



WEST VIRGINIA Archives and History NEWS

From the Editor:

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February 2015

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

*Change has come—the next issue of West Virginia Archives and History News will be Volume XVI, No. 1, published online only in April 2015. The February 2015 issue brings to a close fifteen years' worth of monthly newsletters from West Virginia Archives and History, each issue beginning with a personal note from me as editor, or from Mary Johnson in my absence. We look forward to our new format as a quarterly e-newsletter which will allow us to share with you more images and longer articles covering a wider variety of the collections and services of the State Archives. For those of you who already routinely read *Archives and History News* online the change will be minimal. We hope those of you who are used to reading a paper copy will stay with us as we transition to an online digital format. If you have any questions about how to access the newsletter online, or how to receive our e-mail notifications of the posting of each issue online, please call us at (304) 558-0230, or e-mail Susan Scouras, susan.c.scouras@wv.gov or Mary Johnson, mary.e.johnson2@wv.gov.*

History Day 2015

West Virginia History Day at the Legislature is February 19, 2015. Officially designated by the West Virginia Archives and History Commission and held annually during a session of the West Virginia Legislature, History Day is a celebration of the Mountain State that brings together participants from all over the state. Representatives of historical, genealogical and preservation societies, as well as educational groups, museums and historical sites, bring displays and literature to share with legislators, the public and each other. Many display historical photographs and artifacts, and others dress in period costume. Historical re-enactors strolling through the Capitol halls in character are a highlight.

Since 1997 societies dedicated to West Virginia history, genealogy, and preservation have recognized individuals who have contributed

significantly to the success of these organizations and their missions, either by their long-term work or publication of an important book, by awarding the designation of West Virginia History

Hero. These awards are presented annually in the West Virginia Norman L. Fagan State Theater in the Culture Center the morning of History Day. For
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Land Grants in West Virginia to be Focus of February 3 Program

On Tuesday, February 3, 2015, Russell Rollyson will present "Land Grants in West Virginia" in the Archives and History Library of the Culture Center in Charleston. The program will begin at 6:00 p.m. and is free and open to the public.

The land grant was the primary means by which early European and colonial settlement occurred in West Virginia. The British Crown and colonial government issued land grants to individuals or companies in return for improving land by settlement and as rewards

for military or other service. The land grant records in West Virginia Archives and History provide information about such topics as land titles, immigration, and family relationship found in no other place.

Russell Rollyson has lived his entire life within West Virginia. The paternal side of his family helped settle Braxton County and there is a town in Braxton County named after them. He attended Virginia Tech and the University of Charleston graduating with a
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degree in history. He continued his education at Marshall University where he obtained a master's in public administration. He is currently the Deputy State Auditor for the County Collections Division of the West Virginia State Auditor's Office. In this capacity he is responsible for the collection and enforcement of delinquent property taxes on real

property in West Virginia. In addition, he is responsible for the distribution and collection of public utility taxes in West Virginia. He has been with the State Auditor's Office since 1981.

On February 3, the library will close at 5:00 p.m. and reopen at 5:45 p.m. for participants only. For additional information, contact the Archives and History Library at (304) 558-0230.

[This article originally was prepared by Mary Johnson for the Archives and History Web site based on information provided by Russ Rollyson.]

Harden and Harden Funeral Home Records

Manuscript collection Ms 2014-015 consists of three boxes and 22 bound volumes of records of Harden and Harden Funeral Home, Harden-Gilmore Funeral Home and Scott Funeral Home, all once located at 514 Broad Street, Charleston, West Virginia. Most of the records and materials are dated 1922-1985, with a few up through 1995. A finding aid is available on the Archives and History Web site at <http://www.wvculture.org/history/collections/ms2014-015.html>. An alphabetical list of individuals for whom there are records in the collection is linked from this page as well. If you are unable to visit the

Archives and History Library in the Culture Center in Charleston to view the collection yourself, but would like to have copies of the records for names listed there, you can send your request to us by letter, enclosing the \$5.00 fee by check or money order for a letter from a West Virginia address or the \$15.00 fee for out-of-state requests. You could include a request for obituary searches as well. (Final total fee may vary based on the number of searches requested.) For more information on research requests visit <http://www.wvculture.org/history/services.html#research> or call our Reference Desk, (304) 558-0230, ext. 168.

