



WEST VIRGINIA Archives and History NEWS

From the Editor:

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**Archives and History News
is available on the
Archives and History Web site
[http://www.wvculture.org/history/
ahnews/ahnews.html](http://www.wvculture.org/history/ahnews/ahnews.html)**

We hope your New Year's resolutions include one to further explore your family history using the resources of the West Virginia Archives and History Library. We have many resources that you may not have considered for knocking down genealogical brick walls or fleshing out your family's story. If you consider yourself finished with your genealogy, think about learning more of the history of the towns or counties where your family lived. In the process you most likely will develop greater insight into the happenings and circumstances that influenced the decisions and day-to-day life of individual family members. Check the resource lists available on our Web site (<http://www.wvculture.org/history/wvsamenu.html>), and search the Voyager on-line library catalog (<http://archives.lib.wv.us>) for relevant materials to explore in person in our Library, with our experienced staff to guide you.

Augusta County Chancery Records Valuable Resource for West Virginia Genealogists and Historians

Anyone researching ancestors or historical events in the 18th and the first half of the 19th century in western Virginia will find an invaluable resource in Augusta County chancery records using the Chancery Records Index. Court papers filed in support of lawsuits provide a wealth of information possibly not found elsewhere, especially details about individual slaves and women who are seldom identified in other resources. Information about the index is posted on "Out of the Box: Notes from the Archives @ the Library of Virginia," a blog with posts by Library of Virginia archivists regarding their discoveries in those holdings and what may be found in them.

Augusta County was formed in 1738, and included most of what is

now West Virginia. The Superior Court of Chancery was located in Augusta's county seat of Staunton. According to the blog post, from 1802 to 1812 the Staunton Court district included territory encompassed by the current West Virginia counties of Berkeley, Greenbrier,

Hampshire, Hardy, Harrison, Jefferson, Kanawha, Monongalia, Monroe, Ohio, Pendleton, Randolph and Wood. In 1812 the court's coverage was reduced to include Cabell, Greenbrier, Kanawha, Mason, Monroe and Pendleton in western

Continued on the next page

West Virginia Socialists to be Focus of January 8 Program

On January 8, 2013, Dr. Fred Barkey will present "The Socialist Party in West Virginia," at the Tuesday evening lecture in the Archives and History Library in the Culture Center in Charleston. The program will begin at 6:00 p.m. and is free and open to the public.

For his doctoral research, Barkey examined the rise of the

Socialist Party in West Virginia at the end of the 19th century through its weakening before and during World War I. Socialists were prominent in several craft trades, including glass and cigar making, and proved popular with coal miners. Socialists were a factor in the Paint Creek-Cabin Creek Strike of 1912-13.

Continued on the next page

"Augusta" continued from page 1

Virginia. Of course, the Chancery Records Index covers the entire Commonwealth of Virginia as well as Augusta County, so those with ancestors who lived in other parts of Virginia should investigate this resource also. Entering the grand old Kanawha County surname of "Ruffner" got 151 hits! Limiting the search to Augusta County retained 23 hits.

Read the "Out of the Box" blog post, *Augusta Co. Chancery Reveals Pioneer Stories of Western Virginia*, June 18, 2012, http://www.virginiamemory.com/blogs/out_of_the_box/2012/06/18/augusta-co-chancery-reveals-pioneer-stories-of-western-virginia/, for an explanation of the geographical and court district details involved and fascinating examples of information that can be gleaned from these lawsuits. Follow the link in the blog, or go directly to <http://www.virginiamemory.com/collections/chancery/>. The blog post reports that digital images for 1747 through 1818 have been added to Augusta County Chancery Causes collection that already held cases for 1867 through 1912. By the time you read this, the cases for 1819 through 1911 should have been added.

4th Annual Archives and History Showcase Held December 4

The fourth annual Archives and History Showcase was held in The Culture Center on December 4, 2012. Guests were addressed in the Great Hall, then invited into the Archives and History Library to view exhibits of Archives' rare books,

"Socialists" continued from page 1

Dr. Barkey received his bachelor's and master's degrees from Marshall University, and he earned his Ph.D. in history with a concentration in United States labor history from the University of Pittsburgh in 1971. Professor emeritus at West Virginia Graduate College, he also has taught history at the University of Charleston and the Institute for Labor Studies at West Virginia University. He was named a Danforth Associate in recognition of his outstanding college teaching. Barkey is the author of *Cinder Heads in the Hills: The Belgian Window Glass Workers of West Virginia* (1988), *Working Class Radicals: The Socialist Party in West Virginia, 1898-1920*

[This article originally was prepared by Mary Johnson for the Archives and History Web site.]



