

# West Virginia Archives & History NEWS

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WEST VIRGINIA  
DIVISION OF  
CULTURE & HISTORY

## From the Editor:

*Unable to visit the Archives and History Library due to distance or inclement weather?* Explore the Archives' extensive Web site at <http://www.wvculture.org/history>. Even those of you who have used the Web resources before will find something new and interesting in a "Featured Item" on the main Web page, changed every weekday, and will have an opportunity to learn something new about West Virginia people, places and events in history. Visit our "Online Exhibits" by clicking the link on the homepage or going directly to <http://www.wvculture.org/history/exhibits.html>. The exhibits combine carefully researched articles with wonderful images. Need a reference question answered? Give us a call at (304) 558-0230, ext. 168. Need a document for your family history? Write us a letter using the instructions found by hitting the "Research Request" link. We are here for you.

## Dr. Maslowski to Present "A Primer on West Virginia Archaeology" on January 4

Dr. Robert Maslowski will present "A Primer on West Virginia Archaeology" at the monthly Tuesday evening lecture in the Archives and History Library on January 4, 2011. He will cover the highlights of prehistoric and historic West Virginia archaeology from the Paleo-Indian period (10,500 BC ) to AD 1900 and will discuss classic artifacts, excavations, and current interpretations. Prehistoric archaeology topics covered will include the St. Albans site, late Archaic shell middens, the development of pottery, the mound builders, the Grave Creek Stone, corn agriculture, and who the Native Americans were and where they went. Maslowski will discuss several historic archaeology topics as well, including Revolutionary War forts, Civil War sites, historic cemeteries, industrial archaeology, and slavery.

Bob Maslowski holds a PhD

in anthropology/archaeology from the University of Pittsburgh and is a retired archaeologist with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Huntington. He has done extensive archaeological work in the Ohio Valley and has also worked in Trans-

Pecos Texas, Israel, Cyprus, Vietnam, and Laos. He was the executive producer of three archaeology films, *Red Salt & Reynolds* (2003), *Ghosts of Green Bottom* (2005), and *Secrets of the Valley: Prehistory of the Kanawha*  
*Continued on the next page*

### 12th Annual Hoot Owl on April 1

Mining Your History Foundation (MYHF) again presents the very popular Hoot Owl night for an all-night research session in the West Virginia Archives and History Library. This year's event begins at 6:00 p.m. on Friday, April 1, and concludes at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday, April 2. In addition to the opportunity to use Archives and History Library resources, well-known genealogists from around the state will be available to discuss your research with you. Behind-the-scenes tours of the non-public areas of the Archives will be conducted. Refreshments will be

available in the Archives conference room. If you don't think you can stay awake all night, bring a pillow and a sleeping bag to catch a nap in a vacant corner. Participation is limited to 50. Registration is \$25 by check or money order payable to MYHF and must be postmarked by March 18. Late registration, if space is available, is \$35. Mail to MYHF, P. O. Box 6923, Charleston, WV, 25362-0923. For more information contact Joe Geiger, (304) 558-0230, [joe.n.geiger@wv.gov](mailto:joe.n.geiger@wv.gov), or Wes Cochran, (304) 422-1774, [wescochran@juno.com](mailto:wescochran@juno.com).

(2010), which will air on West Virginia Public Television December 22, 2010, at 9:00 p.m. Maslowski teaches Appalachian courses at the Marshall University Graduate college and is the current editor of the journal *West Virginia Archaeologist*.

All Archives and History workshop and lecture sessions are free and the public is invited to attend. On January 4, 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, bobby.l.taylor@wv.gov or (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.

## Web Sites of Interest

**RootsWeb Town Search:** Search by town name and state for county name, or just town name for list of counties and states with towns of that name: <http://resources.rootsweb.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/townco.cgi>. [Editor's Note: This can be fun to play with. There are 32 towns named Logan, but only one Aracoma. There are two named Sistersville, in WV and PA. Big Ugly is not in the database. There is a second Moundsville, in OH.]

**How to Encapsulate Documents:** State Library and Archives of Florida. <http://dlis.dos.state.fl.us/archives/preservation/encapsulation>.

**Grantspace.org:** Foundation Center site with extensive information and advice on preparation for writing

## Archives 2nd Annual Showcase



The second annual West Virginia Archives and History Showcase on December 6, 2010, was a wonderful evening for both staff and attendees. Many documents, rare books, autographed books, posters, manuscripts, videotape clips and more from the Archives collections were enjoyed by participants. To view additional photographs of the event, visit <http://www.wvculture.org/history/workshops/showcase2010.html>.

## Draper Collection Presentation

An attentive audience listened to Jaime Simmons as she discussed how to use the Draper Collection of microfilmed



letters and manuscript material. More photographs of the evening

may be viewed at <http://www.wvculture.org/history/workshops/wkshp120710.html>. The Draper Collection microfilm is available in the

West Virginia Archives and History Library.

## Thursday Evening Genealogy Club Introduced to KYOWVA Society

Debbie Campbell, KYOWVA Genealogical and Historical Society president talked to the Thursday Evening

Genealogy Club on December 9 about the resources available through the society's membership and library for Cabell and Wayne counties and the surrounding area. Photographs of the meeting are posted at <http://www.wvculture.org/history/workshops/2010decembergenclub.html>.

