



WEST VIRGINIA Archives and History NEWS

From the Editor:

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[http://www.wvculture.org/history/
ahnews/ahnews.html](http://www.wvculture.org/history/ahnews/ahnews.html)**

“Hoot Owl” still had openings at the time this issue of Archives and History News was published. If you would like to attend, fill out and mail the registration form found on our Web site at <http://www.wvculture.org/history/hootowl2014brochure.pdf>, or call Joe Geiger, Archives and History, (304) 558-0230. Take advantage of this annual opportunity to get an up close and personal look at the West Virginia State Archives and to obtain advice and assistance from West Virginia genealogists and historians. Please consider joining Mining Your History Foundation, an organization that unites both individuals and genealogical societies to share, preserve and promote West Virginia genealogy resources, and serves as co-sponsor of “Hoot Owl.”

History Day 2014 Hampered by Snow

Hampered by heavy snow and icy roads across the state, History Day 2014 went on with the morning program, but ended around noon when most state offices were closed except for essential personnel, and most employees who had been able to reach their workplaces were sent home. While many History Day participants were delayed by the weather in reaching Charleston, 39 organizations and agencies eventually were present to set up displays in the Capitol rotunda and hallways between the House of Delegates and Senate chambers in the morning. Re-enactors representing several different time periods in West

Virginia history manned tables and visited with attendees. We hope our legislators, their staff members and visitors appreciated the resolution and determination evidenced by the Mountaineers who were able

to make it to the Capitol on a very tough weather day. In no way do we criticize those who determined that the better part of valor was to stay home! We all treasure our History
Continued on the next page

Civil War 1864 to Be Focus of March 4 Lecture

On March 4, 2014, Rick Wolfe will present “From the Burning of Chambersburg to the Battle of Moorefield” 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.

In the summer of 1864, Gen. Jubal Early moved his Confederate army down the Shenandoah Valley and east to threaten Washington, DC. His mission was to create confusion and draw Union soldiers and resources away from Gen. Ulysses S. Grant’s campaign to destroy Gen. Robert E. Lee’s Army of Northern Virginia. Early dispatched two cavalry brigades under the command of Gen. John

McCausland to burn Chambersburg, Pennsylvania. Afterwards, Union cavalry under the command of William W. Averell pursued the town burners. They caught up with the Confederates in Hardy County, resulting in the Battle of Moorefield.

A native of Morgantown, Richard A. Wolfe spent 26 years in the Marine Corps, retiring as a major in 1998. Since then, he has worked in the information technology field with the Department of Justice and in December 2013 retired from Lockheed Martin. Wolfe has been a long-time student of the American Civil War, especially as it relates to West Virginia. He is associated with the Clarksburg and
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"War" continued from page 1

Morgantown Civil War Roundtables, is president of Rich Mountain Battlefield Foundation, and is a volunteer on the Civil War Task Force for West Virginia's Division of Tourism, which is responsible for West Virginia Civil War Trails. In June 2009, Wolfe was appointed by Governor Manchin to the West Virginia Sesquicentennial of the American Civil War Commission. He is author of a book in the *Images of America* series titled *West Virginia in the Civil War*.

On March 4, the library will close

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

Archives and History Library at Library Day 2014

The West Virginia Archives and History Library participated in Library Day at the West Virginia

Library on January 23, 2014, providing information to other librarians from around the state, as well as an opportunity for legislators and other Library Day attendees to learn about the collections and services provided by the Archives and History Library. If you are a school, public or academic librarian, contact the Archives and History Library any time you need help locating history or genealogy-related West Virginia resources for your patrons or a library program. Start with Joe Geiger, director of Archives and History, joe.n.geiger@wv.gov, or Susan Scouras, librarian, susan.c.scouras@wv.gov, both available by phone at (304) 558-0230.



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Day camaraderie and the annual display of pride in West Virginia history, culture and family. Deciding to forego attendance this year was its own display of fortitude.

For Your Reference

A monthly column discussing the Reference Collection of the West Virginia Archives and History Library

Useful Reference Books for Deciphering Records and Documents

The Reference Collection books featured this month all in some way aid in understanding records, documents, correspondence, diaries, newspaper articles, fiction, and other written products of earlier times. I must confess I and some of my colleagues read these books for entertainment as well as enlightenment.