Division of
WEST VIRGINIA
Culture and History

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documents, posters, maps, and more, most geared toward the 2012 theme of West Virginia's proud history of military service. Contributions of soldiers, civilians and



governmental figures from the time of the French and Indian Wars to the modern day were all noted. View more photographs of the exhibits at <http://www.wvculture.org/history/annualshowcase.html>.

Archives and History Web Site Makes *Family Tree Magazine's* 75 Best List

"A Fine State," by Rick Crume, in the December 2012 issue of *Family Tree* magazine, lists 75 state-focused genealogy Web sites that were selected as this year's best state Web sites, with the emphasis on sites where researchers can search for ancestors by name. At least one Web site is listed per state. Patrons of the Archives and History Library will find current issues of *Family Tree* and other genealogy and history magazines in the Reading Room, and may request back issues from Closed Stacks.

Randy Marcum Changes Hats at the Archives

Randy Marcum has been an Archives and History cultural program associate working with the West Virginia Records Management and Preservation Board's statewide preservation project digitizing county records since January 2011. With the retirement of Greg Carroll, Marcum has moved into the position of historian effective December 17, 2012, and will be working with patrons in the Archives and History Library, as well as assuming responsibility for the West Virginia Civil War Medals distribution program. Marcum also will replace Carroll as our resident Native American researcher. He presented "Hatfield and McCoy Feud: Complex Individuals, Complex Events" as the Archives First Tuesday speaker in July 2012 (available on YouTube). Before his employment at Archives and History, he was both a Library patron and an Archives volunteer,

Evening Workshops and Lecture Schedule		
Date	Conducted by:	Subject
February 5, Tuesday	John Lilly	<i>Goldenseal</i>
March 5, Tuesday	Dr. Billy Joe Peyton	" <i>The History of Charleston</i> "
April 2, Tuesday	Dr. Charles Ledbetter	" <i>The West Virginia State College Aviation Program: Tuskegee Airmen Connection in 'The Experiment?'</i> "
May 7, Tuesday	Russ Barbour	" <i>Reconstructing Bill: The Story of Governor William C. Marland</i> "
June 4, Tuesday	Dr. Karen L. Cox	" <i>Dixie's Daughters: United Daughters of the Confederacy</i> "
July 2, Tuesday	Joseph A. Comm	<i>Rock Spring Park</i>
August 6, Tuesday	Jerry Sutphin	<i>The Great Kanawha River and River Transportation in West Virginia</i>
September 10, Tuesday	Dr. Bob Barnett	" <i>Hillside Fields: A History of Sports in West Virginia</i> "
October 1, Tuesday	TBA	<i>West Virginia Archaeology and the Grave Creek Mound Archaeological Complex</i>
November 5, Tuesday	Terry Lowry	" <i>The Battle of Charleston and the Kanawha Valley Campaign</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.

working with Civil War records and manuscripts. He is continuing one of his volunteer projects in the Archives, inventorying and maintaining the collection of the Mountain State Railroad and Logging Association, the volunteer

group associated with Cass Scenic Railroad State Park. Marcum also serves as a speaker for Daughters of the American Revolution chapter meetings, and as current president of Wayne County Genealogical and Historical Society.

**Check out Archives and History's
 YouTube and Facebook Pages**

<http://www.youtube.com/user/wvarchivesandhistory>
<http://www.facebook.com/pages/West-Virginia-Archives-and-History/168933289812323>

Institutional Book Donations

Unlike archival libraries, most college, public and organizational libraries are “weeded” regularly to withdraw lesser used books from the shelves to make room for new ones. At other times a library’s collection development policy may change, and the library will no longer want books in certain categories or time spans. Often these discarded books are offered to other libraries. The West Virginia Archives and History Library has recently accepted such donations from West Virginia Wesleyan University, Kanawha County Public Library, WVU Extension Service at Jackson’s Mill, Fairfax County (Virginia) Library, the National Mine Safety and Health Academy’s Technical Information Center and Library, and Fairmont State University Library. We are grateful to the staff members at these institutions who were thoughtful and insightful in offering their withdrawn West Virginia-related books to the Archives.

