

West Virginia Archives & History NEWS

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WEST VIRGINIA
DIVISION OF
CULTURE & HISTORY

From the Editor:

Archives and History welcomes our new Commissioner of Culture and History, Troy O. Body. We look forward to his leadership in our mission of preserving and disseminating West Virginia culture and history. We hope you enjoy our new logo and the new format of the newsletter. We will continue to offer the articles and news of interest to researchers of West Virginia history and genealogy that our readers expect, albeit in a more stylish package. Renovation of the West Virginia State Museum is proceeding. We ask our visitors to please pardon the noise and the dust. While the museum is being recreated, visit the Culture and History Web site to view online exhibits: <http://www.wvculture.org/museum/index.html>.

“Old Man’s Draft” for World War II

by Susan Scouras

The West Virginia Veterans Memorial Archives has purchased a set of West Virginia World War II Fourth Draft Registration cards on microfilm and has made them available to the public by placing the microfilm in the collection of the West Virginia Archives and History Library, alongside the World War I West Virginia draft cards made available earlier this year. While purchased to assist the Veterans Memorial Archives documentation needs, their availability to library patrons will be an asset to many other researchers.

The Fourth Draft Registration in the United States for World War II was conducted in April 1942 and required all men born on or after April 18, 1877, and on or before February 16, 1897, to register. These men would have been 45 to 65 years old at the time of registration, resulting in the nickname of the “Old Man’s Draft” or the “Old Men’s Draft” for this registration. These cards are available to the public, unlike the draft cards of men who were younger at the time of registration and may still be living.

Unlike the World War I draft cards, these cards are organized in alphabetical order by surname for the entire state. The researcher does not have to know the registrant’s home draft board to search for a card. The rolls of microfilm for these records are in publicly accessible cabinets in the West Virginia Archives and History Library. The staff will be happy to assist you in using them. If you are unable to visit the library, you may request a search by research letter (instructions available

in our brochure or at <http://www.wvculture.org/history/services.html>).

An article on World War II draft cards by Michael John Neill is posted in *Ancestry Daily News*, March 27, 2003: <http://www.ancestry.com/library/view/news/articles/5474.asp> and an article with examples of cards may be seen on Mr. Neill’s Web site at: <http://www.rootdig.com/draft/worldwartwo.html>. **Note:** The cards were not available on microfilm at

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On the front of the card:

- Place of residence
- Mailing address
- Telephone number
- Age in years
- Date of birth
- Place of birth (town/county and state/country)
- Name and address of person who will always know registrant’s address
- Name and address of employer
- Place of employment or business
- Signature of the registrant

On the back of the card:

- Race (White, Negro, Oriental)
- Height
- Weight
- Complexion (choices range from sallow to black, and include “freckled”)
- Eyes
- Hair (includes “bald”)
- Other physical characteristics that aid in identification

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the time the articles were written, so ignore the statement in each article that the records have not been filmed.

For information on West Virginia World War I draft registration cards, please see the February 2004 issue of *West Virginia Archives and History News*, <http://www.wvculture.org/history/ahnews.html>.

Web Sites of Interest

Tips on Preserving Your Family's Old Letters:

<http://www.historychannel.com/letters/preservation.html>

From *RootsWeb Review*, Vol. 7, No. 27, July 7, 2004: All Aboard! Do you have an American ancestor or relative who worked for the railroad? If so, you'll want to see "Fun Facts About American Railroads" and the U.S. Railroad Retirement Board (RRB) Web sites:

<http://www.rrb.gov/teachers.html>
and <http://www.rrb.gov/geneal.html>

From *RootsWeb Review*, Vol. 7, No. 24, June 16, 2004: "Exploring the American West with Lewis and Clark": For each day of the Lewis and Clark expedition 200 years ago, this Web site provides a summary of what the expedition did on that day and a summary of other events that happened concurrently in American history:

<http://www.lewisandclarkandwhatelse.com>

Note: See the September 2003 issue of *West Virginia Archives and History News* for information regarding West Virginia's contributions and connections to the expedition.