- *The Census Book: A Genealogist's Guide to Federal Census Facts, Schedules and Indexes*: William Dollarhide, 2000. *The Census Book* provides a clear, concise overview of U.S. Federal Decennial Census records for each census year up through 1930, including a blank form for each which identifies each column of that year's form. Non-population census schedules are identified and explained. An explanation is provided for the Soundex and Miracode index systems. Dollarhide also has many helpful charts for quickly finding which states have state and federal census records, and whether indexes are available.
- *Black's Law Dictionary: Definitions of the Terms and Phrases of American and English Jurisprudence, Ancient and Modern*: Fifth Edition: 1979. Includes pronunciation guide, table of abbreviations, and more. This is the go-to resource if you need to

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2014 History Heroes Recognized

About one-third of the men and women nominated by history, preservation and genealogy-related organizations braved the weather to be present to receive recognition as West Virginia History Heroes for 2014. Recipients were awarded History Hero lapel pins, ribbons, and certificates. The ceremony was conducted in the Norman L. Fagan State Theater in the Culture Center on the State Capitol Complex in Charleston on February 13, 2014, as part of the 18th Annual History Day at the West Virginia Legislature. The History Heroes were also recognized in a session of the West Virginia House of Delegates. Those honorees who were unable to attend will receive a mailed packet containing a certificate, lapel pin, ribbon, and copy of the event program. For more information about current and past History Hero award winners, visit the Archives and History Web site at <http://www.wvculture.org/history/histhero.html>.

Two Thursday Lectures on Schedule for March

Victory Loan Tour of 1945

On Thursday, March 13, 2014, Dr. James Spencer will present "Victory Loan Tour of 1945" 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.

In the aftermath of World War II, the United States government organized the last of its bond drives to defray some of the massive debt incurred from the war. To encourage participation, national tours of captured Nazi vehicles were organized, among many other similar endeavors. Part military, part Hollywood, the Victory Loan Tour amassed an incredible 21 billion dollars in war bond purchases in only two months. Spencer will tell the story of the men on the tour who made this possible, with special focus on the tour's visit to West Virginia in the late fall of 1945.

A native of western New York, James Spencer received a bachelor's degree in psychology from Canisius College in Buffalo, NY, and a master's and Ph.D. from Ohio State University. He taught at West Virginia State University from 1983 until his retirement in 2013, serving as chair of the psychology department from 1993 to 2002. He founded the university's chapter of Psi Chi in 1984 and served as chapter advisor. Spencer twice won the southeastern region's Advisor of the Year award. He is the author of *Recollections and Reflections: A History of the West Virginia State College Psychology Department, 1892-1992* (1994).

For planning purposes, participants are encouraged to register for these programs, but advance registration is not required to attend. To register in advance, contact Robert Taylor, library manager, at Bobby.L.Taylor@wv.gov or at (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.

Eastern Woodland Indian Women

On March 20, 2014, in observance of Women's History Month, Dianne Anestis will present "A Woman's Touch: 18th-Century Eastern Woodland Indian Women as Architects of Social Conscience and Gender Balance" 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.

Anestis will explore the diverse, but equally-important roles of women and men for cultural integrity. Her discussion will look at the significant and dynamic roles of 18th-century Native women in clanship, governance, and property ownership, as well as the unique position among the Cherokee Indians of the "War Woman."

Dianne Anestis is a biomedical science research assistant at Marshall University School of Medicine's Pharmacology and Toxicology departments. She combines her vocation and her avocation as an 18th-century American Indian living historian by focusing on historical uses of medicinal, edible, and utilitarian plants. This research has given insight into the cultural sharing that existed at the time of indigenous peoples' contact with Europeans, as well as some of the changes that were brought about by that contact. For more than 25 years, she and her husband Doug Wood, also an Eastern Woodland Indian living historian, have presented history and nature education programs that emphasize primitive life-ways, living history, and cultural sharing.

15th 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 28, 2014
 to

8:00 a.m. March 29, 2014

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 Foundation and
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understand “fee simple” as it applies to an estate, the legal definition of “infant” (someone under the age of legal majority, usually 21 or 18 years), “junior” versus “senior” grants (senior is first issued, junior is second issued), or “feme soul” (a single woman, including a divorcée, widow or legally separated wife).

- *Reading Early American Handwriting*: Rip Sperry, 1998. Chapters include “Guidelines for Reading Old Documents,” “Numbers and Roman Numerals,” “Abbreviations and Contractions,” and “Sample Alphabets and Handwriting Styles.” Many sample documents are reproduced with their transcriptions.

