

West Virginia Archives & History NEWS

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WEST VIRGINIA
DIVISION OF
CULTURE & HISTORY

From the Editor:

Our First Tuesday presentations in the Archives and History Library have drawn outstanding speakers, some of whom do not speak in public very often. We offer a wide variety of history and genealogy related topics in different formats, ranging from hands-on workshops to lectures. If you do not live within driving distance of Charleston, I hope you are able to make an overnight visit to the capital to attend the First Tuesday of your choice. Plan to include some research time in the Archives and History Library, a visit to the State Museum, and tours of the Capitol and Governor's Mansion. If you live in the area and haven't attended yet, don't miss out on the upcoming months' exciting and informative First Tuesdays.

“Digging into the Draper Collection” Topic of December 7 First Tuesday

Jaime Simmons, Archives and History research specialist, will speak about “Digging into the Draper Collection: Researching the Settlement of Western Virginia” at the monthly First Tuesday evening lecture in the Archives and History Library on December 7, 2010 at 6:00 p.m. Simmons will provide information on the contents of the Draper Collection, focusing on the process of researching in the collection, and how to use indices and press-marks to access the collection. She will also discuss how to use material found in the collection to locate additional information.

The Lyman C. Draper Manuscript Collection documents the period roughly between 1755 and 1815 and concentrates on the Trans-Allegheny West, including the Ohio River Valley and western Virginia. Draper, whose life spanned much of the 19th century, began gathering reminiscences and information during the 1840s, when people who had lived through the Revolutionary

War and the settlement period in western Virginia were still living. Housed at the Wisconsin Historical Society, the Draper Collection is available on microfilm at the West Virginia Archives and History Library.

All Archives and History workshop and lecture sessions are free and the public is invited to attend. On December 7, the library will close at 5 p.m. and reopen at 5:45 p.m. for participants only. Advance registration for the workshop is not required, but is encouraged to help plan seating arrangements and

supplies for the session. To register in advance for this event or any Archives and History event covered in this newsletter, contact Robert Taylor, library manager, by e-mail at bobby.l.taylor@wv.gov or at (304) 558-0230, ext. 163. Participants interested in registering by e-mail should send their name, telephone number and the name and date of the session. For additional information, contact the Archives and History Library at (304) 558-0230.

This article is based upon information on the Archives and History Web site.

2nd Annual Archives Showcase on December 6

The second annual West Virginia Archives and History Showcase on Monday, December 6, is entitled “A Gathering Storm.” The Showcase will feature books, images, documents and other items from the Archives collections that fit the theme of the impending rebellion and early Civil

War era of 150 years ago from which the motivation for creation of the state of West Virginia fulminated. In addition, popular gems from the collections shown last year that are outside this year's theme will be displayed again. Photos of last year's

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initial showcase may be viewed on our Web site at <http://www.wvculture.org/history/workshops/showcase2009.html>.

Please plan to join us at the Culture Center in Charleston on December 6, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. for a very special evening that will begin with presentations in the Great Hall, followed by exhibits in the Archives and History Library, a limited number of Archives "behind the scenes" tours, and a return to the Great Hall for refreshments. All Archives and History events are free and the public is invited to attend. On December 6, the library will close at 5 p.m. and reopen at 7:00 p.m. for the Showcase only. Advance registration is not required, but is encouraged to help plan seating arrangements and refreshments for the session. To register in advance, contact Robert Taylor, library manager, by e-mail at bobby.l.taylor@wv.gov or at (304) 558-0230, ext. 163. Participants interested in registering by e-mail should send their name, telephone number and the name and date of the event. For additional information, contact the Archives and History Library at (304) 558-0230.

Veterans Burial Records Discussed

Greg Carroll, Archives and History historian, spoke to the Thursday Evening Genealogy Club about U.S. military veterans' burial information recorded by the WPA in the 1930's-early 1940's, available to patrons of the Archives and History Library on microfilm. The Archives also holds the original WPA typed paper documents, hand drawn maps and card files for preservation. For more photos of the evening visit

Author Garland S. Tucker III Speaker for Joint MYHF/WVHS Annual Meeting Program

After conducting separate business meetings on December 4, the West Virginia Historical Society and the Mining Your History Foundation will join as one audience for their joint featured speaker, Garland S. Tucker III, author of *The High Tide of American Conservatism: Davis, Coolidge, and the 1924 Election*. The focus of the recently

published book is West Virginian John W. Davis, U.S. Congressman from 1911 to 1913, holder of several national positions, and the Democratic presidential candidate in 1924. For more information, visit <http://www.wvculture.org/news.aspx?Agency=Archives&Id=1550> or call Archives and History, (304) 558-0230.