Samples of articles from the upcoming *West Virginia Encyclopedia* are posted on the West Virginia Humanities Commission Web site:

http://www.wvhumanities.org/encycl_eg.htm

Hacker's Creek Pioneer Descendants 22nd Annual Gathering - August 12-15, 2004

Hacker's Creek Pioneer Descendants will be celebrating "The Good Old Days" with workshops, library research, local tours, food and fun. Workshops include:

- *Research Aids and Putting Your Family Tree Together*, led by Paul Petit.
- *Immigration Patterns and Central West Virginia*, with David Houchin.

- *History of the Lower Tygart Valley*, discussed by Carolyn Fortney Hamilton.
- *Family Tree Maker Seminar*, an all-day class taught by John Hines and Dave Heise.

Joy Stalnaker will lead tours of the Weston State Hospital building and grounds and of the Hacker's Creek area.

For information about registration, fees, lodging and activities, visit <http://www.hackerscreek.com>, e-mail hcpd@hackerscreek.com, call (304) 269-7091 or write HCPD, 45 Abbotts Run Road, Horner, WV 26372.

New Titles

Bartlett Funeral Home Records, St. Albans, West Virginia: 1922-1932, 1951-1995: Kanawha Valley Genealogical Society, 1998.

Johann Zacharias Rexroth, the Pioneer: William D. Rexroad, 2004.

"Almost Heaven": a History of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints in West Virginia: Diane Hill Zimmerman, 1998.

Lois Smith Arbogast: Diane Hill Zimmerman, [no date].

Recollections of My Early Life: H. Lowell Smith, [no date].

A Yankee Volunteer in the Civil War: 1st WV Regiment, Light Artillery, Battery E: Pvt. Joseph R. Thompson: Diane Hill Zimmerman, [no date].

Joseph Andrew Jackson Lightburn, Union Brigadier General and Baptist Pastor: or "Here by a Quarter of an Inch": Frances Lightburn Cressman, 2004.

The Life Writing Class: John Patrick Grace, Editor, 2002.

Stonewall: A Biography of General Thomas J. Jackson: Byron Farwell, 1992.

"Belcher Blues Booklets": Newsletter Articles: Volumes 2 and 3, Greg Belcher and Gayl Wells, Editors, 2004.

Paths Toward Freedom: A Biographical History of Blacks and Indians in North Carolina by Blacks and Indians: Frank E. Emory, Editor, 1976.

Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons in Bottom Sediment and Bioavailability in Streams in the New River Gorge National River and Gauley River National Recreation Area, West Virginia, 2002: Terence Messinger, 2004.

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Donations

Jane Vance Sutton of Mt. Ida, Arkansas, visited us recently and must have noticed that our copy of *Cavaliers and Pioneers*, Volume I, was becoming worn, because she sent us a new copy of the most recent reprint. We appreciate her thoughtfulness and generosity.

William H. Rice of Elkins, West Virginia, continues to add to our collection of city directories and telephone books for the Elkins area. He maintains a list of our current holdings in these categories and keeps his eye out for the years we need to fill in the gaps in the collection. Since the U.S. Census is only taken every decade, and the individual records are withheld for 72 years before release, researchers often rely on city directories and telephone books to locate people between census years and after the last census release. Mr. Rice's dedication to increasing the amount of information preserved in the State Archives for his home territory is to be commended.

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.

WEST VIRGINIA STATE MUSEUM CLOSED FOR RENOVATIONS

The Cultural Center, Charleston.

Reopening date will be announced at a later time.

HACKER'S CREEK PIONEER DESCENDANTS ANNUAL GATHERING, August 12-15: Horner.

LABOR DAY, September 6 - The Archives Library will be closed.