The Encyclopaedia of Geography

(Excerpts continued from the December 2012 issue)

The Encyclopaedia of Geography: comprising a complete description of the earth, physical, statistical, civil, and political; exhibiting its relation to the heavenly bodies, its physical structure, the natural history of each country, and the industry, commerce, political institutions, and civil and social state of all nations, by Hugh Murray, F.R.S.E. All of that published in just three volumes! The first edition was published by Carey, Lea and Blanchard, Philadelphia, in 1837. The Archives and History Library’s copy is an edition that was revised, with additions, by Thomas G. Bradford, published by Lea and Blanchard (successors

New Titles

- Islands of the Mist:** William Mucklow, 1995.
A Dragon’s Life: St. Albans High School, W. Va., Class of 1957: Drollene Plattner Brown, 2012.
Darkness or Dawn?: The Herald-Dispatch, 1974.
The Patriots at the Cowpens: Bobby Gilmer Moss, 1985.
The Powhatan Indians of Virginia: Their Traditional Culture: Helen C. Rountree, 1989.
Families of Western New York: William Richard Cutter, 1996, c1912.
Work Family History: Twelve Generations of Works in America: 1690-1969: Von Gail Hamilton, 1969.
John Alexander: A Northern Neck Proprietor: His Family, Friends and Kin: Wesley E. Pippenger, 1990.
The Fairfax Family in Fairfax County: A Brief History: Kenton Kilmer and Donald Sweig, 1975.
Fairfax County in Virginia: A Pictorial History: Ross and Nan Netherton, 1986.
Old Virginia Houses Along the James: Emmie Ferguson Farrar, 1957.
Dunkard Ridge: Norma Jean Venable, 1976.
Thirty Years After: An Artist’s Memoir of the Civil War: Text and illustrations by Edwin Forbes, 1993, c1890.
Everything in Its Path: Destruction of Community in the Buffalo Creek Flood: Kai T. Erikson, 1976.
The Last Steam Railroad in America: Photographs by O. Winston Link and text by Thomas H. Garver, 2000, c1995.
Civil War Curiosities: Strange Stories, Oddities, Events, and Coincidences: Webb Garrison, 1994.
Civil War High Commands: John H. Eicher and David J. Eicher, 2001.
Great American Fighter Pilots of World War II: Robert D. Loomis, 1961.
Race, River, and the Railroad: Black Huntington, West Virginia, 1871-1929: Cicero M. Fain III, 2009.

on the Ohio during the season of low water, is one of the most flourishing trading towns in the country. The city stands on a narrow plain, in the rear of which rises a range of steep river hills, and is therefore chiefly built in a single street along the river. The population increased from 1567 in 1820, to 5222 in 1830, and in 1835 was estimated to exceed 8000. There are 20 steam-boats owned here, 26 steam-engines are in operation, and a great quantity of goods are forwarded from this point in wagons by the National Road to the east, and by keel-boats, flat-boats, and steamers down the river. The number of steam-boat arrivals here in 1834 was 738. Four iron-founderies [sic], and

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as many steam-engine factories, 4 cotton and woolen-mills, 7 glass-houses and cut-glass works, an extensive rolling and slitting-mill and nail-factory, 3 steam flour-mills, 2 paper-mills, copperas, white-lead, and sheet-lead manufactories, tobacco-manufactories, tanneries, smitheries, &c. are among the manufacturing establishments, in which about 34,000 tons of coal are consumed annually.” (p. 528)

“Professor Rogers closes his report*, already quoted, with the following very just remarks on Western Virginia:--“How magnificent is the picture of the resources of this region, and how exhilarating the contemplation of all the happy influences upon the enterprise, wealth, and intellectual improvement of its inhabitants, which are rapidly to follow the successive development of its inexhaustible mineral

possessions! In a country where the channels of nearly all the principal rivers have been scooped out in part through beds of coal, where some of them are paved with the richest ores of iron, and where the very rock itself, the sterile sand-stone of the cliffs and mountains, is enriched at certain depths with abundant stores of salt, what more is needed to fulfill the happy and glorious destinies that await it, than to awaken enterprise to a due appreciation of the golden promises it holds out, and to direct industrious and active research to the thorough investigation of the character, position and uses of the treasures it contains!” (p. 528)

