



WEST VIRGINIA Archives and History NEWS

From the Editor:

VOLUME XV, No. 2
April 2014

**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)**

Matt McGrew, who worked for Archives and History as a temporary employee before entering graduate school, joined the permanent staff in December 2013 as a cultural program coordinator. He oversees the West Virginia Historical Highway Marker Program, and after a tutorial year under assistant director Debra Basham, will assume responsibility for the West Virginia History Bowl for the 2014-2015 season. His energy and enthusiasm are commendable, and his affinity for the young students on the History Bowl teams is very evident in his article about the 2014 History Bowl regional competitions in this issue. I am sure you will enjoy his stories and comments as much as I did, and I hope you will be moved to attend the History Bowl State Championship competition in the Culture Center in Charleston on April 29 to experience the excitement for yourself.

2014 West Virginia History Bowl State Championship Set for April 29

The 2014 West Virginia History Bowl State Championship tournament will be played in the Culture Center on the grounds of the State Capitol in Charleston on April 29. Twenty four-student teams of West Virginia 8th graders will compete, answering questions about every imaginable fact of West Virginia history, geography, biography, government, sports and more. Most of the 1,500+ questions used in this year's competition are included in Archives and History's Quick Quizzes (<http://www.wvculture.org/history/trivia/quizindex.aspx>) and Daily Trivia (<http://www.wvculture.org/history/trivia/trivia.aspx>), so you can see the type of questions and amount of study required to excel, and check out your own knowledge as well. For more information on History Bowl past and present, visit <http://www.wvculture.org/history/historybowl.html>. If you have questions not

answered on the Web site, contact Matt McGrew, matt.mcgrew@wv.gov,

or Debra Basham, debra.a.basham@wv.gov, (304) 558-0230.

Collis P. Huntington To Be Discussed at April 1 Lecture

On April 1, 2014, James E. Casto will present "The Life and Times of Collis P. Huntington" 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.

Railroad mogul Huntington (1821-1900) was one of the "robber barons" of his era. Raised in poverty, he left school at age 14 and became a Yankee peddler, traveling through the South to sell watches and other merchandise. When gold was discovered in California in 1848, Huntington went west, where he made a fortune, not from mining gold but from selling supplies to the

miners. Huntington and his partners—Mark Hopkins, Leland Stanford and Charles Crocker, known to railroad historians as the "Big Four"—built the Central Pacific, the western half of the Transcontinental Railroad, and later the Southern Pacific. In 1869, Huntington purchased the nearly bankrupt Chesapeake & Ohio Railway and pushed its tracks over the mountains from Richmond to the Ohio River, where he established the city of Huntington. He also founded the city of Newport News, Virginia, and the Newport News Shipyard.

Casto was a reporter, editor and columnist at the *Herald-Dispatch* in Huntington for more than 40

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 years before he retired in 2004. Costumed as Collis P. Huntington, he frequently appears at civic clubs, schools and other groups in a first-person program that offers a glimpse of the rail tycoon's life. Casto attended Bethany College and is a graduate of Marshall University where he earned a bachelor's degree in journalism and a master's degree in English. He is the author of a number of books on regional history. In 2006, the Cabell County Public Library named its James E. Casto Local History Room in his honor.

[This article originally was prepared for the Archives and History Web site based on information provided by James Casto.]

"From the Burning of Chambersburg to the Battle of Moorefield" Was March Tuesday Lecture

There was neither smoke of battle nor cries of the wounded in the library; however, Wolfe, a noted West Virginia Civil War historian, spoke on March 4 as the March First Tuesday lecturer in the West Virginia Archives and History Library. He examined several important Civil War battles in the



eastern portion of the Mountain State. With his lecture he also included a slide

presentation with detailed maps of the military movements of the various forces involved and photographs of characters and places that were instrumental to the events. The lecture will be available for viewing, if you missed the live presentation, at the West Virginia Archives and History YouTube.com channel. Additional photographs from the lecture are available at: <http://www.wvculture.org/history/workshops/wkshp030414.html>. A description of the lecture and an in-depth biography of the lecturer, Rick Wolfe, are available at: <http://www.wvculture.org/history/workshops/wolfe030414promo.html>.