COLUMBUS DAY, October 11: Archives Library will be open.*

McCREIGHT LECTURE, October 28:

Charles Ogletree, speaker, West Virginia Humanities Council Annual Betsy McCreight Lecture, Institute.

ELECTION DAY, November 2: Archives Library will be open.*

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

*Only the Archives Library will be staffed--all other Archives offices will be closed. The West Virginia Library Commission Library in the Cultural Center is closed weekends and all holidays.

Chad Nicholas Proudfoot: 2004 Summer Intern

Chad Nicholas Proudfoot of Grafton, West Virginia, served as an intern for the West Virginia Veterans Memorial Archives this summer. Chad earned a B.A. in Political Science with a minor in History from West Virginia University, and is returning to WVU to complete his Master's degree in Public Administration with a graduate certificate in Cultural Resource management. He has been putting his education to use and gaining experience in all of his fields of interest in his position as a member of the Capitol Building Commission since August 7, 2002. Although Chad is young to serve as a Commissioner, he actually started his career in public service at an even younger age, having been commissioned as a Notary when he was only seventeen. For a while, Chad was the

youngest public office holder in the United States.

Under the direction of Pat Pleska, West Virginia Veterans Memorial Archives manager, Chad worked on two large projects dealing with West Virginians in Exercise Tiger, a pre-D-Day invasion [see <http://wvmemory.wvculture.org/exercisetiger.html>], and the Hell Ships of World War II [see <http://wvmemory.wvculture.org/hellships.html>]. Several general biographies he wrote for soldiers whose names are recorded on the West Virginia Veterans Memorial have been placed on our Web site, and interviews he recorded with veterans have been included in the Archives collection. Chad also drafted procedural rules for a West Virginia Veterans Memorial Archives Advi-

sory Committee anticipated to be created in the near future. He stated that he not only enjoyed his own work this summer, he also enjoyed learning a little bit about what everyone else does in Archives and History.

Chad will be traveling a little this summer before returning to Morgantown this fall to finish class work to earn his graduate degree in May, and then will consider entering law school. We expect to see him in the Cultural Center for a visit as soon as the Capitol Building Commission meets again. We have had many fine interns in Archives and History over the years, and we have placed Chad Proudfoot in the distinguished group at the top of our list of young people to watch for in West Virginia's future.

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West Virginia
Archives & History
NEWS



We would love to hear from you.

Let us know what you find helpful in the newsletter, and what new topics you would like covered.

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Archives and History Staff

Fredrick Armstrong	Director
Debra Basham	Archivist (photographs, special collections)
Constance Baston	Researcher (Veterans Memorial Archives)
Greg Carroll	Historian (Civil War, Native American history)
Dick Fauss	Archivist (microfilm and moving images collection)
Allen Fowler	Special projects
Elaine Gates	Library Assistant (microfilming and microfilm repairs)
Joe Geiger	Assistant Director (Historian, Web page)
Ed Hicks	Photographer (archival photography, darkroom)
Mary Johnson	Historian (<i>West Virginia History</i>)
Terry Lowry	Library Assistant (Civil War)
Cathy Miller	Library Assistant (WV State documents, periodicals)
Sharon Newhouse	Secretary
Harold Newman	Library Assistant (microfilming, Revolutionary War)
Pat Pleska	Manager of the Veterans Memorial Archives
Susan Scouras	Librarian (cataloging, Kentucky, library collection, newsletter editor)
Jaime Simmons	Library Assistant (records of the 1700's and early 1800's, Pennsylvania)
Bobby Taylor	Library Manager
Nancy Waggoner	Secretary
Volunteers	Carolyn Conner, Bill Kelley, Angela Tolbert, Bob and Lucile Foster, John McClure, Carol de la Riva and Lorene Mullins
Summer Intern	Chad Proudfoot

This newsletter is a publication of : The West Virginia Division of Culture and History
 Troy O. Body, Commissioner