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more about History Heroes, including lists of annual honorees, visit <http://www.wvculture.org/history/histhero.html>.

History Day is always a fun and informative time for both participants and attendees. Networking is the word of the day for the organizations, to mutual benefit. Students of all ages, home-schoolers in particular, enjoy a day of history "made real" and of opportunities for hands-on, face-to-face learning. For more information about History Day, contact Mary Johnson, Archives and History, (304) 558-0230, ext. 133, mary.e.johnson2@wv.gov. January 26, 2015, was the deadline for space reservations, so if your organization sent in an application, but has not received an acknowledgment from Johnson, contact her immediately.

Hoot Owl Set for March 27-28, 2015

The 16th Annual Hoot Owl overnight research event in the West Virginia Archives and History Library will be March 27-28, 2015. Participants will be admitted to the Archives Library on Friday evening, March 27, at 6:00 p.m. and will depart by 8:00 a.m. Saturday, March 28. Research assistance will be available. Registration is \$25 and must be postmarked by March 13, 2015 (late registration, if available, is \$35). Mining Your History Foundation (MYHF) and the Archives and History section of the West Virginia Division of Culture and History are co-sponsors. For more information and registration form, visit <http://www.wvculture.org/history/myhf/2015hootowlbrochure.pdf>. You may also contact Joe Geiger, (304) 558-0230, joe.n.geiger@wv.gov, Gerald Ratliff, ratliffgsfm@hotmail.com, or Esther B. Warner, ebw104@juno.com.

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>

"Slavery and Free People of Color in Virginia" Presented by Carroll

Greg Carroll, retired Archives and History historian, returned to the West Virginia Archives and History Library on January 6, 2015, to talk about the political and legal lives of slaves and free people of color.



The First Governor's Mansion and its Original Owner, Gustave Jelenko

By Susan Scouras

An interesting sequence of research followed my finding of the following paragraph in the *Charleston Daily Mail*, April 7, 1897:

The Gubernatorial Mansion and premises are being overhauled throughout and will present a splendid appearance in a short time. It is the idea of Gov. Atkinson to have all the out-houses removed and convert the surplus ground around the mansion into a kind of park, which will be entertaining and pleasing to visitors. The barn which is on the place will be sold to the highest bidder, and when removed will leave the mansion to stand alone on the spacious lawn, made more homelike by the magnificent flowers and trees which thrive and bloom during the coming summer.

“Out-houses” may refer to all outdoor structures on the property, such as the barn and perhaps storage and garden sheds. We are left to wonder if outdoor toilet facilities were present at the time, certainly a possibility in even an upscale home of the time period, and were removed for this project. The property described was the first official state residence for West Virginia’s governors and was located on Capitol Street near the location of the State Capitol at



that time. According to the *West Virginia Encyclopedia* (West Virginia Humanities Council, 2006), the

Commissioner Reid-Smith to Discuss Opera in the Mountain State on February 26

On February 26, 2015, Randall Reid-Smith will present “Opera in West Virginia” at the Thursday evening lecture in the Archives and History Library of the Culture Center in Charleston. The program will begin at 6:00 p.m. and is free and open to the public.

West Virginia has produced several important opera singers, including Eleanor Steber of Wheeling and Phyllis Curtin of Clarksburg. In 1940 at the age of 26, Steber made her debut at the Metropolitan Opera as Sophie in Richard Strauss’s *Der Rosenkavalier*. Six years later, the 25-year-old Curtin made her professional debut with the New England Opera Theater. Both went on to have long, successful careers in opera. As a young singer, Randall Reid-Smith was inspired by the fact that someone from Clarksburg could be an opera star, and he will discuss Curtin and Steber in his talk, sharing clips of Curtin in performance from YouTube. He also will talk about Frances Yeend, a world renowned soprano who later taught at West Virginia University, and mezzo-soprano Jane Hobson Shepherd who taught privately and at Marshall University and whose vocal students included Reid-Smith.