Contributed by Randy Marcum

My First Year with History Bowl

By Matt McGrew

Since coming back to Archives and History on a full-time basis, I have had the pleasure of being eye-deep in the agency's History Bowl competition (<http://www.wvculture.org/history/historybowl.html>). For those of you who aren't familiar with the program, it began in 2010 under the direction of Commissioner Randall Reid-Smith and gives eighth-grade students who are studying for the Golden Horseshoe exam a competitive venue in which they can test their knowledge of West Virginia history. Each school in the state can send two teams of four students (plus one alternate) each to one of eight regional competitions to vie for bragging rights and the chance to compete for the state title in April at the Culture Center.

Along with Commissioner Reid-Smith, Director Joe Geiger, Assistant Director Debra Basham, and other colleagues in the agency, I have traveled around the state throughout the month of February seeing what these kids can do. Let me tell you, I've been impressed to say the least.

First, let me give you a rundown of the various venues that have hosted the regional competitions, starting with a trip to Wheeling. I had never visited Independence Hall (<http://www.wvculture.org/museum/WVIHmod.html>) before this year, and now that I have, I am sorry I missed out for so long. The Museums section of the Division of Culture and History has taken great strides to preserve the building, and site manager Travis Henline and his staff are to be commended for their hard work and dedication in this endeavor. Debra and I arrived the afternoon before the competition,

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and Travis was kind enough to give this first-timer a private tour. Walking through the old Customs House felt like stepping back in time, and I have to admit that I felt a chill when Travis pushed back the doors to the old courtroom and said, "This is where your state was born." The brilliant late-afternoon sun pouring into the windows no doubt added to the effect. As a bona fide history geek, I was in heaven. There was no better place to kick off the year's History Bowl season than Independence Hall.

All of the other competitions, with the exception of the Region III tournament at the Culture Center, were graciously hosted by the schools themselves. I would be remiss if I did not send out a hearty thank you to administrators at Summers Middle School (Region I), Milton Middle School (Region II), Summersville Middle School (Region IV), Pleasants County Middle School (Region V), Bridgeport Middle School (Region VII), and Romney Middle School (Region VIII), along with all of their support staff and faculty, for doing such wonderful jobs of hosting a combined total of 95 teams. Additionally, the teachers have put together great groups of kids despite frequent school closures due to the unusually bitter weather with which we have all had to contend. Bravo!

Now, on to the students. General opinion these days gives kids a bad rap on a variety of levels, ranging from showing mere lack of interest to full-blown apathy, among a litany of other charges. I will not speak to all possible accusations, or even whether or not such generalizations are accurate or far-flung. All I can offer are a few anecdotes that give me hope for the next generation, as well as moments that have given me pause to smile.

When it comes to answering questions, some of the students are absolute machines—a moderator

Monsters and Mayhem Scheduled for April 17 Lecture

On Thursday, April 17, 2014, Michael Knost, editor and novelist who has been recognized by the Bram Stoker Awards and Black Quill Awards, will present "Monsters and Mayhem in the Mountain State" 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.

Knost will be talking about Mountain State ghosts, legends, and the people who passed them down. Among the topics will be the origins of the dreaded, red-eyed Mothman, a winged creature first seen in late 1966 in Mason County.

Michael Knost is an author, editor, and columnist of science fiction, fantasy, thrillers, and horror. He has written many books in various genres and helmed anthologies such as the *Legends of the Mountain State* series. His *Writers Workshop of Horror*

won the Black Quill and Bram Stoker Awards for superior achievement in nonfiction. Knost edited the critically acclaimed *Writers Workshop of Science Fiction & Fantasy* in early 2013. He has served as ghostwriter for several projects with the *Discovery Channel* and *Lionsgate Media*. He recently released his first novel entitled *Return of the Mothman*.

For planning purposes, participants are encouraged to register for the lecture, but advance registration is not required to attend. To register in advance, contact Bobby Taylor, library manager, by e-mail 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.

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

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>

may only utter two words from a question before receiving a correct answer from a quiet, but confident player. Other times, you can literally see the wheels turning and the excitement building before a student answers a tough one. For me, those instances are more enjoyable to watch because you know there is some thought involved. Recently I experienced textbook examples of both scenarios, and while I prefer the latter to the former, I have to give it

to the kids on this one because it's evident they know their stuff.