Thursday Evening Genealogy Club Features KYOWVA December 9

Debbie Campbell, KYOWVA Genealogical and Historical Society president, will discuss her organization at the Thursday Evening Genealogy Club on December 9 in the Archives and History Library. KYOWVA maintains a library in Huntington, and Campbell will discuss what the society has

to offer that is unique, and how people have had successes in using their resources. Her focus will be Cabell and Wayne counties and the surrounding areas. She will also talk about using courthouse records. The club meeting will be held from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m., and is free and open to the public.



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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.

<http://www.wvculture.org/history/workshops/2010novembergenclub.html>.



History Hero Nomination Time

History Hero nomination forms and information, as well as registration forms for History Day on February 24, 2011, were mailed the last week of October. If your organization did not receive the mailing, contact Mary Johnson, Archives and History historian, (304) 558-0230, ext. 133, mary.e.johnson2@wv.gov. Information about History Day display space registration and

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History Hero nomination, plus links to forms are available on the Archives and History Web site at <http://www.wvculture.org/history/historyday/historyday2011announcement.html>. History Hero nominations must be postmarked no later than December 31, 2010, or hand-delivered no later than 5:00 p.m. on December 30 (All offices and facilities in the Culture Center will be closed on December 31). History Day registration forms must be postmarked or hand-delivered by February 3. If you will need electricity and/or WiFi, get your request in as early as possible, since the number of spaces with those services is very limited. This year we ask everyone to do their best to develop displays that do not require electrical service. If you are using a laptop, consider having a second laptop or battery available to switch

out for the first one if it depletes its battery, rather than relying on availability of an outlet. If you have any questions, contact Mary Johnson. We look forward to seeing your displays in the Capitol in February.

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

Web Sites of Interest

- Online tutorial for researching Revolutionary War patriots, Finding a Patriot: <http://www.learnwebskills.com/patriot/findingapatriot.htm#sou>.
- Linked from the tutorial above is Sources of Revolutionary War

Service, a list of links to online resources (mostly digital images of books): <http://www.learnwebskills.com/patriot/revservice.htm>.

- Index to Early Bible Records, an ongoing project providing a free index to online and offline pre-1830 Bible records: <http://www.learnwebskills.com/patriot/biblerecords.htm>.
- National Archives September 1, 2010, press release, "Alien Files Find New Home at National Archives," giving information on case files of alien residents of the United States born 1909 and prior. Files may be viewed in person at the Kansas City branch by appointment, or copies of files may be ordered for a fee.: <http://www.archives.gov/press/press-releases/2010/nr10-137b.html>.
- "Names of Old Time Illnesses," compiled by Daniel H. Burrows: <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~scgreenv/records/illness.pdf>.

Evening Workshops and Lecture Schedule

Date	Conducted by:	Subject
December 7 Tuesday	Jaime Simmons	<i>Digging into the Draper Collection: Researching the Settlement of Western Virginia</i>
January 5 Tuesday	Dr. Bob Maslowski	<i>A Primer on West Virginia Archaeology</i>
February 1 Tuesday	Dr. Lois Lucas	<i>The African American Experience in West Virginia</i>
March 1 Tuesday	Dr. Michael Workman	<i>The Forgotten Battles of the Mine Wars: The Fairmont Field</i>
April 5 Tuesday	Lloyd Lewis	<i>An Introduction to the Railroad History of West Virginia</i>
May 3 Tuesday	Bobby Taylor	<i>West Virginia's Heritage Music</i>
June 7 Tuesday	Dick Fauss	<i>Archives and History Movie Night: Footage from the Collection</i>

Registration for these free workshops is helpful but not required.
 Call our office at (304) 558-0230, or e-mail bobby.l.taylor@wv.gov.

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.

Virginia Legislative Petitions for West Virginia Counties

In conjunction with the Mining Your History Foundation, the West Virginia Archives and History Library has acquired Virginia Legislative Petitions on microfilm from the Library of Virginia for the counties which formed West Virginia in 1863, as well as those for the Virginia "parent" counties of Augusta, Giles, Montgomery and Tazewell. Beginning in 1774, Virginia citizens petitioned the legislature for private, public and political concerns that could not be addressed by or were not properly tended by local authorities. The petitioner did not have to be a voter—women, slaves and free blacks could not vote, but they could petition. Since few people could attend legislative sessions in Richmond and since transportation

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and communication were both slow and difficult, legislators made themselves available, usually at their county courthouses, to hear from constituents before proceeding to the General Assembly. People could present their concerns orally to individual legislators, or in the form of written petitions addressed to the whole General Assembly.