Randall Reid-Smith has served as the commissioner of the West Virginia Division of Culture and History since 2006. While he has

[This article originally was prepared by Mary Johnson for the Archives and History Web site based on information provided by Randall Reid-Smith.]

house was built by Gustave Jelenko in 1887 and sold to the state in 1893. Beginning with Governor William MacCorkle, eight governors lived there until the current Governor’s Mansion was built in 1924-25 on the grounds where the new State Capitol
“Mansion” continued on page 4

been commissioner, the division has introduced several programs designed to support youth involvement in arts and history including the West Virginia State History Bowl, the First Lady’s Festival of Songs for middle and high school show choirs, the West Virginia Marching Band Invitational and the only statewide initiative of the VH1 Save The Music Foundation’s program bringing free musical instruments to qualified pre-K through middle schools in West Virginia. In 2013, Reid-Smith received the prestigious Support Music award from the National Association of Music Merchants and the National Association for Music Education for his support of and leadership during the statewide rebuild of West Virginia music education programs.

Reid-Smith is an accomplished opera singer who has won numerous competitions at the state and regional level and has maintained an international career as an operatic tenor since the mid-1980s. He received a bachelor’s degree in music from the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music and a master’s in music from Indiana University. Reid-Smith was awarded an honorary doctorate of music from Glenville State University.

For additional information, contact the Archives and History Library at (304) 558-0230.

"Mansion" continued from page 3
 was under construction.

To determine the actual street address of the Governor's Mansion, I checked Charleston city directories. According to the 1895-96 *Charleston City Directory* (W.H. Armitage, 1895), the residence of Governor William McCorkle was 153 Capitol, the address of the Jelenko residence in prior directories. In the directory listings Gustave Jelenko was identified as a merchant in wholesale dry goods, a partner with Jacob Jelenko in Jelenko & Brother. Another company, Jelenko & Loeb, a boot and shoe retailer/wholesaler, belonged to William Jelenko and Charles Loeb. I became curious about the Jelenkos because I had never heard the surname or the business names associated with Charleston. With so many resources at hand in the West Virginia Archives and History Library, I began to explore them to see what I could learn. The more threads I pulled, the more interesting information I found, weaving this family into the fabric of the business community and the Jewish community of Charleston from the 1870's through the late 1890's, when they suddenly disappeared from the records and histories not only of Charleston and Kanawha County, but of the state of West Virginia. The information I found turned out to be too much and too complicated to include in this newsletter issue, so I decided to tell you about the Jelenko family, their enterprises and their groundbreaking involvement in the history of Charleston in our next issue in April 2015. I think you will be quite surprised at the twists and turns this story takes, and in the extent of the research I was able to perform through the resources of the West Virginia Archives and History Library.

