



WEST VIRGINIA
DIVISION OF
CULTURE & HISTORY

From the Editor:

In this first issue of 2010 we are reminding you that the Decennial Census of the United States will be conducted soon. I worked for the Bureau of the Census myself for several years, conducting the Current Population Survey (now known as the American Community Survey) of statistically selected households every month for a current snapshot of the country's employment and population status between decennial censuses. I also performed preliminary field work confirming addresses for the 2000 census. I swore an oath of confidentiality when I was hired, renewed that oath annually, and knew I was subject to prosecution for any violation of that oath. I asked a lot of questions and read a lot of material about the census and the Bureau of the Census over those years, and I became confident of the security of my own personal information given to the Bureau of the Census.

New Archives Rules Effective January 4, 2010

West Virginia Archives and History Library rules and regulations have been revised, with the revisions taking effect January 4, 2010. The purpose of the changes is to implement increased security and preservation standards for the protection of the collections. Visitors to the Archives and History Library will be required to complete a brief registration form (<http://www.wvculture.org/history/rules/wvah01.pdf>) upon their initial visit to the Library and to sign the guest register as well. On subsequent visits, previously registered visitors will need only to check in with the staff member at the desk, then sign the guest register. E-mail addresses are requested for those patrons who would like to receive e-mail notices of Archives' upcoming events, monthly notices with a link to the most recent issue of *West Virginia Archives and History News* posted online, notification of closings and similar Archives news.

The list of permissible items is stated in the official guidelines for

researchers (<http://www.wvculture.org/history/rules/libraryrules.html>): **Patrons may bring only the following personal items into the library: pencils, legal-type pads, blank sheets of unbound paper, index cards and loose personal**

papers (for example: genealogy charts, notes, printouts); necessary medication and personal medical devices; laptop computer with power cord, mouse and memory stick or flash drive;

Continued on the next page

Genealogy and Law Lecture on January 5

By Mary E. Johnson

West Virginia Archives and History will offer a program on *Genealogy and Law: An Introduction to Some Legal Issues in Genealogical Research*, presented by attorney Scott E. Johnson on January 5, 2010, from 6:00 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. at the Archives and History Library in The Culture Center. In addition to an overview of the legal system, Johnson will discuss the use and mechanics of the Freedom of Information Act in genealogical research, the basics of copyright obligations and protections, the rights and means to access graves located on privately owned property, and the fundamentals of the law of defamation.

Johnson has been in private practice as a plaintiff's lawyer and as a corporate defense lawyer, and he currently is an assistant attorney general for the State of West Virginia. He holds a bachelor of arts degree from Washington and Jefferson College and a law degree from West Virginia University, where he was an executive editor of the *West Virginia Law Review* and received the Law School Association Award. Johnson is a member of the Sons and Daughters of the Colonial and Antebellum Bench and Bar 1565-1861, the National Society of the Sons of the American Colonists, the National Society of the Sons of the

Continued on page 3

Continued from page 1

silenced cell phones, pagers or similar devices; money, check-books, identification cards and monetary cards; and clear plastic bags to contain allowable items. Coats and other outerwear are permitted, but pockets must be empty. All materials are subject to inspection upon departure from library. Other rules list prohibited items and practices, but basically, if an item is not specified in this list, then it is not allowed inside the Library.

In order to make compliance with the new rules easier, free lockers for storing personal possessions are now available in the hallway outside the Archives Library entrance. Items which do not fit in the lockers must be taken back to the patron's vehicle. The locker keys have been placed on spiral plastic bracelets that patrons can wear or drop in their plastic bags while in the Library. The following supplies will be provided to patrons of the Library: loose sheets of blank paper, pencils, tissues, bookmarks, one-page genealogy charts, and clear plastic self-closing bags. Patrons will be free to visit their lockers throughout the day to return some of their personal papers and to bring in others needed in their research.