**Report of the Geological Reconnoissance of the State of Virginia, made under the appointment of the Board of Public Works, by William Barton Rodgers, 1836.*

WV Reads 150: Celebrating the West Virginia Sesquicentennial, 1863-2013

West Virginia Reads 150 is a project of the Kanawha County Public Library and the West Virginia Center for the Book of the West Virginia Library Commission. *WV Reads 150* challenges individuals or groups to read 150 books between January 1 and December 31, 2013, in celebration of the 150th birthday of the state. Books may be on any subject, fiction or non-fiction. Teams of up to 15 members may be formed from any group, select a name and choose a leader to keep track of books read by members. All ages are encouraged to participate. Children too young to read may count books read to them and all children may count Summer Reading Program books toward their totals for the year. Participating libraries and organizations in your area may offer

certificates of achievement, prizes and/or special activities for *WV Reads 150* readers.

If you would like to include West Virginia history and culture-related books on your *WV Reads 150* list, check the title lists in current and past *Archives and History News* issues for ideas. Although West Virginia Archives and History books cannot be checked out, you can look for the titles in your local libraries or request them from libraries participating in interlibrary loans. Maybe you or your team would enjoy reading one book about each of the 55 counties of West Virginia. If so, search library catalogs online using the name of the county and the words “history,” “biography,” or “description and travel.”

SLAVERY

Following the last line of a description of the surface geography of the Tidewater, a justification for the necessity of slave sales because of that geography was included. “The only rich and durable soils are small patches of river bottom and upland margin, which do not form more than one-tenth of the whole country below the falls of the rivers, and much even of this small proportion has been exhausted by injudicious cropping.”

“It is from this section that the traffic in slaves is chiefly carried on, and as some misapprehension seems to prevail on this subject, we give here the following remarks of a judicious writer whose situation enables him to speak with authority. “The cultivators of Eastern Virginia derive a portion of their income from a source quite distinct from their tillage--the breeding and selling of slaves. It is not meant to convey the idea, that any person undertakes as a regular business the breeding of slaves, with a view to their sale, but the result is the same. With plenty of wholesome food and under mild treatment, they have every inducement to increase rapidly, without any prudential moral or physical check. A gang of slaves on a farm will often increase to four times their original in 30 or 40 years. Few farms are able to support this increasing expense, and furnish the necessary supplies to the proprietor; whence many owners of large estates in lands and negroes are too poor to enjoy the comforts of wealth, or to encounter the expenses necessary to improve their unprofitable farming. A man so situated may be said to be a slave of his own slaves. The income of few persons increases as fast as their slaves, and the consequence must be that some of them will be sold that the others may be supported. The sale of slaves is always a severe

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trial to their owner. Obstacles are opposed to it, not only by sentiments of humanity and of regard for those who have passed their lives in his service, but every feeling of false shame comes to aid; and such sales are generally postponed until compelled by creditors, and are carried into effect by the sheriff, or by the administrator of the debtor. The surplus slaves must be sent out of the country which is not able to feed them, and these causes continue to supply the immense numbers that are annually carried away from Lower Virginia, without even producing the political benefit of lessening the actual number remaining. (*Ruffin, on Calcareous Manures.*)”

This quoted passage is from *An Essay on Calcareous Manures*, by Edmund Ruffin, 1794-1865, Petersburg*, Virginia, first published in 1832. Ruffin was a slave-holding plantation owner who experimented

with fertilizers, crop rotation and other agricultural techniques. He also published *The Farmer's Register*, a monthly periodical, 1833-43. He

was a pro-slavery secessionist and he and his sons served in the Confederate Army. [*not Grant County] (p. 525)

Death Records Topic of January 10 Program

On January 10, 2013, Randy Marcum will discuss “Death Records: The Final Act” at the Thursday evening lecture in the Archives and History Library in the Culture Center in Charleston. The program will begin at 6:00 p.m. and is free and open to the public.