- *The Handwriting of American Records for a Period of 300 Years*: E. Kay Kirkham, 1973. Contents include “Techniques in Reading Old Documents,” “Handwriting Examples from American Censuses,” and “Some Problems in Searching Original Records.” You will find two helpful appendices, “Foreign Alphabets” and “Glossary of Words, Terms, Phrases, Legal Terminology.”

- *Understanding Colonial Handwriting*: Harriet Stryker-Rodda, 2007. Ms. Rodda begins her commentary by acknowledging that genealogists do not have to read as many original records now, since many transcriptions, abstracts and indexes are now available. She identified the major drawback in relying totally upon the work of others: “With the computerization of genealogical data, however, glaring errors have crept into source materials that should drive the careful researcher back to the originals.” Most importantly she reminds researchers that “[k]nowing how to read material other than the printed word, therefore, remains an essential aspect of all

effective genealogical and historical research.” Letter forms used in American handwriting from 1640 to 1790, 17th century script, and samples of signatures from 1750 to 1820 are illustrated. [Note: Few students are being taught cursive handwriting now, and students with research projects at the Archives and History Library have been unable to read even modern handwriting.]

- *Interpreting Land Records*: Donald A. Wilson, 2006. While Wilson fully

describes the terms and processes involved in identifying and deeding land, he also authoritatively discusses research methods, historical naming practices, terminology, legalities, surveying, maps and more.

- *Concise Genealogical Dictionary*: Maurine and Glen Harris, 1989. The authors explain the meaning of terms collected from all types of documents and records through

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Evening Workshops and Lecture Schedule

Date	Conducted by:	Subject
April 1, Tuesday	Jim Casto	“ <i>Collis P. Huntington</i> ”
April 17, Thursday	Mike Knost	“ <i>Appalachian Ghost Stories</i> ”
May 6, Tuesday	Ken Bailey	“ <i>Civil War Ceredo, A Northern Experiment</i> ”
May 15, Thursday	Steve Cunningham	“ <i>Loyalty They Always Had: The 7th West Virginia Cavalry in the Civil War</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.

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.

West Virginia Covered Bridges Topic of Third Thursday Lecture

“Covered Bridges of West Virginia” was presented by Terry Lively in the Archives and History Library on February 20, 2014. Lively explained that during the production of the 2006 documentary and the book of the same title that followed in 2009, *Crossings: Bridge Building in West Virginia*, she and her collaborators did not think they could do the covered bridges full justice with the budget and time available for the overall work. The result is a second documentary, *West Virginia Covered Bridges*. In addition to



the talk, the audience viewed a 20-minute video with highlights from the documentary which was still in the final stages of production.

years of genealogical research. As a specialized dictionary, all meanings of a word are not given, only the meaning relevant to a researcher's work. For example, the word "vault" is defined as a latrine. Definitions include legal terms, slang, occupations, diseases, place names and more. A list of abbreviations relating to genealogical research appears at the end of the book.

- *The New A to Zax: A Comprehensive Genealogical Dictionary for Genealogists and Historians*: 2nd edition, Barbara Jean Evans, 1990. In addition to the expected dictionary listings of terms and place names, Evans has compiled Appendix A, "Dutch Names," and Appendix B, "Nicknames."
- *More What Did They Mean by That: A Dictionary of Historical and Genealogical Terms Old and New*: Paul Drake, 2006. While containing lesser amounts of medical, legal and other terms included in the books listed here before and after, *What Did They Mean by That* defines words and phrases in common usage in earlier times. This is especially helpful when a word that is common today had a different or alternative meaning in the past. For example, "grammar school" is understood from at least the early 20th century to the present to indicate any school before high school. According to Drake, in the very early colonial days, a grammar school prepared students for college. An example of a general term today that had a greater meaning in the past is "good and lawful men," a reference to citizens legally eligible to serve on a jury.