Petition research is not for the beginning family history researcher, but is an additional resource for the researcher who has looked at everything else available. Petitions are the only place divorce records will be found for this time period, since divorce was only obtainable then by petitioning the legislature. One may find a petition relevant to a specific family line, or may flesh out an understanding of an ancestor's geographic area and of the practical and political circumstances of the time and place a family lived in. Former slaves or free blacks sought permission to remain in the commonwealth to stay near enslaved spouses and children (free blacks were only allowed to stay in Virginia for a limited amount of time). Searching the petitions effectively for genealogical information takes patience and a certain amount of fore-knowledge of where people should be and what they may have been doing so that the researcher knows what to watch for when browsing through the petitions. All petitions from the county in which an ancestor lived

are potential sources of information and should be browsed. For instance, a petition for a new road or road improvements may give reasons for the request, such as needing access to a mill and naming the mill's owner. In addition to the information found in petitions, the records themselves are originals, not transcriptions; therefore, the signatures are those of the actual petitioners, not written by clerks.

Petition research has great potential for historians as well. Local historians may discover when and why a road was built or diverted, identify types of local businesses and names of owners, find names of professionals such as doctors and lawyers, explore disputes over county borders and naming of county seats, and much more. Even a petition for a change or waiver of a

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Lowry's Military History Presentation a Hit

Terry Lowry, Archives and History historian and well-known military researcher and writer, informed an audience of 46 regarding military history research as the First Tuesday presentation on November 9, 2010 (the second Tuesday for this month only due to Election Day on November 2). He displayed items and documents from the Archives collection and from his personal collection. To view more photos from the evening, visit the



Archives and History Web site at <http://www.wvculture.org/history/workshops/wkshp110910.html>.

Donations of Mining Your History Foundation

- Pittsburgh Gazette Abstracts, Volumes 1-5, 1786-1820:** Clara E. Duer.
- Action at the Galudoghson, December 14, 1742:** Lyman Copeland and Jared C. Labdell.
- Indian Warfare in Western Pennsylvania and North West Virginia at the Time of the American Revolution:** Lyman Copeland and Jared C. Labdell.
- Recollections of Lewis Bonnett Jr. (1778-1850):** Jared C. Lobell.
- Virginia/West Virginia Genealogical Data from Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty Land Warrant Records, Volumes 1, 3 and 4:** Patrick G. Wardell.
- Virginia Soldiers of 1776, Volumes 1-3:** Louis A. Burgess.
- Virginia Land Records: From the Virginia Magazine of History and Biography, the William and Mary College Quarterly, and Tyler's Quarterly, Volumes 1-2:** Gary Parks.
- African-American Residents of Pocahontas Co., WV:** William O. Lindsay.
- Barbour Co., WV Cemetery Headstone Readings, Volume 2:** Allegheny Regional Family History Society (ARFHS).
- Allegheny Regional Family History Society Ancestor Charts, Volume 1:** ARFHS
- Randolph Co., WV Cemetery Headstone Readings, V. 1-4:** ARFHS

Genealogy Club

**Archives and History
Library**

**Every Tuesday Morning
10:00-11:00 a.m.**

**Once-a-Month Second
Thursday, 6:00-7:30 p.m.**

tax can provide a window into the circumstances that prompted the request.

A description of these records can be found in The Library of Virginia's Legislative Petitions, Research Notes Number 18, posted at http://www.lva.lib.va.us/whatwehave/gov/rn18_legspet.htm. The West Virginia Archives and History Library has

the most relevant of the additional sources mentioned in the Research Notes bibliography, including "Popular Influence Upon Public Policy: Petitioning in Eighteenth-Century Virginia," by Raymond C. Bailey, and all five periodical articles cited. Three Web sites with searchable databases for locating Virginia petitions are identified:

- <http://www.lva.virginia.gov/public/guides/petitions/>: Calendar of Legislative Petitions submitted to the Virginia General Assembly from 1776–1865. Information includes the name of the petitioner and town/county; date presented and description of petition; and reel, box and folder numbers. Each petition has been assigned one or more topics that allow subject index searches.

- <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/collections/petitions>: In the Religion section of the Library of Congress's American Memory Web pages, 423 early religious petitions to the Virginia General Assembly from 1774–1802 can be searched.

