had an influence on West Virginia’s history simply in living and working in the state,” according to Bailey. “Each person has a story, admittedly some are more spectacular than others, but each has an impact. Investigating lesser known people of the past can make us realize how important our own actions can be.”

Among the West Virginians who will be included in Bailey’s presentation are William F. Dusenberry, James H. Ferguson, Albert E. Humphreys, Naomi Hosterman, and Thomas G. Nutter. Dusenberry and Humphreys were businessmen, and Hosterman was an artist. Both lawyers and politicians, the Democratic Ferguson’s life spanned most of the 19th century, while Nutter came of age during the African American civil rights struggles of the early 20th century.

Kenneth Bailey is the retired people of West Virginia are on display, you can learn more about how we strive to protect them. New and updated rules for use of the Archives Library and its collections will be reviewed.

Continued on the next page
History Day and History Hero Deadlines

History Day at the West Virginia Legislature is scheduled for February 18, 2010 at the State Capitol Complex in Charleston. On that day an awards ceremony will be held in the Norman L. Fagan West Virginia State Theater to honor the latest History Hero award recipients. Registration forms for History Day tables in the Capitol and nomination forms for 2010 History Heroes were mailed in early November to historical or genealogical societies, preservation and landmark commissions, and patriotic or other similar groups already on our list. If your history-related group is already receiving our monthly newsletter, West Virginia Archives and History News, by mail, then you are included on our mailing list. If your group would like to be added to the list, or if a current group on the list has not received a registration packet, call Archives and History at (304) 558-0230.

History Hero nominations must be postmarked by December 31, or hand-delivered to the Archives and History Library at The Culture Center by the Library’s holiday noon closing time on that day. History Day table space registrations are due by January 28, 2010. Table space in the Capitol is limited and History Day is one of the most popular Legislative days for both participants and attendees, so our staff may not be able to accommodate late applicants, particularly if the Legislature itself decides to give space to another activity that day, as was done last year unbeknownst to our staff until everyone began arriving for setup. For more information about History Day, or to request nomination or display space reservation forms, contact Archives and History at (304) 558-0230.

Permission to reprint articles from West Virginia Archives and History News is granted, provided:
(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.

Book Review: The Poor Farm of Pendleton County, West Virginia

The Poor Farm of Pendleton County, West Virginia: A History, by William D. Rexroad, published by Dolphin Publications, 2009, is a great example of how a persistent researcher can pursue a subject for which, on the surface, there is very little information, then organize his findings and produce an interesting, well-documented history. In addition to the few records existing for the poor farm itself, Rexroad went through almost 100 years of Pendleton County Court Orders, as well as gleaning bits of relevant information from Chancery Court orders, bonds, personal property tax records, deeds and available newspapers. In addition, he studied laws dealing with the poor, giving a background and framework on which to hang fragments of data to produce a more understandable whole. Rexroad also collected old photographs of residents of the poor farm, their caretakers and the buildings, and

Continued on the next page
photographed himself the buildings and cemetery as they are today. Perhaps most valuable are the oral histories he collected from those who actually lived and worked on or near the Pendleton County poor farms. The names he collected of both the recipients and providers of services to the poor are of value to genealogists, and for some paupers may be the only record of death, and for some children the only record of guardianship or adoption. Rexroad is to be commended for an excellent book on a very difficult topic. We hope local historians and genealogists in other counties will follow his example. The book is available from William D. Rexroad, 300 Crescent Blvd., Hutchinson, KS 67502, rexroad3@cox.net, (620) 663-9749.

**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)

**William and Mary Quarterly Special Issue on Slave Trade**

According to an e-mail received from the publishers of *The William and Mary Quarterly*, the October 2009 (Third Series, Volume LXVI, No. 4) issue is a special one, “Abolishing the Slave Trades: Ironies and Reverberations.” Twice the size of a usual issue, with color illustrations for only the second time in the journal’s history, the topic of the Atlantic slave trade expands outside the Quarterly’s usual focus on North America to encompass the history and effects of the slave trade within Africa itself. Rising out of a 2007 conference at The Historical Society of Ghana and the University of Cape

**New Titles**

*Thots of a Mountain Preacher*: George Cochran, 1983.

*In the Heart of the Hills*: Dwight Harshbarger, 2005.*

*West Virginia Merchant Tokens*: David Schenkman, 2009.*

*Peter Ruffner and His Descendants: Volume IV: The Descendants of Peter the Pioneer’s Eighth Child [Emanuel]*: Barbara Rowles, Ruffner Family Association, 2009.*


*Black Residents of Greenbrier, Monroe, Pocahontas & Summers Counties*: Carol Haynes, 2009.*

• Part 2, [B] Section 1
• Part 2, [B] Section 2
• Part 3, [C] Section 1
• Part 3, [C] Section 2
• Part 5 [F]

*The Poor Farm of Pendleton County, West Virginia*: William D. Rexroad, 2009.*


*Our McCutcheon Family*: Larry McCutcheon, 2009.*

*“School Ain’t No Way”*: Ron Iannone, 1972.