- *Acronyms and Initialisms Dictionary: A Guide to Alphabetic Designations, Contractions, Acronyms, Initialisms, and Similar Condensed Appellations*: 2nd edition, Gale Research, 1965. This would be an outdated reference book in most libraries, but serves

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Courthouses Featured in February First Tuesday Presentation

Early in the evening, Patti Hamilton, executive director of the West Virginia Association of Counties (WVAC), posed a question during the "West Virginia Courthouses" presentation that succinctly indicated the significance of courthouses. She asked, "How many of you have gone into a new town and recognized the courthouse right away?" Everyone in the audience raised a hand and murmured an assent. Our love and respect for courthouses is based on more than the architecture, according to Mike Gioulis, historic preservation consultant, who spoke next. The designer of a courthouse must balance two main goals: housing the functions of the county government and serving as a symbol of democracy and freedom. Both

of these reasons come into play when it is necessary to preserve and/or rehabilitate a courthouse, said Melissa Garretson Smith, executive director of the West Virginia Courthouse Facilities Improvement Authority (CFIA).

County governments are having a difficult time making their budgets stretch to cover all of their needs, including maintaining and repairing their courthouses. CFIA distributes grant money to 23 to 25 projects each year for courthouse improvements. Debra Warmuth, co-owner of The Walkabout Company, LLC, and co-

author of *Living Monuments: The Courthouses of West Virginia**, a project of WVAC published in December 2013, was unable to attend, unfortunately. The Walkabout Company also produced a DVD titled *Living Monuments—West Virginia's Courthouses* that premiered on West Virginia Public Broadcasting last June. The first 15 minutes of the DVD were shown at

the beginning of the First Tuesday presentation.

*This is the proper title of the book taken from the title page. The front cover and spine of the book have the title as *West Virginia's Living Monuments: The Courthouses*.



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nically as an aide to the vast majority of our patrons who seldom are using more recent resources than the 1950s. While many of the terms are scientific, military or engineering (which is still helpful), many organizations are included, such as IORM, "Improved Order of Red Men," and GAR, "Grand Army of the Republic." I can never remember

the difference between "Works Progress Administration" and "Works Projects Administration," both of which are Depression-era public work programs and both are identified as "WPA." *Acronyms and Initialisms* tells me that the first was created in 1935, and the name was changed in 1939 to the second one.

• *Abbrevs.: (A Dictionary of Abbreviations)*: Herbert John

Stephenson, 1943. Again, this would be outdated for most libraries' purposes, but for our patrons who are researching for World War II and earlier, using a contemporary reference source increases the chances of finding accurate terms for the time period. I found abbreviations or acronyms for organizations in this volume that I have not found in other similar works. For example, "O.Ed'L. in A." represents the Order Sons of Italy in America, and "O.J. D.," Order of Jacob's Daughters.

• *A Medical Miscellany for Genealogists*: Dr. Jeanett L. Jerger, 1995. Names and treatment of diseases, medicines, physical conditions, and more, often with historical references, are the focus of this reference tool.

• *Word-Book of Virginia Folk-Speech*: B.W. Green, 1899. The book is dedicated "to Virginia people by one of them." Besides words and phrases you may expect, such as "bone to pick," "bother one's head" and "notion," the introductory pages to the dictionary-style entries include a list of "Some Virginia Names, spelt one way and called another," such as Botetourt pronounced "Bot'etot" and Taliaferro pronounced "Tol'iver." You will also find 20 pages of "Some Virginia Folk-sayings," although no explanation for the sayings is given. I particularly like this one: "Accidents will happen in the best regulated families." Some sayings can be understood by looking up terms in the dictionary part. I had no idea what the phrase "to feel all-overish" meant until I found the definition of "all-overish": an adjective meaning "feeling confused or abashed."

• S. Dean Six has provided us with two brief works that contain folk expressions and more that those of us who grew up in the Appalachians should be familiar with. *Hill'n Holler Expressions: A Dictionary of West Virginia Hillbilly Talk*, 14 pages,

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In Memoriam: Kellis Marion Gillespie

Kellis M. Gillespie of Hurricane, WV, a longtime supporter of West Virginia Archives and History, passed away January 27, 2014. After retiring from his position as a systems analyst with Union Carbide, Kellis and his wife Virginia "Ginny" Dumont Gillespie followed a new interest in genealogy to research in court-houses in West Virginia, Virginia and other states, as well as in the West Virginia State Archives.

They wrote family history books on their own families and collaborated with Bill Wintz in writing portions of *Putnam County History, Volume II*. They have been active members of several genealogical and historical societies and have generously shared their knowledge, research expertise, and enthusiasm with many family

history researchers. Kellis and Ginny literally worked all night with researchers during "Hoot Owl" Nights in the West Virginia Archives and History Library up until last year. Both Kellis and Ginny were named

West Virginia History Heroes in 2002, nominated by Upper Vandalia Historical Society.