- http://library.uncg.edu/slavery_petitions/: The University of North Carolina at Greensboro maintains a searchable database of petitions regarding slavery from Virginia and half a dozen other southern states. (Of course, the Archives Library will only have the petitions for the Virginia counties listed previously.)

Petitions are not indexed by the name of the petitioner, as a rule, but by the "nature of the petitions." The names of individuals are sometimes listed in the "Description" section of the index entries, but not always. Researchers need to focus on the geographic area and time period, then look through petitions of that era to see if their people or topics are mentioned.

Reasons petitions may have been written:

- To establish and incorporate towns
- To advocate formation of a new county, to protest against formation of a new county, and to request boundary changes between counties
- To operate a ferry, build a road, establish a bank, build a mill, dig a canal, build a bridge, and to collect fees or tolls

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New Titles

Old Dominion, New Commonwealth: A History of Virginia, 1607–2007: Ronald L. Heineman, 2007.

The Campaigns for Fort Donelson: Eastern National Park & Monument Assn., 1992.

Life and Song: Poems: Anna R. Henderson, 1900.

I Lift My Eyes to the Hills: The History of the Wyer Family, 1750–2009: The History of the Parrish Family, 1760–2009: Barbara Joyce Wyer Snyder, 2009.

Wayne County, West Virginia Cemeteries: (7 volumes) Westmoreland Chapter NSDAR, 1989.

Lilly Reunion: Official Program: (For years 1978 through 2001, and 2003), Lilly Reunion Association.

Mistress of Roseburn: Roderick Eskey, 1982.

A History of the Quarrier, Laidley, Bickers, Eskew and Allied Families: Roderick Eskew, 1971.

Removing Mountains: Rebecca Scott, 2010.

The Southern West Virginia Forest Fire Protective Association: History, Accomplishments, Aims: The Assn., [1924?].

Researchers Guide to the Alf Smith Cemetery, Tyler County, WV: Kathie Glendenning Reed, 2008.

Washington County (Ohio) Cemeteries, 1789-1940: Helen Hill Sloan, 1964.

A Pictorial History of Cabin Creek: Dale Payne, 2008.

A Pictorial History of Cabin Creek, Volume II: Dale Payne, 2009.

Frontier Memories II: Rev. John Dabney Shane Interviews as taken from the Draper Manuscripts: Also included 18th century notes of historical interest: Dale Payne, 2007.

Frontier Memories III: Rev. John Dabney Shane Interviews as taken from the Draper Manuscripts; Including a New and Revised Edition of Frontier Memories (2002)[Volume 1]: Dale Payne, 2008.

Pittsylvania County, Virginia Register of Free Negroes and Related Documentation: Alva H. Griffith, 2007.

German Immigrants: Lists of Passengers Bound from Bremen to New York, 1863–1867: Gary J. Zimmerman and Marion Wolfert, 2006, c1988.

German Immigrants: Lists of Passengers Bound from Bremen to New York, 1868–1871: Gary J. Zimmerman and Marion Wolfert, 2006, c1993.

Accounts Current Book 4: Pittsylvania County Virginia: 1805–1812: Gayle Austin, 2006.

Check List of Historical Records Survey Publications: Bibliography of Research Projects Reports: Sargent B. Child and Dorothy P. Holmes, c1943.

Chessie's Road: 2nd Rev. Ed., Charles W. Turner, 1997, c1986.

- To charter or incorporate businesses and organizations
- To request permission for a free black person to remain in a Virginia county
- To request pardons or release from fines, judgements, etc.
- To obtain a divorce
- To request private relief or compensation
- Regarding war claims and pensions (wives, widows and children often named)
- Regarding wills and administrations (relatives named and relationships defined)
- To request name changes of businesses, towns and individuals (individuals requested name changes due to adoption, heirship requirements, resumption of maiden name, acknowledgment of illegitimate children, or a change in surname for unspecified reasons)
- To request action on any matter that could not be handled by local magistrates or other officials

Join Our E-Mail List

The scheduling of Archives and History events does not always beat the deadline for timely publication in Archives and History News. Other times, maybe you just forget about a genealogy club meeting speaker you are interested in hearing and need a reminder. To be sure you don't miss out on anything, join our e-mail list to receive notices of Archives and History lectures and workshops, genealogy club meetings and speakers, and the monthly posting of West Virginia Archives and History online. On our homepage at <http://www.wvculture.org/history>, scroll down to "Click here if you would like to join our mailing list." Just click to go to the next page, enter your e-mail address in the designated box, then click "Join."