*Gifts of Mining Your History Foundation*


*Kentucky Soldiers and Their Regiments in the Civil War: 1863*: Steven L. Wright, 2009.

*Kentucky Soldiers and Their Regiments in the Civil War: 1864*: Steven L. Wright, 2009.


*Fort Ligonier and Its Times*: C. Hale Sipe, 2000, c1932.

*Biographical Index to the County Histories of Iowa*: Charles Morford, 1979.

*Continued on the next page*
Donations from the Collection of Dr. Paul Casdorph

Battle on the Bay: Edward T. Cotham, Jr.
To the North Anna River: Grant and Lee: Gordon C. Rhea, 2000.
Colossal Hamilton of Texas: John L. Waller, 1968.

## Evening Workshops and Lecture Schedule

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<td>Tuesday</td>
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<td>January 5</td>
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<td>February 2</td>
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<td>April 6</td>
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<td>May 4</td>
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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 7:30 p.m. in the West Virginia Archives and History Library, The Culture Center, Charleston, West Virginia.

Coast (Accra and Elmina, Ghana) organized by The Omohundro Institute of Early American History and Culture, editors Christopher Grasso and Scott E. Casper have united a group of articles that introduce the perspective of Africa, rather than the United States or Great Britain, as the focus.

West Virginia and Civil War historians will find one article of particular interest for its insight into the role slavery played in the economic and cultural divide of western Virginia from the mother state, as well as slavery’s role in Virginia’s secession from the Union: An “Abominable” New Trade: The Closing of the African Slave Trade and the Changing Patterns of U.S. Political Power, 1808–60, by Steven Deyle. The article is described thus by the editors: “This article investigates how the closing of the African slave trade into the United States led to the development of a new middle passage within the American South. Virginia slave owners used their extensive political power in the early Republic to promote this new domestic slave trade, which quickly transformed southern society, making human chattel the most valuable form of property in the South. But this wealth came with a price. The slave trade tied Virginians slaveholders’ fortunes to the new southwestern empire for slavery. As enslaved Virginians poured into the Southwest via this trade, southern political power followed in their wake. When Abraham Lincoln’s 1860 election threatened the security of the South’s largest capital asset, politicians from the Deep South, not Virginians, took the lead in responding to this crisis with secession. This new American slave trade brought great wealth to the nation. Yet it also made slavery too valuable for southerners to give up and played a major role in leading the nation into a bloody civil war.”

[Editor’s Note: Thank you to Cathy Miller for forwarding the Quarterly’s e-mail announcement and suggesting we include a mention here.]
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.


CHRISTMAS EVE, December 24: Archives Library will be closing at noon.

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

DAY AFTER CHRISTMAS, December 26: Archives Library will be open*.

NEW YEAR’S EVE, December 31: Archives Library will be closing at noon.

NEW YEAR’S DAY, January 1, 2010: Archives Library will be closed.

DAY AFTER NEW YEAR’S, January 2: Archives Library will be open*.

“BLACK HISTORY OF JEFFERSON COUNTY,” February 8: Jim Taylor, speaker, Shepherdstown Men’s Club and Jefferson County Historical Society, Shepherdstown. For more information, visit http://jeffersonhistoricalwv.org/events.html or call (304) 724-7008.


HISTORY DAY AT THE LEGISLATURE, February 18: The West Virginia State Capitol and The Culture Center, Charleston.

KANAWHA VALLEY HERITAGE FAIR, March 6: Kanawha Valley History Center, Rand Community Center, Rand. For more information contact Linda Hoskins, (304) 925-2438, kvhc06@yahoo.com, or visit http://kvhc.tripod.com.

“THE WASHINGTON FAMILY IN JEFFERSON COUNTY,” March 8: Walter Washington and Betsy Wells, speakers, Shepherdstown Men’s Club and Jefferson County Historical Society, Shepherdstown. For more information, visit http://jeffersonhistoricalwv.org/events.html or call (304) 724-7008.

11TH ANNUAL HOOT OWL NIGHT AT THE ARCHIVES, March 26: Mining Your History Foundation and West Virginia Archives and History, Archives and History Library, The Culture Center, Charleston. For more information, call (304) 558-0230.

“THE MINE WARS’ IMPACTS ON JEFFERSON COUNTY,” April 12: Doug Estep, speaker, Shepherdstown Men’s Club and Jefferson County Historical Society, Shepherdstown. For more information, visit http://jeffersonhistoricalwv.org/events.html or call (304) 724-7008.

*Only the Archives Library will be staffed—all other Archives offices will be closed.

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