Kellis served on the Board of Directors of the Upper Vandalia Historical Society, the Mining Your

History Foundation and the West Virginia Baptist Historical Society. Both Kellis and Ginny have been vigorous and vocal advocates for the West Virginia Archives and History Library and its programs. Many times Archives staff members delivering lectures or guiding workshops have been blessed to see the smiling faces of the Gillespies there in support.

Kellis will be sorely missed by all of us in the history and genealogy spheres in West Virginia and beyond. We extend our deepest sympathy to Ginny, their two daughters and their spouses, six grandchildren and spouses, and nine great grandchildren, plus a new great grandson expected in April who will be named Joshua Kellis Johnson.



Virginia and Kellis Gillespie, Hoot Owl Night 2009 (Photo by Gerald Ratliff)



Kellis Gillespie and Joe Geiger, Hoot Owl Night 2010 (Photo by Mary Johnson)

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.

COAL HERITAGE LECTURE SERIES: SONGS OF THE COAL FIELDS, March 4:

Kate Long, presenter, Erma Byrd Higher Education Center, Beckley.

6TH ANNUAL FESTIVAL OF NATIONS, March 15: Weirton Millsop Community Center, Weirton.

WEST VIRGINIA ASSOCIATION OF MUSEUMS ANNUAL MEETING AND CONFERENCE, March 20-22: Beckley.

MONONGAHELA BONE TECHNOLOGY, March 27: Lisa M. Dugas, speaker, Grave Creek Mound Archaeological Complex.

37TH ANNUAL APPALACHIAN STUDIES CONFERENCE, March 28-30: Huntington.

RITCHIE COUNTY GENEALOGY/HISTORY FAIR, March 29: Ellenboro.

WEST VIRGINIA STATE CCC MUSEUM CELEBRATION, March 30: Quiet Dell.

COAL HERITAGE LECTURE SERIES: NUTTALBURG: THEN AND NOW, April 1:

Billy Strasser, presenter, Erma Byrd Higher Education Center, Beckley.

WILLOW ISLAND'S W.I.L.D. RIDE: ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION OF A DEEPLY BURIED LATE ARCHAIC COMPONENT IN WV ALONG THE BANKS OF THE OHIO RIVER, April 24: Matthew P. Purtil, speaker, Grave Creek Mound Archaeological Complex.

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

2010, and *The Practical Mountaineer Handbook*, 34 pages, 2011, are helpful in deciphering unfamiliar words and pronunciation. *Hillbilly Talk* explains “sot” (past tense of sit), “sot in his ways” (has own ideas of how things should be and doesn’t change readily), and “clabber up” (cloud up—think of clabbered milk, or buttermilk, full of floating curds). The *Handbook* is also a treasure trove of practical information that most West Virginians used to know: how to plant specific vegetables (turnips: 2 to 3 inches between seeds, 2 to 3 feet between rows), understand oven temperatures (a slow oven is 300 to 325°), estimate the strength of ice on a pond or river (2" thick may bear a single man on foot, 6" may carry the

weight of cattle), judge speeds (a horse runs 20 m.p.h., a steamboat moves 18 m.p.h.), split firewood, and choose the best firewood (oak is one of the best, white pine and hemlock among the worst). Six also includes recipes, practical advice such as to how to darn a sock, and five “West Virginia Uses for the Indispensable Bacon Grease.” My mother practiced at least one of these uses every day when I was growing up!

• Last, but far from least, is *Webster’s Third International Dictionary of the English Language*, Unabridged, 1966. Grand old dictionaries such as this one contain almost every word you will come across in some form or another. If you can’t find the exact word, try reading definitions of

similar words, or of a word without the prefix or suffix of the word you are working with. They also serve a function no online dictionary can claim. Many 20th century households were proud to own these “seats of education”—heavy, handsomely bound, very thick tomes that not only helped older children with school homework, but served as booster seats at the dining table for the youngest family members. [“*Seat of education*” was my Eastern Kentucky family’s name for a dictionary that was at least 8" thick that boosted all of the grandchildren in turn to reach the table. I have yet to find it in any reference books, including those listed here. If your family used this term, I’d love to hear from you.—The Editor.]

WEST VIRGINIA
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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.

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