Throughout the tournament, there are a few students who really stand out for one reason or another, and without mentioning names or schools, I'd like to shed some light on these fine young minds. Prior to the start of one tournament, a teacher approached me, concerned about a young man on her team who has a speech impediment. "He's

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one of my best players, and when he gets excited he occasionally has a hard time saying what he wants to. What can we do?" We decided to allow him, if he needed, to write an answer on a piece of paper and show it to the moderator. When that team entered my room for the first time that morning, I walked up to the young man, gave him a piece of paper and a pencil, telling him, "If you need to use it, just let me know. Just shoot me a sign; we need a sign. What kinda sign would you like?" The boy's eyes darted back and forth behind his glasses until a sly smile appeared on his face. Without saying a word he held up his hand, with his fingers arranged in Leonard Nimoy's ("Mr. Spock") now-legendary "Vulcan Salute" from the original Star Trek series. I chuckled and said, "Okay, we're going with the 'Vulcan.' Cool." Though he never had to "salute" that day, I did hear that student say to one of his friends how awesome it was that I got the reference. Sometimes, it's the little things in life that make your day.

During a very heated tit-for-tat round at another tournament, I witnessed the finest example of sportsmanship I have seen in quite some time. Halfway through the match, the teams were tied up. Slowly but surely one team began to pull away with their opponents still hot on their heels. Let's pause for a moment. In case you don't know, each match is divided into two halves comprised of thirty questions with a ten-minute running clock. In the first half, students work individually, using buzzers to ring in on toss-up questions. The second half allows team members to discuss questions posed specifically to their team. Questions in the second half tend to be harder, and the second half rarely is as exciting as the first. Back to the

Evening Workshops and Lecture Schedule		
Date	Conducted by:	Subject
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>
June 3, Tuesday	Robby Thompson	<i>"Slavery in Cabell and Wayne Counties"</i>
June 12, Thursday	Doug Woods and Nick Lozano	<i>"West Virginia Scenic Trails Association"</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.

story. The second half of this round was a nail biter. The team with the slight edge had a crackerjack young fella whose excitement infected everyone in the entire room. While the score was quite close, I feel certain that his enthusiasm made the match memorable.

When all was said and done, that young man and his team came out on top. I had seen this student earlier in the day, running to the results table to report that his team had won another match. My first instinct told me that he might get a little arrogant. I was never so happy to be wrong. We make it a habit to tell the kids to shake hands after a match, and typically, most students just go through the motion no matter if they have won or lost. When I told this group to shake hands over a well-fought round, this kid jumped up out of his seat, almost breathless, and began telling the opposing team how great they had done and how awesome the round had been. There was a genuine appreciation for the other team in his words, and it was very evident. It gave me a little chill as well.

I've made a lot of great memories

this season—so many that time and space won't permit me to share them all here—and I truly believe that you should experience the magic of History Bowl for yourself. The History Bowl State Championship competition will be held at the Culture Center in Charleston on April 29, 2014, with matches beginning promptly at 9:30 a.m. The event is open to the public and would be well worth the trip.

As a second-generation Golden Horseshoe winner, I wanted to beef-up a bit on my state knowledge before we hit the road (didn't want to embarrass my mother), and you can too! Using the following links to our Daily Trivia (<http://www.wvculture.org/history/trivia/trivia.aspx>) and Quick Quizzes (<http://www.wvculture.org/history/trivia/quizindex.aspx>) you can study the same way the kids do before finding out if you are smarter than an eighth grader, so to speak. All jokes aside, this is a truly inspiring program and all of these kids will knock your socks off. Just in case you're wondering, last year 42 percent of the students

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who represented their regions as champions and runners-up of History Bowl tournaments were also winners of the coveted Golden Horseshoe award. Compare that with the roughly 1 percent of total eighth graders

across the entire state who receive the award and the big picture starts to take shape.

In closing, let me say study hard and prepare to be amazed. Come on down April 29th and watch our future leaders in action. You won't regret it!

New Titles

The Dark Side of the Left: Illiberal Egalitarianism in America: Richard J. Ellis, 1998.

American Forests: Nature, Culture, and Politics: Char Miller, editor, 1997.
Holy Redeemer Catholic Church: Spencer, WV: Parish Directory and History: The Church, 1977.