Marcum will examine several of the West Virginia Archives and History collections dealing with the death of citizens. State, county and business records tell the story of the end of life in a legal document. By researching these documents, many different facets of a person’s life and of the funeral directors who rendered the final care for them can be discovered. Marcum will use various collections from the State

Archives, including Department of Mines records, Ball Funeral Home records, and Board of Funeral Home Examiners records to provide an insight into the end of life process.

For planning purposes, participants are encouraged to register for the program, but advance registration is not required to attend. To register in advance, contact Bryan Ward, assistant director, at bryan.e.ward@wv.gov or at (304) 558-0230, ext. 723. 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.

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.

“THE OIL AND GAS INDUSTRY: WEST VIRGINIA’S GIFT TO THE WORLD,”
EXHIBIT, through January 13: Culture Center, Charleston.

AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY EXHIBIT, February 1 through March 9:
Greenbrier Historical Society, Lewisburg.

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

“THE PROGRESSIVE ERA IN WHEELING,” January 8:
Hal Gorby, speaker, Ohio County Public Library Lunch With Books, Wheeling.

ARCHEOLOGY WITHIN THE UPPER OHIO RIVER VALLEY BASIN, January 10:
Dr. Robert Maslowski, speaker, Weirton Area Museum and Cultural Center.

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY, January 21: Archives Library will be open.*

DEADLINE FOR HISTORY DAY DISPLAY SPACE RESERVATION FORMS,
January 28: Postmarked or hand delivered to West Virginia Archives and History, 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.

AFRICAN AMERICAN ARCHEOLOGY IN WEST VIRGINIA AND THE OHIO VALLEY, February 2: Heather Cline, speaker, Weirton Area Museum and Cultural Center.

BLENNERHASSETT WINTER LECTURE SERIES, February 3: Topic TBA, Blennerhassett Museum of Regional History, Parkersburg.

BLENNERHASSETT WINTER LECTURE SERIES, February 10: Topic TBA, Blennerhassett Museum of Regional History, Parkersburg.

BLENNERHASSETT WINTER LECTURE SERIES, February 17: Topic TBA, Blennerhassett Museum of Regional History, Parkersburg.

PRESIDENTS DAY, February 18: Archives Library status TBA.

HISTORY DAY AT THE WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE, February 21: Capitol Complex and Culture Center, Charleston.

BLENNERHASSETT WINTER LECTURE SERIES, February 24: Topic TBA, Blennerhassett Museum of Regional History, Parkersburg.

“WHEELING STREET NAME ORIGINS,” February 26: Kate Quinn, speaker, Ohio County Public Library Lunch With Books, Wheeling.

KANAWHA VALLEY HERITAGE FAIR, March 2: Hosted by Kanawha Valley History Center, Salines Presbyterian Church, Malden.

LIBRARY DAY AT THE WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE, March 7: Capitol Complex, Charleston.

FINAL DAYS OF WEIRTON STEEL, March 9: Tom Zielinsky, speaker, Weirton Area Museum and Cultural Center.

80TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF THE FOUNDING OF THE CCC, March 31: West Virginia State CCC Museum, Quiet Dell.

“HOLDING THE LINE: THE BATTLE OF ALLEGHENY MOUNTAIN,” April 2: Joe Geiger, speaker, Ohio County Public Library Lunch With Books, Wheeling.

FIFTH ANNUAL FESTIVAL OF NATIONS, April 13: Weirton Area Museum and Cultural Center.

“A NEW STAR IN THE UNION: ABRAHAM LINCOLN AND WEST VIRGINIA STATEHOOD,” April 20: Fritz Klein, living history program, West Virginia Independence Hall, Wheeling.

**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
Archives
 and **History NEWS**

West Virginia Division of Culture and History
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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 Susan Scouras, (304) 558-0230, Ext. 742, or by e-mail: susan.c.scouras@wv.gov.

www.wvculture.org/history

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- Randy MarcumHistorian (Civil War medals, Native American)
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- Jaime Simmons..... Library Assistant (records of the 1700s and early 1800s, Pennsylvania)
- Bobby Taylor Library Manager
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 and Patricia Richards McClure

This newsletter is a publication of: The West Virginia Division of Culture and History
 Randall Reid-Smith, Commissioner