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

grants, etc. For more information, contact local Foundation Center cooperation collections in your area. For West Virginia libraries, go to <http://foundationcenter.org/collections/ccwv.html>.

## VRR Adds New Records

On January 1, 2011, West Virginia Vital Research Records (VRR) database on the West Virginia Archives and History Web site

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### Evening Workshops and Lecture Schedule

Date	Conducted by:	Subject
January 4 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.

will add births for 1910 and state death records for 1960. County birth records are withheld 101 years and state death certificates are withheld 51 years from the current year, with new records added on January 1st of each ensuing year. If you are unfamiliar with the database or are a beginning genealogist, we recommend reading the explanatory article linked from the main VRR page to learn more about West Virginia vital records and the database itself. At the end of the article you will find links to "Quick Guides" that give an overview of the type of records available in West Virginia and where to find them.

The original Quick Guides appeared in the *West Virginia Archives and History News* issues in the fall of 2007, with the VRR article first appearing in 2005 with update articles periodically over the years, but the versions posted on the Web site are updated annually. Separate

*Archives and History News* articles discussing birth, death and marriage records in more depth can be read online or in the libraries of various genealogical and historical societies, as well as public and university libraries throughout West Virginia. (These three articles have not been updated, so refer to the current Quick Guides for correct dates.)  
 Helpful links:

- West Virginia Vital Research Records database: [http://www.wvculture.org/vrr/va\\_select.aspx](http://www.wvculture.org/vrr/va_select.aspx)
- Explanatory article about VRR: <http://www.wvculture.org/history/vitalrecordsarticle.pdf>
- Quick Guide to West Virginia Birth Records: <http://www.wvculture.org/history/quickguidetobirth.pdf>
- Quick Guide to West Virginia Death Records: <http://www.wvculture.org/history/quickguidetodeath.pdf>
- Quick Guide to West Virginia Marriage Records: <http://www.wvculture.org/history/>

### 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."

### 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.**

[quickguidetomarriage.pdf](#)

The VRR article and Quick Guides also will be found listed and linked as Research Guides on the Archives page: <http://www.wvculture.org/history/wvsamenu.html>.

### SHPO 2011 Calendar Available

The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) of the West Virginia Division of Culture and History has published "The Civil War in West Virginia," a 13-month calendar

*Continued on the next page*



## History Day Display Space Applications Due February 3

History and genealogy-related societies and organizations that wish to have displays for History Day at the Legislature in the Capitol on February 24, 2011, have until February 3 to postmark, e-mail or physically deliver their applications for table space. The form is available on the Archives and History Web site at <http://www.wvculture.org/history/historyday/historyday2011announcement.html>. The display space registration form can be submitted via e-mail this year for the first time. For more information, contact Mary Johnson, [mary.e.johnson2@wv.gov](mailto:mary.e.johnson2@wv.gov), or Joe Geiger, [joe.n.geiger@wv.gov](mailto:joe.n.geiger@wv.gov), or call either one at (304) 558-0230.

## Cherokee Language Instruction Books and CD's

The Archives and History Library now has two books with CD's available to learn the Cherokee language. The books originally came with audio cassettes that Dick Fauss, audio-visual archivist, converted to CD for use in the Archives Library media center in the Reading Room. The sets are as follows:

- *Intermediate Cherokee, Module One*: by Gregg Howard, Sam Hider and Durbin Feeling, 1997. This has an instruction book in workbook form and one audio cassette.
- *Cherokee Made Easy*: by Prentice Robinson, 1992. This has a small instruction booklet and three audio cassettes, so it is more of a "listen and learn" type of instruction.

There are two main dialects of Cherokee, one spoken by those

## Grave Creek Mound Mentioned in Old History Textbook

From *History of the United States Designed for Schools*, by Egbert Guernsey, 6th edition, 1849, pages 23-24:

Foreign travelers complain that America presents nothing like ruins within her boundaries; no ivy-mantled towers, nor moss-covered turrets, as in other quarters of the earth. Old Fort Putnam, on the Hudson, rearing its lofty decayed sides high above West Point; or the venerable remains of two wars at Ticonderoga, upon Lake Champlain, they say, afford something of the kind. But what are mouldering castles, falling turrets, or crumbling abbeys, in comparison with those ancient and artificial aboriginal hills which have outlived generations, and even all tradition—the workmanship of unknown hands! Here are skeletons of strange forms, unknown to the Indians; preserved bodies, fortifications, immense mounds and tumuli, which form their number, obscurity of origin and magnitude, are to be ranked among the wonders of ancient things. It remains for America to tell the

story of her antiquities—to arouse her virtuosi and antiquarians to the search; for here, beyond a doubt, are traits of nations coeval with ancient, and probably with the oldest works of man, this side the flood.