Kanawha Valley History Center Seeks Vendors and Displays for March Genealogy Fair

The Kanawha Valley History Center will be hosting its third annual genealogy fair on March 5, 2011, from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Rand Community Center, 5701 Church Drive, Rand, West Virginia. Vendors and societies with goods and/or displays relating to genealogy and history are welcome. Table space is \$5.00, with a limit of two spaces

per vendor. Food will be available at the Rand Community Center hot dog sale. The Center would especially like to hear from anyone who can advise on African-American genealogy and Civil War research. For more information or to register for vendor space, contact Linda Hoskins, (304) 925-2438, kvhc06@yahoo.com.

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.

A HISTORY OF THE NATIONAL GUARD IN WEST VIRGINIA EXHIBIT, through February 13, 2011:
 The Culture Center, Charleston.

CHERISHED PLAYTHINGS OF THE PAST EXHIBIT, through January 9, 2011: The Culture Center, Charleston.
 Antique toys from the West Virginia area.

CHRISTMAS EVE, December 24: Archives Library will be *closed*.

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

DEADLINE FOR HISTORY HERO NOMINATIONS, December 31: Postmark date, or hand-delivered to Archives and History, The Culture Center, Charleston, by December 30.

NEW YEAR'S EVE, December 31: Archives Library will be *closed*.

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

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR DAY, January 17:
 Archives Library will be *closed*.

INSPIRED: HISTORIC GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES ART EXHIBIT, January 24–July 24:
 The Culture Center, Charleston.

THE GREENBRIER: WEST VIRGINIA'S GIFT TO THE WORLD DISPLAY, January 27–April 24: Balcony Gallery,
 The Culture Center, Charleston.

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.

DEADLINE FOR HISTORY DAY DISPLAY SPACE REGISTRATION, February 3:
Hand-delivered to Archives and History, The Culture Center, Charleston, or postmark date.

WEST VIRGINIA ARCHIVES AND HISTORY COMMISSION MEETING,
February 4: White Sulphur Springs.

“THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD,” February 19: Sheila Coleman-Castells and Dr. Connie Rice, West Virginia Independence Hall, Wheeling. For more information, visit <http://www.wvculture.org/events.aspx?VenueId=5>, call (304) 238-1300, or e-mail Travis.L.Henline@wv.gov.

“A DOUBLE STRIKE FOR FREEDOM: BLACK SOLDIERS IN THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION,” February 19: Dr. M. Lois Lucas, lecturer, Daniel Boone Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution, West Virginia Archives and History Library, The Culture Center, Charleston.
Chapter meeting with speaker, open to the public, 2:00 p.m.
The library will be open for researchers as usual during the meeting/lecture.

PRESIDENTS’ DAY, February 21: Archives Library will be *closed*.

HISTORY DAY AT THE LEGISLATURE, February 24:
The West Virginia State Capitol and The Culture Center, Charleston.

GENEALOGY FAIR, March 5: Kanawha Valley History Center, Rand Community Center, Rand. For more information or to register for vendor space, contact Linda Hoskins, (304) 925-2438, kvhc06@yahoo.com.

“VIRGINIA SECEDES!—THE BEGINNING OF WEST VIRGINIA STATEHOOD,
April 16: 150th Anniversary Program, West Virginia Independence Hall, Wheeling.

For more information about Division of Culture and History events and exhibits in the Culture Center that are not sponsored by Archives and History, visit <http://www.wvculture.org> or call (304) 558-0220.

**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.

Historic Preservation Development Grants Available

Applications are now being accepted for a second round of historic preservation development grants through the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) of the West Virginia Division of Culture and History. Approximately \$200,000 will be available for grant awards, contingent upon appropriation of funds from the West Virginia Legislature or the United States Congress. Eligible

projects include the restoration, rehabilitation or archaeological development of historic sites listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Properties owned by church organizations or used exclusively for religious purposes are not eligible for funding. Privately owned properties are eligible only in instances where there is evidence of public support or public benefit. In addition,

governmental properties that are not accessible to the public are not eligible.

For more information about the historic preservation development grants or a complete program description, including funding priorities and selection criteria, visit the Division’s web site at www.wvculture.org/shpo/forms.html, or contact Pamela Brooks, grants coordinator, at (304) 558-0230, ext. 720. Deadline for receipt of applications is December 1, 2010.

West Virginia Division of Culture and History
The Cultural Center
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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.

Contact *West Virginia Archives and History News* Editor
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or by e-mail: susan.scouras@wvculture.org.

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Kyle CampbellCultural Program Specialist (county records preservation project)
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This newsletter is a publication of : The West Virginia Division of Culture and History
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