These new rules and regulations for the protection and preservation of Archives collections have been long-needed, but could not be fully implemented until public lockers were acquired and made available for patron use. Basically, any item that would facilitate theft or increase likelihood of damage to an Archives resource is prohibited outright or is subject to inspection. With the addition of a new rest room across from the Archives Library entrance, patrons requesting use of manuscripts and other special collections

Continued on page 6

Tuesday Morning Genealogy Club Begins January 19

By Bryan Ward

The West Virginia Archives and History section announces the Tuesday Morning Genealogy Club and Workshop, a weekly gathering beginning on Tuesday, January 19th, from 10 to 11:00 a.m., in the Archives and History Library. The purpose of the free club is to provide personalized help to people wishing to climb their family trees and learn genealogy research techniques. Archives and History staff will be on hand to get people started and to help them navigate their way through the process.

West Virginia Archives and History is the state's official repository for historic public documents, manuscripts, records, photographs, and audio/video materials. For genealogists, the Archives and History Library offers free public access to the popular family history research Web sites Ancestry™ Library Edition

(the library version of Ancestry.com) and HeritageQuest Online, published family histories, indexes, county records on microfilm, state daily and weekly newspapers, military records and much more. The Library is open Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., with evening hours till 8:00 p.m. on Thursdays.

People interested in learning more about the West Virginia Archives and History Library or joining the Genealogy Club are asked to contact Bobby Taylor at bobby.l.taylor@wv.gov or call (304) 558-0230.

**Tuesday Morning
Genealogy Club**

Archives and History Library
Every Tuesday
10:00-11:00 a.m.

Beginning January 19

Archives First Annual Showcase Great Success

Archives and History was very pleased to present the first annual Archives and History Showcase in The Culture Center on the evening of December 7. Archives staff members presented displays of collection materials including rare books; Civil War medals; military and war-related documents, records and posters; items autographed by famous American political, historical and literary figures; land records and maps; newspapers; audio-visual resources; music recordings; Web site resources and more. The evening opened in the Great Hall with remarks from Education and the Arts Cabinet Secretary Kay Goodwin, Culture and

History Commissioner Randall Reid-Smith, State Historian and Archives and History Director Joe Geiger, Assistant Director Bryan Ward, and Library Manager Bob Taylor. Tours of the closed stack areas of the Archives were fully booked for the evening. Refreshments were served in the Great Hall, where attendees were served punch by Commissioner Reid-Smith. Photos of the event are posted on our Web site at <http://www.wvculture.org/history/workshops/showcase2009.html>. If you missed this year's event, be sure to attend in 2010. The staff had a great time bringing out their own favorite collection items and sharing them

Continued on page 5

Continued from page 1

American Revolution, the Hereditary Order of Loyalists and Patriots of the American Revolution (associate Patriot member), and the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War.

All Archives and History lecture or workshop sessions are free and the public is invited to attend. On January 5, the library will close at 5:00 p.m. and reopen at 5:45 p.m.

2010 Decennial Census: Important for Our Country and for Our State

Did you know that the young United States was the first country to establish regularly held censuses, with the first one conducted in 1790? Are you aware that each decennial census has been ordered by a separate act of Congress that also has specified the information to be collected for that particular census? Responses sought have ranged from a basic listing by name of the head of household with only a household tally by sex and age, to a listing of the entire household by name, with relationships, ages, occupations, native tongue, birthplaces of parents, school attendance, citizenship status, value of personal and real property, etc. Congress took the simple route this time for the 2010 Decennial Census, since more comprehensive data is gathered now via the monthly American Community Survey of statistically sampled households. Decennial Census questionnaires will be mailed to *all* United States households in February and March, and will consist of only 10 questions that should take about 10 minutes to complete. While that encourages greater compliance, our descendants in 2082 will be learning far less about our lives in 2010 than we have been able to learn about our descendants in 20th-century censuses!

Historians, sociologists and economists have used census results

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

to try to understand, direct and project the course of United States government and society. All family historians are users of historic census records and are anxiously awaiting the release of the 1940 census in 2012. While the family genealogical information gleaned from census records is fascinating and valuable to us personally, the statistical information gathered from the very first census to the last has determined the course of many events not only on the state and national level, but in our personal lives as well. Population statistics determine the boundaries of state and local legislative and Congressional districts and the number of representatives apportioned, but they also determine the allocation of more than \$400 billion in federal funds to states and communities. Census data is used by the business community and by state and local governments in making decisions about retail stores, schools, hospitals, housing and other community facilities.

