

ON THIS DAY IN WEST VIRGINIA HISTORY DECEMBER 8



Performers at telethon to benefit 1985 flood victims. Photo by Michael Keller.

A telethon to benefit West Virginia flood victims was held at the Cultural Center in Charleston on December 8, 1985.

CSO: SS.8.14, SS.8.17, ELA.8.1

Investigate the Document: (Mike Greer Collection, Ms2009-133)

1. Use the map and your knowledge of West Virginia geography to determine whether the following communities were in either a (disaster/federal aid county, a disaster county, or not affected.)
 - Fairmont _____
 - Philippi _____
 - Sissonville _____
 - Buckhannon _____
 - Ansted _____
 - Kingwood _____
2. Use the “West Virginia Most Severely Hit Flood Counties” document and your knowledge of West Virginia geography to answer the following:
 - What is the county seat of Mineral County?
 - Was Moorefield among the communities most severely hit? In what geographic region is Moorefield located? Can you identify two additional counties listed on the document that lie in the same geographic as Moorefield?
 - Which of the counties that was considered ‘most severely hit’ has the westernmost county seat? What was the county’s total population?
3. Which agency is Governor Moore praising in his letter?

Think Critically: The Flood of 1985 resulted in the tragic deaths of 47 people; thus, using your knowledge of West Virginia geography, can you identify (3) rivers located in the Potomac Section or Allegheny Highlands that resulted in life-threatening conditions? (e.g. Greenbrier, Potomac, Cheat, Greenbrier, South Branch of the Potomac, Tygart Valley) What additional impacts can floods have on an affected area?



STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
CHARLESTON 25305

ARCH A. MOORE, JR.
GOVERNOR

December 18, 1985

Mr. Michael D. Greer
Chairman
Public Service Commission
201 Brooks Street
Charleston, West Virginia 25301

Dear Chairman Greer:

Many thousands of West Virginians have suffered through the recent terrible flood disaster which struck the eastern part of our State. It was the worst disaster which has taken place in the history of West Virginia.

Those citizens were forced to rely upon the agencies of State government to respond to their particular needs. It took an all-out effort on behalf of State government entities and employees to be able to provide the necessary assistance during these desperate times.

I have been extremely impressed with the commitment and cooperation which has been given by the members of my administration. I particularly want to thank you and the employees of your agency for doing outstanding work during this crisis. The work of your people was exemplary, especially in those instances where the effort was of a voluntary nature or in addition to completing other normal responsibilities.

It has truly been a situation where your staff members have gone beyond the call of duty to help the citizens of our State. I would ask that you express my deep and sincere thanks to your employees for a job well done!

You and the personnel of your agency are to be commended for your tireless and unselfish work. I know that it has meant a great deal to the victims of the flood and to all West Virginians.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Arch".

Arch A. Moore, Jr.
Governor

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF W. V.
OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN

AAMJr:blw

DEC 18 1985

RECEIVED

WEST VIRGINIA MOST SEVERELY HIT FLOOD DISASTER COUNTIES
NOVEMBER 1985

<u>County</u>	<u>Towns</u>	<u>County Seat</u>	<u>Population</u>	<u>Sq. Mi.</u>	<u>1982 Per Capita Income *</u>
Pendleton	Franklin	Franklin	7,910	697	\$5,532
Grant	Petersburg	Petersburg	10,210	478	6,990
Hardy	Moorefield	Moorefield	10,030	576	6,208
Hampshire	Romney	Romney	14,867	641	6,205
Mineral	Keyser	Keyser	27,234	330	7,099
Tucker	Parsons, Thomas Davis	Parsons	8,675	422	6,600
Preston	Albright, Brandonville, Bruceton Mills, Kingwood Masontown, Newburg, Reedsville, Rowlesburg, Terra Alta, Tunnelton	Kingwood	30,460	654	7,539
Barbour	Belington, Junior, Philippi	Philippi	16,639	345	7,846
Harrison	Anmoore, Bridgeport, Clarksburg, Lost Creek, Lumberport, Hutter Fort, Salem, Shinnston, Stonewood, West Milford	Clarksburg	77,710	418	9,303
Pocahontas	Cass, Durbin, Hillsboro Marlinton	Marlinton	9,919	943	6,820
Upshur	Buckhannon	Buckhannon	23,427	355	7,820
Lewis	Jane Lew, Weston	Weston	18,813	391	7,751

Per Capita Income: West Virginia = \$ 8,758
United States 11,113