New Titles

- The Other School Reformers: Conservative Activism in American Education:** Adam Laats, 2015.
- Mr. Fitz: Herbert Fitzpatrick and the Founding of the Huntington Museum of Art:** Christopher Hatten, 2014.
- The Crist-Cress-Criss Family:** Janice Cale Sisler, 2014.
- Warrants and Surveys of the Province of Pennsylvania including the Three Lower Counties, 1959:** Allen Weinberg, compiler, 1975, c1965.
- 2014 Directory of County Officials:** West Virginia Association of Counties, 2014.
- The Colonel's Dream:** original text by Charles W. Chesnutt, 1935; ReGenerations edition with notes, edited by R. J. Ellis, 2014.
- Carolina Cradle: Settlement of the Northwest Carolina Frontier, 1747-1762:** Robert W. Ramsey, 1964.
- The Powell Family of Norfolk and Elizabeth City Counties, Virginia and Their Descendants:** Silas Emmett Lucas, Jr., 1961.
- The Powell Families of Virginia and the South:** Silas Emmett Lucas, Jr., 1969.
- Drain Descendants and Smallridge Descendants and Ramsey Descendants:** Donald L. and Brenda K. Brookover; arranged by Elizabeth Estlack Mullett, 2014.
- McGee-Maderia Descendants:** Kevin Andrew and Sarah Lynn Yeater; arranged by Elizabeth Estlack Mullett, 2014.
- Memorializing Motherhood: Anna Jarvis and the Struggle for Control of Mother's Day:** Katharine Lane Antolini, 2014.
- The Story of Written Wills in North Central West Virginia: A Study of Records in Barbour, Randolph, Harrison and Upshur Counties:** Barbara Smith, 2014.
- Cumberland County's First Hundred Years:** Helen Bullard and Joseph Marshall Krechniak, 1972, c1956.
- Pender Roots: A Southern Family in the Virginia-North Carolina Region:** Paul S. Pender, 1997.
- Field Genealogy: Being the Record of All the Field Family in America, Whose Ancestors Were in This Country Prior to 1700:** Frederick Clifton Pierce, 1901.
- Dr. W. P. King: American Small Town Doctor:** Weston Independent, 1948.
- St. Mark's Church, St. Albans, West Virginia:** 1975?
- First Kentucky Independent Battery (Simmonds' Battery): The Only Kentucky Unit to Fight in the Eastern Theater for the Federal Army:** Charles H. Bogart and William M. Ambrose, 2014.
- FYI Boone County, West Virginia, 2014:** Coal Valley News, c2013.
- Excerpt from the Autobiography of Harry Lee Burdette: His Doomed Flight & Capture in World War II:** Harry Lee Burdette, 2005.
- Donations from Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston Catholic Church Archives**
- Diocese of Wheeling Directories:** 1964-65, 1965-66, 1967-68, 1969-70, 1970-71, 1971-72, 1974-75.
- Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston Directories:** 1975-76, 1977-78, 1979-80, 1982, 1983-84, 1984-85, 1985-86, 1989-90, 1991-92, 1994-95, 1995-96, 2001, 2003, 2008, 2010.
- 170 Years of Catholic Presence in Triadelphia [Seven Dolors Holy Rosary Church]:** H. Joseph Wilhelm, 1984.
- St. Theresa Church: 75th Anniversary: Morgantown, West Virginia:** 1976.

New Titles

- Centennial: Immaculate Conception Parish: Clarksburg, West Virginia:** 1964.
Parish of the Immaculate Conception: 125th Anniversary: 1864-1989: 1989.
Saint Joseph Catholic Church: Mason, West Virginia: 125th Anniversary: 1856-1981: 1981.
Christ the King Catholic Church: War, West Virginia: 1981.
Fashion Me a People: Immaculate Conception Parish: Clarksburg, W. Va.: 1970?
Holy Rosary Parish, Sistersville, W. Va., Celebrates a Diamond Jubilee: 1898-1973: 1973.
The Clergy-Parish Photo Directory: Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, 2010.

WVRR Rolls Up 1914 Births and 1964 Deaths

West Virginia Vital Research Records (WVRR) database on the Archives and History Web site adds another year of searchable digitized birth and death records every January 1. Birth records are withheld from the Web site for 100 years, and death records for 50 years, determined by the year of issuance. On January 1, 2015, county birth records up through December 31, 1914, and both county death records and state death certificates through December 31, 1964, became available. County marriage records do not have a withholding requirement and are available up through the last year microfilmed in each county. Although no additional records will be added past the dates of marriages recorded on microfilm by the Genealogical Society of Utah (see "County Court Records," <http://www.wvculture.org/history/countrec.html> for the last available year for each specific county), we hope to obtain enhanced digital scans or new microfilm of some county records that are illegible on the currently available microfilm. A list of record dates by county is posted on the search page for each type of record for your reference.