If you would like to learn more about the 2010 Census, visit <http://2101.census.gov/2010census>. If you would like an introduction to the Federal census in general or facts about specific census years with sample forms, a good basic reference book is *The Census Book: A Genealogist's Guide to Federal Census*

Facts, Schedules and Indexes, by William Dollarhide, available in the West Virginia Archives and History Library and many others. One more interesting tidbit, from *The Census Book*, pages 6 and 7:

Soon after the Census Office was created in early 1850, two young men from Poughkeepsie, New York, approached the director with a proposal. They had invented a "counting machine" they thought could help in tabulating the census returns. They demonstrated a prototype machine that used flat metal cards with slots and holes punched in them in a precise pattern so that a metal rod could be passed through the holes and slots and

Continued on page 5

Culture and History E-mail Addresses Have Changed

The West Virginia Office of Technology is in the process of converting all state government e-mail addresses to the same domain name. The addresses of the staff of the Division of Culture and History, which includes the Archives and History section, have all been changed to "wv.gov" addresses. The required format consists of a given name, middle initial and surname, separated by periods. For example, the *Archives and History News* editor's new address is susan.c.scouras@wv.gov. Some people who are best known by nicknames or middle names have altered that formula slightly, such as Archives Library manager Bob Taylor, whose new address is bobby.l.taylor@wv.gov, and State Historian and Archives and History director Joe Geiger, who may be reached at joe.n.geiger@wv.gov. E-mails sent to the old "wvculture.org" addresses will be automatically forwarded and a address change notice will be auto-replied to the sender for a few weeks.

11th Annual Hoot Owl Night in the Archives on March 26

The Mining Your History Foundation and West Virginia Archives and History will be sponsoring the 11th Annual Hoot Owl Night in the Archives and History Library on Friday, March 26, until the morning of Saturday, March 27. The Archives and History Library will close to the public at 5:00 p.m. on Friday, and reopen to only Hoot Owl participants at 6:00 p.m. Participants can perform genealogical research all night until 8:00 a.m. Saturday morning. Experts in West Virginia genealogy from around the state will be available to assist researchers with both

beginning and advanced family history strategies and problem-solving. Behind the scenes tours of the West Virginia State Archives collections will be conducted. Participation is limited to 50 people. Registration is \$25.00 per person and due by March 12. (Late registration, if space is available, will be \$35.00.) A confirmation of registration with additional information will be sent, by e-mail when provided. Free snacks and beverages will be provided in the Archives conference room, and the traditional midnight pizza order will be placed for those who chose to contribute a few dollars. For more information or to register, contact Joe Geiger, (304) 558-0230, ext. 165, or Wes Cochran, (304) 422-

1774, wescochran@juno.com. To learn more about Mining Your History Foundation or to become a member, contact Wes Cochran. You may also call Archives and History, (304) 558-0230, and request a Hoot Owl brochure be mailed to you.

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

Vital Research Records Database Update

As mentioned in previous issues, we are continuing to clean up the West Virginia Vital Research Records (VRR) database, now that the speed of the new servers allows us to perform searches that reveal discrepancies and contradictions in the coverage dates of the various county record groups. For instance, if a county that was formed in 1845 is listing marriage records with dates before 1845, or birth and death records before 1853 when those records were first kept, we are identifying the record and verifying whether it is accurate or needs to be corrected. If an 1835 birth record turns out to be a 1935 record, the entry is corrected. If it turns out to be a delayed reporting, that is so-noted on the details page. We have found several delayed reports of births and marriages for early 19th-century dates that probably were reported by early 20th-century genealogists who wanted their parents' births and marriages entered. County clerks even entered information for events that occurred outside their jurisdictions, such as a birth in Scotland.

