

ON THIS DAY IN WEST VIRGINIA HISTORY MARCH 11



On March 11, 1916, businessman and former U.S. Senator from West Virginia Henry Gassaway Davis died in Washington.

CSO: SS.8.4, SS.8.24, ELA.8.1

Investigate the Document: (Howard Sutherland Papers, Ms83-2)

Document 1

1. What position was J.C. Deck writing to Senator Sutherland requesting his assistance in securing?
2. Based on the date on which the letter was written, does it seem appropriate that Deck mentioned to Sutherland that he was not subject to the draft? Why or why not?

Document 2

3. Use context clues to answer: the letter offers congratulations to Sutherland on his 1912 election victory; it states that he was elected to the "highest national office from this state except that of the United States Senator" but later says he was, indeed, elected to Congress. What office was Sutherland elected to? Explain how the legislative branch of government is structured at the state and national levels.

Document 3

4. Why is Sutherland writing to the Adjutant General about discharging Kenneth Dick?
5. What had happened to Kenneth during his time in service?
6. Do you think it was fairly common for someone to not have their birth recorded at the county seat during the early-twentieth-century? If so, why?

Think Critically: Do these documents allow for a greater understanding of who Henry Gassaway Davis was as a person? How would you describe/explain his duties to someone who was unfamiliar with the American government? What is the value or importance of the documents?

Grafton, W. Va. Jan 2^d 1918

Hon Howard Sutherland
U. S. Senator

Washington D.C.

Dear Sir I have an application on file with the Civil Service Commission for a position as accountant, having passed the examination with an average percentage of 79.10

Have had fourteen years experience as office manager and accountant for Arnou & Co. am not subject to draft

If you can assist me in any way by recommendation or otherwise I assure you it would be highly appreciated. Should you desire reference as to character, etc would refer you to any bank official or County officer in Grafton.

yours truly

J. B. Beck
342 Walnut St Grafton W. Va.

STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA
TWENTIETH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
COUNTIES OF GREENBRIER AND POCAHONTAS
LEWISBURG

CHARLES S. DICE
JUDGE

November
Twenty-sixth,
1912.

Honorable Howard Sutherland,
Elkins, West Virginia.

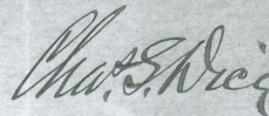
Dear Howard:-

Please accept my sincere thanks for your congratulations, which would have been acknowledged sooner but for my absence from home, immediately followed by a very busy term of Court which is just now drawing to a close.

I assure you I can and do, though tardily, congratulate you most heartily upon your election to the highest national office from this State except that of United States Senator, and I wish for you a successful and brilliant career in the National Congress.

With most cordial regards, I am

Yours very truly,



CSD-L

August 22, 1917.

Brig. Gen. H. P. McCain,
The Adjutant General,
War Department,
Washington, D. C.

My dear General McCain:-

I beg to inclose papers relating to the case of Kenneth Dick, now a member of Company B, 1st Regt. West Virginia National Guards, who enlisted during the present year under persuasion of the enlisting officers, although Thomas E. Dick, father of Kenneth Dick, told the Captain of said Company that his son, Kenneth Dick, was barely sixteen years of age. It appears from these affidavits that Kenneth Dick was sixteen years of age on January 14, 1917.

The fact that this boy is of tender age and unfit for military service is shown by the fact that, while he was a big boy for his years at the date of his enlistment and weighed 155 pounds, he now only weighs 103 pounds and has been sick the greater part of the time since he entered the service.

It appears to be impossible to furnish a copy of the birth certificate of Kenneth Dick as no record was made of the birth at the county seat, the father of the boy stating that no physician attended his wife at confinement. There is attached, however, a copy of the birth certificate of Walter Dick, an older brother of Kenneth Dick, the difference in their ages being two years and three months.

The papers I am inclosing bearing upon this case are as follows:

- 1 Affidavit of Minerva Alice Erle, sister of Thomas E. Dick and Aunt of the boy, Kenneth Dick.
- 2 Affidavit of J. E. Hayes, of Kingwood, W. Va.
- 3 Certified copy of marriage certificate of Thomas E. Dick and Minnie Moon, mother of Kenneth Dick.

Brig. Gen. H. P. McCain -2-

- 4 Affidavit of Mrs. Minnie A. Dick, wife of Thomas E. Dick and mother of Kenneth Dick.
- 5 Affidavit of Mrs. Mary A. Moon, grandmother of Kenneth Dick.
- 6 Affidavit of Ella E. Tasker.

I trust it may be possible without unusual delay to have this boy discharged from the service, as it is apparent that he is under military age, and that the consent of his parents to his enlistment was entirely lacking.

It is furthermore stated that his parents are in absolute need of his services, as his father is to my personal knowledge so crippled in one of his arms and one of his legs that he is unfit for manual labor of any kind, having had a compound fracture of one arm and one leg, leaving both members badly crippled.

Very truly yours,

*1.
Incs.

*Thomas E. Dick
Grandmother*