If you would like to learn more about West Virginia vital records, visit the State Archives page of the West Virginia Archives and History Web site,

<http://www.wvculture.org/history/wvsamenu.html>, under "Research Guides" for links to *Quick Guide to Births*, *Quick Guide to Deaths* and *Quick Guide to Marriages*. The Quick Guides are updated every January, or as needed if other changes take place. For more in-depth information, read the following *West Virginia Archives and History News* articles:

- *Vital Records in West Virginia: Deaths*, Volume VIII, No. 7, September 2007
- *Vital Records in West Virginia: Births*, Volume VIII, No. 8, October 2007
- *Vital Records in West Virginia: Marriages*, Volume VIII, No. 9, November 2007

These and all other issues are posted on the Archives and History Web site at <http://www.wvculture.org/history/ahnews/ahnews.html>.

Photographic Tribute to Governor Moore

West Virginia Archives and History has added "Arch A. Moore, Jr., 1923-2015, A Photographic Tribute" to the Online Exhibits section of the Web site at <http://www.wvculture.org/history/exhibits.html>.

16th Annual

Hoot Owl Night



for all "Night Owls" willing to
"Burn The Midnight Oil"

at
West Virginia Archives
and History

6:00 p.m. March 27, 2015
to
8:00 a.m. March 28, 2015

Sponsored by

Mining Your History
Foundation
and
Archives & History

Web site of Interest

Research a Veteran: <http://www.16thinfantry.com/research-a-veteran>. Max Poorthuis, president of the 16th Infantry Regiment Historical Society, has compiled a helpful how-to for researching World War II servicemen and women. Poorthuis has assisted Patricia McClure, Archives and History volunteer, as well, with research for biographies of West Virginia veterans included in the West Virginia Veterans Memorial Archives database.

Archives and History Evening Lecture Schedule

| Date | Conducted by: | Subject |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|---|
| March 3, Tuesday | Chris Saunders | <i>"Underground Railroad"</i> |
| March 19, Thursday | Dr. James Spencer | <i>"The West Virginia Lobotomy Project, 1948-1955"</i> |
| April 7, Tuesday | Karan Bali | <i>"The Films of Ellis Dungan"</i> |
| April 16, Thursday | Dr. Billy Joe Peyton | <i>"Engineering & Construction of the National Road"</i> |
| May 5, Tuesday | Dr. Melissa Satore | <i>"Outlaws"</i> |
| May 14, Thursday | TBA | <i>"J. Q. Dickinson Saltworks"</i> |
| May 21, Thursday | Lewis R. Smoot Sr. | <i>2015 Block Speakers Series "African American Life in Charleston: A Personal Perspective"</i> |

For more information call our office at (304) 558-0230.

Lectures are held 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. in the West Virginia Archives and History Library, Culture Center, Charleston, West Virginia.

WVGS Library Closed

The West Virginia Genealogical Society (WVGS) Library in Blue Creek (Elkview), West Virginia, closed as of January 30, 2015. The Society is still in operation and will continue to publish the WVGS newsletter, *The Log* through December 2015; however, research inquiries are not being accepted at this time. They will accept new memberships by the end of March only so any new member will receive a full year of *The Log*. If you have used the WVGS Library in the past or have obtained research assistance through the Society, they ask that you please consider becoming a member or making a donation. For more information contact Esther Warner at ebw104@juno.com.

History Bowl Competition for 2015 Gearing Up



West Virginia Archives and History is gearing up. The dates and places have been set for the regional competitions in the eight West Virginia Education Service Agency (RESA) districts, plus a play-in competition, with the winner and runner-up in each tournament advancing to the State Championship Tournament in the Culture Center in Charleston. Each team member must be a full-time eighth-grade student in a public school, private school or home school education association.