If you do not find the entry you
Continued on page 6

Evening Workshops and Lecture Schedule

Date	Conducted by:	Subject
January 5 Tuesday	Scott Johnson	<i>Genealogy and Law: An Introduction to Some Legal Issues in Genealogical Research</i>
February 2 Tuesday	Doug Wood	<i>Digging into West Virginia's 18th Century, Groundhog Style</i>
March 2 Tuesday	Jaime Simmons	<i>Going Back before 1850: Genealogical Strategies for Early American Research</i>
April 6 Tuesday	Dr. Paul Rakes	<i>The Combat Scenario: Early West Virginia Coal Mining's Culture of Danger</i>
May 4 Tuesday		<i>Election 1960: The West Virginia Primary</i>
June 1 Tuesday	Joe Geiger	<i>West Virginia Statehood</i>
July 6 Tuesday		<i>Scrapbooking Workshop</i>
August 3 Tuesday	Archives Staff	<i>Beginning Genealogy</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.

Continued from page 3

lift out certain cards with holes in the same location. By a process of elimination, cards with a particular pattern of holes could be removed; and in the process, they could be counted.

The director of the new Census Office was impressed. The two men opened a business and with the Census Office's good recommendation, borrowed a small sum. The new company developed a working model for the machine; and within a few weeks, the machine proved so reliable that the Census Office decided to use it in the tabulation of the 1850 census. They estimated that it would cut the time to take the census from eighteen months to five months, and that is the time they recommended to Congress in their budget request. Since the 1850 census, the Census Office has used the counting machine in every census taken. In fact, every year after that, the machine was improved in speed and accuracy. That little two-man company that presented their invention to the Census Office in 1850 goes by a different name today. It is called the IBM Corporation.

Continued from page 2

with each other as they prepared them for public viewing. We also found additional interesting things in the process, many not previously identified as significant. When an item is in a collection that is 104 years old, with many materials

therein that were "old" when received by the Archives, all kinds of events and changes happen over time that may elevate something from the mundane to the extraordinary. Who knows what new treasures we will have discovered for you by next year?

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 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.

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.

State Archives Seeks Materials from the 1960 Presidential Campaigns in West Virginia

By Bryan Ward

The year 2010 marks the 50th anniversary of the 1960 United States presidential election in which West Virginia played a prominent role. In May of that year all eyes focused on West Virginia's Democratic primary, which pitted Massachusetts Senator John F. Kennedy against Minnesota Senator Hubert Humphrey. Political pundits, the press and both campaigns wondered if Kennedy, who was Catholic, could win. Conventional wisdom at the time said that a Catholic presidential candidate could not carry predominantly Protestant states and, therefore, could not be

elected president. For the Kennedy campaign West Virginia became the battleground where victory would distance him from his rival on the ballot, Hubert Humphrey; end the hopes of political rivals who were running silent campaigns for the presidential nomination; and silence the growing concerns about his Catholic faith. When the votes were counted West Virginia Democrats gave Kennedy a commanding victory that led to the Democratic presidential nomination in July.

Following the Democratic convention, Republicans met in

Chicago to officially nominate Vice President Richard Nixon as their presidential candidate. The keynote speaker for the convention was a rising star of the party, West Virginia Governor Cecil Underwood. In the months that followed Underwood's speech, Kennedy and Nixon changed the nature of political campaigns forever in one of the closest presidential elections in American history.

In honor of this momentous election, West Virginia Archives and History is creating a permanent

Continued on the next page

"New Rules" continued from page 2
 will be requested to wash their hands prior to handling these materials. At this time, gloves will not be required. Gloves versus clean hands for handling of archival materials is a current subject of debate. Gloves have seams and are treated with bleaches and other chemicals in the manufacturing process that some archivists believe can cause damage in themselves, while all agree that gloved fingers can hinder dexterity, potentially resulting in torn pages and other damage. Providing gloves in large quantities is also expensive. Others argue that even washed hands can carry soap or detergent residue that can transfer to the materials. We have opted for clean hands rather than gloves.