These mounds and fortifications are generally found on fertile bottoms, and near rivers. Several hundreds have been discovered along the valley of the Mississippi; the largest of which stands not far from Wheeling, on the Ohio. This mound is fifty rods in circumference, and ninety feet in perpendicular height. It is filled with thousands of human skeletons, and was probably situated near some great city, and was a general deposit of the dead for some ages—where they were placed in gradation, one layer above another, till they reached the top.

Judging from the large trees growing on the mound, amid old and decayed timber covered with mould and leaves, showing them to be of the second or third growth, it must have been at least twelve hundred years since it was deserted.



### 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],

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based in North Carolina, and one spoken by those who settled in Oklahoma and other western states. Both of these sets are in the western dialect. Patrons are welcome to listen to the CD's in the Reading Room. Even if you do not want to actually learn Cherokee, or if your family is more closely oriented to the eastern band, listening to the spoken

language in any dialect can be very interesting, particularly if you have Cherokee heritage.

**Mark Your Calendars!**  
**15th Annual History Day,**  
**February 24, 2011**

## New Library Rules Reminder

If you have not visited the Archives and History Library in the past year, you may not be aware of rule changes instituted in January 2010. With the addition of free lockers for patron use immediately outside the Archives Library door, patrons are allowed to bring only legal-style pads, loose papers and regular pencils into the room, as well as personal laptop computers (mouse and cord allowed, but not case). Patrons will fill out a brief registration form on their initial visit since the rules change, and all patrons will sign the guest book once daily upon each visit. Patrons still may wear or bring in

their coats, but all purses, backpacks, briefcases, totes, plastic bags and other baggage must be placed in lockers. Personal books, notebooks, envelopes, folders, etc. are no longer allowed. Only regular #2 pencils are allowed, since the metal parts on mechanical pencils can make holes in paper. A patron may return to the locker as needed to review any information in notebooks, file folders, personal books, etc., which had to be left in the lockers. To view the complete rules, visit our Web site at <http://www.wvculture.org/history/rules/libraryrules.html>, or hit the "Visitors" link on the Archives

### VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY!

*At this time, we are searching for volunteers to help us enter the contents of all of our surname files into a database that will be made available to the public. If you are interested in helping us with this project, please contact Cathy Miller, [cathy.s.miller@wv.gov](mailto:cathy.s.miller@wv.gov), (304) 558-0230.*

and History homepage, <http://www.wvculture.org/history>.



## 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:** Archives Library will be *closed*.

**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.

**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.

**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](mailto:Travis.L.Henline@wv.gov).

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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 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.

**HOOT OWL NIGHT, April 1–2:** Archives and History Library, The Culture Center, Charleston. Co-sponsored by West Virginia Archives and History and Mining Your History Foundation.

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

**MEMORIAL DAY, May 30:** Archives Library will be *closed*.

**WEST VIRGINIA DAY, June 20:** Archives Library will be open.\*

**INDEPENDENCE DAY, July 4:** Archives Library will be *closed*.

**LABOR DAY, September 5:** Archives Library will be *closed*.

**COLUMBUS DAY, October 10:** Archives Library will be open.\*

**VETERANS DAY, November 11:** Archives Library will be open.\*

**THANKSGIVING DAY, November 24:** Archives Library will be *closed*.

**THANKSGIVING FRIDAY AND SATURDAY, November 25–26:** Archives Library will be *closed*.

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

**CHRISTMAS DAY HOLIDAY (MONDAY), December 26:** Archives Library will be *closed*.

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

**NEW YEAR’S DAY HOLIDAY (MONDAY), January 2, 2012:** Archives Library will be *closed*.

*\*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.

West Virginia Division of Culture and History  
The Cultural Center  
1900 Kanawha Boulevard East  
Charleston, WV 25305-0300

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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New e-mail: [susan.c.scouras@wv.gov](mailto:susan.c.scouras@wv.gov)

## Archives and History Staff

Joe Geiger ..... Director  
Bryan Ward..... Assistant Director  
Debra Basham .....Archivist (photographs, special collections)  
Constance Baston ..... Researcher (Veterans Memorial Archives)  
Kyle Campbell .....Cultural Program Specialist (county records preservation project)  
Greg Carroll..... Historian (Civil War, Native American history)  
Dick Fauss .....Archivist (microfilm and moving images collection)  
Denise Ferguson..... County Records Archivist  
Allen Fowler ..... Special projects  
Elaine Gates..... Library Assistant (microfilming and microfilm repairs)  
Ed Hicks..... Photo Archivist (archival photography, darkroom)  
Mary Johnson.....Historian  
Terry Lowry ..... Historian (Veterans records)  
Cathy Miller .....Library Assistant (WV State documents)  
Harold Newman .....Library Assistant (microfilming, Revolutionary War)  
Susan Scouras..... Librarian (cataloging, Kentucky, library collection, newsletter editor)  
Jaime Simmons..... Library Assistant (records of the 1700's and early 1800's, Pennsylvania)  
Bobby Taylor ..... Library Manager  
Nancy Waggoner ..... Secretary  
Volunteers ..... Carolyn Conner, Bill Kelley, James Wilburn, Larry McDonnell, Sue Shank,  
Jerry Grady, Charlotte Thurston, Patricia Richards McClure, and Ken Bailey

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