Archives and History staff have

written 1,528 questions for use in the regional and state tournaments. The questions are about the state's history, culture, heritage, tourism and people. Several features of the Archives and History Web site are excellent tools for preparing for the competition:

Daily Trivia: <http://www.wvculture.org/history/trivia/trivia.aspx>

Quick Quizzes: <http://www.wvculture.org/history/trivia/quizindex.aspx>

On This Day in West Virginia: <http://www.wvculture.org/history/thisdayinwvhistory/thisday.html>

Golden Horseshoe Preparation Page: Quick reference to links for the three resources above, <http://www.wvculture.org/history/goldenhorseshoeprep.html>.

BE WISE!

SEARCH

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or go to
<http://archives.lib.wv.us/>.*

For more information about the 2015 Regional Schedule, visit <http://www.wvculture.org/history/historybowl/2015/2015historybowlschedule.html>. To learn more about West Virginia History Bowl, visit <http://www.wvculture.org/history/historybowl.html>.

Planning a Cemetery Cleanup?

April and May are the traditional pre-Memorial Day cleanup period for cemeteries. If you are planning a trip to a family, church or community burial ground, keep in mind that care should be taken to preserve stones and other grave markers. While you are there, consider taking the following extra steps to preserve the memory of those buried in the cemetery, and to help relatives find the burial places of their ancestors:

- Create or update a cemetery listing.
- Write down driving directions, GPS and contact information.
- Print off a copy of the West Virginia State Historic Preservation Office Cemetery Survey form (<http://www.wvculture.org/shpo/cemeteries.html>), fill it in and send it to SHPO for inclusion in its file.
- Mail or e-mail a copy of the cemetery listing or the Survey form to Susan Scouras, Archives and History Library, for the Library's *West Virginia Cemetery Listings* collection (<http://www.wvculture.org/history/ms2006-052.html>).
- Share the information you compile with local historical and genealogical societies.

Previous articles in *West Virginia Archives and History News* will be helpful to you, and can be found on our Web site at <http://www.wvculture.org/history/ahnews/ahnews.html>. For more information about cemetery cleanup and preservation, see the September 2000, April 2004, April 2005, and April 2006 issues. For a description of Ms2006-052, *West Virginia Cemetery Listings*, see the May 2006 and June 2006 issues. If you have any questions, call Susan Scouras at (304) 558-0230, or e-mail susan.c.scouras@wv.gov.

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.

PRESIDENTS DAY, February 16: Archives Library will be *closed*.

HISTORY DAY AT THE LEGISLATURE,
 February 19: Capitol rotunda and Culture Center.

16TH ANNUAL HOOT OWL,
 March 27-28: Archives and History Library. Sponsored by Mining Your History Foundation and Archives and History.

**WEST VIRGINIA HISTORY BOWL
 STATE CHAMPIONSHIP,**
 May 5: Culture Center, Charleston.

The West Virginia Library Commission Library in the Culture Center is closed weekends and all holidays.

Reminder for Librarians, Society Secretaries and Regular Readers of *West Virginia Archives and History News*

West Virginia Archives and History News will appear in print and online through February 2015, Volume XV, No. 12, which is the issue you are reading now. The newsletter will then become a quarterly e-newsletter posted on the West Virginia Archives and History Web site, <http://www.wvculture.org/history/ahnews/ahnews.html>, in April (No. 1), July (No. 2), October (No. 3) and January (No. 4) for each volume. All issues of the newsletter are permanently posted there with title, subject and speaker indexes. Members of the West Virginia Archives and History e-mail list will receive an e-mail with a link for each

quarterly posting of the e-newsletter, beginning with Volume XVI, No. 1, in April 2015. No issues will be mailed after the February 2015 issue.

If you are not currently on our mailing list you may sign up on the Division of Culture and History homepage at <http://www.wvculture.org/history/ahnews/ahnews.html>. Once you enter your e-mail address and click "Join," you will be offered an opportunity to select which sections of the Division you would like to hear from. You may select Archives and History only, or you can select others that appeal to you as well.



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WEST VIRGINIA
Archives
and **History NEWS**

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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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