Previously allowable items, such as mechanical pencils and wired notepads, have been reviewed and judged potentially damaging since metal parts and wire can catch on paper and rip tears or poke holes. Most archival facilities do not allow outerwear to be worn or brought into the research area since items can be more easily hidden and carried out, plus fasteners such as zippers, toggles and metal buttons can cause damage if they come in contact with materials. For now, given that our building tends to be too cool for many patrons year-round, we are choosing to keep our patrons more physically comfortable.

If you have any questions, please contact Joe Geiger, Director of Archives and History, (304) 558-0230, joe.n.geiger@wv.gov.

**Don't Forget History Day,
 February 18, 2010**

"1960" continued from page 5
 online exhibit as well as a temporary exhibit in the Archives Gallery in the West Virginia Culture Center. The Archives is seeking original photographs, letters, diaries, campaign materials, audio-visual items, and reminiscences of West Virginians about the campaigns. For more



Division of Culture and History

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"VRR" continued from page 4
 are seeking on the record image page, please be sure you have scrolled up and down and side to side until you have viewed the entire image. The most common e-mail message received from a VRR user is that the expected entry was not found on the linked page; however, we usually find that the entry is there, just on the side of the image that did not appear on the visible part of the screen when the image opened. Many images include *two* pages, both the left and right pages of a ledger book, just as on the original micro-filmed record from which the image was digitized. If you have explored all the options on your own computer and still have a problem, please report any errors, broken links or incorrect links to us using the VRR

Darby's Universal Gazetteer

Following are a few sample entries for features now in West Virginia, with spelling and punctuation unchanged:

Big Sandy, river branch of Ohio, having its sources in the Cumberland mountain, inter-locking with those of Cumberland, Tennessee and Great Kenhawa, and flowing NW. about 150 ms. by comparative courses falls into

information contact Archives and History Director Joe Geiger at joe.n.geiger@wv.gov or (304) 558-0230 ext 165. Reminiscences can be e-mailed or sent to Election of 1960 Exhibit, West Virginia State Archives, Culture Center, Building 9, 1900 Kanawha Blvd., East, Charleston, WV 25305.

e-mail link found at the bottom of each VRR Web page. By the way, if you have the old address, wvrr@wvculture.org, in your e-mail address book, please update your entry to the new e-mail address, chwvrr@wv.gov.

We hope everyone is pleased with the West Virginia Vital Research Records project, now that all currently eligible records have been loaded and the entire database is now on new servers. We appreciate the patience of those of you who shared our frustration over the past year or more as new records were added but the struggling servers wouldn't let them be viewed. We also thank all of you who have sent us letters and e-mails of congratulations. We are very proud to be able to offer this free service to the public.

the Ohio. Lat. 38° 27' N. long. W. C. 5° 30' W. For about 65 ms. this river is the boundary between Virg. and Kent.

Buffalo, pstv. Mason ct. Virg., pstrd. 344 ms. N.W. by W. from Richmond.

Grandville, village Monongalia ct. Virg., on Duncard's creek, 12 ms. NW. from Morgantown.

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.

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

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

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY, January 18: 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.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH EVENT," February 12: Francis X. Walker, speaker, Norman L. Fagan State Theater, The Culture Center, Charleston. Co-sponsored by the Division of Culture and History and the West Virginia Library Commission. For more information, visit <http://www.wvculture.org/eventdetail.aspx?Id=1035>.

PRESIDENTS DAY, February 15: Archives Library will be *closed*.

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 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.

2010 SHPO Calendar

The West Virginia State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) has published "At Home in West Virginia" a 13-month calendar highlighting residential architecture in the Mountain State listed or considered eligible for inclusion in

the National Register of Historic Places. Funded in part by the National Park Service, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, the calendar is free and available to the public while supplies last. To request a copy of the calendar, write to West Virginia Division of Culture and History, 2010 Calendar, The Culture Center, 1900 Kanawha

Blvd. E., Charleston, W. Va. 25205, or contact Conni McMorris, (304) 558-0240 or conni.l.mcmorris@wv.gov. The calendars will not be available in the West Virginia Archives and History Library as in past years. Visitors to The Culture Center may pick up copies in the SHPO on the 2nd floor, north side.

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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.

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This newsletter is a publication of : The West Virginia Division of Culture and History
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