Zug/Zuck/Zouck/Zook Genealogy: Harry D. Zook, 1983.

23rd Annual Premium List: The State Fair of West Virginia: 1947.

Indian Blood: Finding Your Native American Ancestor, Volume 1: Richard L. Pangburn, 1993.

Ely Ensign and the Ensign Manufacturing Company, of Huntington, W. Va.: Forerunner of the American Car & Foundry (ACF): Jack L. Dickinson, 2013.

Rough Set of Characters: The Story of the Yoakums: Geoff Duffy, 2013.

School Transportation . . . In Wartime: National Council of Chief State School Officers, 1942.

Favorite Recipes: Moundsville Foursquare Church, 2007.

Cass Gilbert's West Virginia State Capitol: "A Dome of Majestic Proportion": Ann Thomas Wilkins and David G. Wilkins, 2014.

Just Three Minutes Please: Thinking Out Loud on Public Radio: Michael Blumenthal, 2014.

Loyalists in the Southern Campaign of the Revolutionary War: Volume II: Official Rolls of Loyalists Recruited from Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and Those Recruited from Other Colonies for the British Legion, Guides and Pioneers, Loyal Foresters, and Queen's Rangers: Murtie June Clark, 1999, c1981.

Stowers Families of America: Index of Family Groups for Volumes 1-8: Judy Stowers Siddoway, 2014.

A Heritage: A History and Account of Former Afro-American (Black) Businesses and Achievements in Parkersburg, WV: Virginia D. Seymour, Ellen Lacy and others, [1980?].

Gifts of William D. Wintz Family

The V.M.I. New Market Cadets: Biographical Sketches: William Couper, 1933.

The Civilian Conservation Corps, the National Youth Administration, and the Public Schools: Educational Policies Commission, NEA, 1941.

Albermarle County Virginia, 1781-1899, Volume 1, A-K: [marriage records], Nicholas Russell Murray, 1994.

Albermarle County Virginia, 1781-1899, Volume 2, L-Z: [marriage records], Nicholas Russell Murray, 1994.

Notes on the Birds of the High Alleghenies in West Virginia: J. Lawrence Smith, 1973.

The Hearthstone Collection of Folklore, Nostalgia & History, August/September 1987 issue, featuring "Steamboating in the Ohio River Valley."

Old Virginia and Her Neighbours: Illustrated Edition, John Fiske, 1900.

Virginia Valley Records: John W. Wayland, 1978, c1930.

Gifts of John Lilly, Goldenseal Magazine

A Case for a Stubborn Heart: The Life and Works of a Country Boy: Hobart G. Everson, 2011.

For Your Reference

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

County Census Books Are Still Useful

With several sources available for digitized and searchable United States census records online, including Ancestry Library Edition and Heritagequest available free to patrons of the West Virginia Archives and History Library Reading Room, you may wonder why we have retained transcription and index books for West Virginia censuses by county on the Reference shelves. As with many reference books, one often finds an answer rapidly in a book suitable for—even purposely designed for—quick lookups. Although typing in a few search terms and hitting the "search" button on a Web page takes only seconds, one first must have a computer that is turned on, logged on, and on the appropriate page of the appropriate Web site to get started. Once the search results appear, one often must weed through a few or dozens or hundreds of entries to find the best match for the question at hand, often searching again using different search terms to try to reduce the number of results to a more likely collection of possibilities. If the information resource you use contains a mistranscribed, misspelled, differently spelled name than the one you have searched, or wildly misspelled (such as a different

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first letter of the surname), finding a match can take even longer or can be nearly impossible. Trust me; a good reference book is preferable to most online search engines in more cases than you would think.

While any transcription, index or search engine entry has been filtered through the minds and fingers of the indexer and typist, the books have far fewer mistakes. Most of the county census books were prepared by people local to the county record being transcribed and familiar with the names common to the community. They are less likely to misread handwriting since they have a good idea of what the name should be or may be.

Most county census transcription books have entries arranged in the order in which they appeared in the original census, with an alphabetical index by surname. This gives the researcher three advantages over an online search engine: the ability to see who the neighbors are, the listing of an entire family and not just the head of household, and the arrangement of similar surnames either on the same index page or just a few flipped pages apart, all in quick order. If a first name or surname is incorrect, misspelled, or spelled differently than expected, the researcher has more clues available on the same page to figure out if the correct person has been found. No clicking and waiting for another page to open, then scanning up and down, etc.

Annotated county census books can be treasure chests, helping to connect generations, locate additional records, or learn information either not included in records (“moved to Kentucky”) or not something expected (“served as county road commissioner”). Linking of records on the online databases is helpful,

too, but still requires a little more work to see if the suggested record is the correct person. Annotated county census books sometimes include children not named in the census that year, whether they moved into a different household, died between censuses, or were born after that year’s census. They also may name all the past and future spouses of family members, with maiden names and marriage dates.

We also have retained statewide index books where available for each census year for West Virginia (counties that eventually became West Virginia in 1863 are identified as “West Virginia” for all prior censuses, too), Virginia (through 1870), and adjoining states. We have a number of county censuses for adjoining states, in particular for counties bordering West Virginia.

If you have not been using the

county census books, give them a try next time you don’t need to see an actual census page. If you have had problems finding people in the online databases, give the books a try, especially if you know they are most likely to be in a certain county. Once you find how the names are transcribed in a book, you will have a better idea what search terms and spellings to use to bring up the full census page online. (P.S. We still have all the West Virginia census, except 1940, and Soundex indexes on microfilm in the Microfilm Storage Room. Digitized images have been improved in recent years, so we don’t use them as often to decipher poor images, but when names are garbled or otherwise difficult to determine online, the Soundex gives you another resource to search using pronunciation rather than actual spelling.)

NARA to Close Downtown Philadelphia Facility

According to a March 11, 2014, National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) press release, the Market Street branch of NARA in downtown Philadelphia, PA, will be closed and its staff and small records collection consolidated with the main Philadelphia branch during fiscal year 2014 due to “ongoing budget adjustments.” The records center and archives on

Townsend Road will remain open and its research room “will be modified to better provide appropriate access to researchers, and community outreach programs will continue.” For more information about the Philadelphia consolidation and other sites affected, see the NARA press release online at <http://www.archives.gov/press/press-releases/2014/nr14-41.html>.

“Victory Loan Tour of 1945”



World War II was over; now it was time to pay the war bill. How was that accomplished? Dr. James Spencer presented a lecture on March 13, 2014, that provided the answer; buy war bonds. The Victory Loan Tour of 1945 was one of these bond sales that crisscrossed West Virginia and was well attended and well financed by patriotic Mountaineers.

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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: 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 WEST VIRGINIA ALONG THE BANKS OF THE OHIO RIVER, April 24: Matthew P. Purtill, speaker,
Grave Creek Mound Archaeological Complex.

PRIMARY ELECTION DAY, May 4: Archives Library will be *closed*.

REVISITING THE EMANCIPATION PROCLAMATION: WEST VIRGINIA AND BEYOND, May 6: Michael Woods, speaker, Huntington.

COAL HERITAGE LECTURE SERIES: THE MINER'S FREEDOM, May 6:
Gordon Simmons, presenter, Erma Byrd Higher Education Center, Beckley.

MEMORIAL DAY, May 26: Archives Library will be *closed*.

PRICKETTS FORT LECTURE SERIES: THE FIRST WEST VIRGINIANS PALEOINDIAN: LIFE ON AN ICE AGE FRONTIER, June 20:
John Boback, presenter, Pricketts Fort.

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

METHODISTS AND WEST VIRGINIA STATEHOOD, June 21:
Matthew Foulds, speaker, Kingwood.

LITTLE LECTURE SERIES: A HISTORY OF CHARLESTON AS LIVED BY FOUR FAMILIES, June 22: Brooks McCabe, speaker, Hubbard House, Charleston.

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

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

Dr. Spencer presented a slideshow that examined the highlights of the tour and featured various tour personnel including his father, actors,

actresses and Nazi war trophies. The lecture may be viewed on the West Virginia Archives YouTube channel at <http://www.youtube.com/user/wvarchivesandhistory>. More photographs are posted at <http://www.wvculture.org/history/workshops/2014marchgenclubA.html>.

Contributed by Randy Marcum



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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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- Constance Baston Cultural Program Associate (Project Access)
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- Randy Marcum Historian (map collection)
- Matt McGrew Cultural Program Coordinator (History Bowl, highway historic markers)
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