

West Virginia Archives & History NEWS

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WEST VIRGINIA
DIVISION OF
CULTURE & HISTORY

From the Editor:

The West Virginia Archives and History Library prides itself on its service to the public. We take our responsibility to collect and preserve the state's history in all its forms very seriously, but we also strongly believe that our second—and equal—responsibility is to make our collections accessible to the public, employing the skills, experience and knowledge of our staff to facilitate our patrons in finding all we have to offer on a subject and in understanding what they find. Our new online public access catalog will assist both staff and patrons in exploring the cataloged collections with greater ease and speed. Meanwhile, as limited staff time allows, we will work toward adding more items in our collections to the new Voyager® catalog.

Ex Libris™ Voyager® Bringing New Online Catalog to Archives Library

The West Virginia Archives and History Library of the West Virginia Division of Culture and History, in conjunction with the West Virginia Library Commission, will launch a new integrated library system to improve management and accessibility of library collections. Voyager® combines state-of-the-art technology and an intuitive, easy-to-learn user interface in a system designed specifically for academic and research libraries, helping to make it one of the most widely used library automation systems in the world. Funding for the system is provided by the Library Services and Technology Act administered by the Institute of Museum and Library Services and the West Virginia Library Commission. According to J. D. Waggoner, Secretary of the West Virginia Library Commission, acquiring the Voyager® integrated library system for the Library Commission Library and the Archives and History Library completes a multiyear project to upgrade

systems in libraries throughout the state and provides improvements in service to the state's library users. Director of Archives and History, Fredrick H. Armstrong, sees the Voyager® system providing easier and faster access to the specialized collections of the Archives and History Library. He also pointed out that the similarities in the access method for the online catalog and the

search methods employed by family history researchers who rely on Internet research will enhance their search skills and generate greater success in locating the titles and special collections items so beneficial to this research. The online catalog will initially include all of the materials included in the old system, with new books added regularly.

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Paden City 2007 Labor Day Film Festival Features Archives Clips

The Paden City Fraternal Order of the Eagles is sponsoring its third annual Labor Day Film Festival on Labor Day weekend, beginning Friday, August 31, and running through Monday, September 3. Films will be shown at the Order of the Eagles Club, across the street from the Paden City Public Library. The Library is a co-sponsor of the Film Festival, which has been endorsed by the Board of the West Virginia Labor History Association. The films all

have labor-related themes, including unions, coal mining and coal camps, the pottery industry, labor relations, mine disasters and more. On Sunday, September 2, five-minute film clips from the West Virginia State Archives will be shown. The clips include Kaiser Aluminum (1957), Walter Reuther, Wheeling (1963), Hominy Falls and Farmington Mine Disasters (1968), Black Lung Rally (1969), United Mine Workers of

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Items in collections currently not fully included in the online catalog, such as microfilm, special collections and manuscripts, will be added to the catalog as staff time allows.

Library staff will gain sophisticated means of handling such library management tasks as acquisitions, serials check-in with subscription renewal and missed issue reminders, cataloging and more, while library patrons will benefit immensely from the creation of a new Online Public Access Catalog. Although the Archives and History Library and the Library Commission Library are sharing the catalog, each library will have a separate interface to the online catalog to accommodate their very different patron bases and the greatly varying services provided by each library. Patrons can choose to search one library or both libraries, and can add the Library of Congress or other selected West Virginia academic and public libraries to the search via Web links. A link to the Online Catalog will be provided from the Archives and History homepage, <http://www.wvculture.org/history>. The concept of Voyager® is that of an easy-to-navigate voyage through a sea of databases, which is indicated by the use of sailboat-theme

MYHF Annual Meeting and Workshops

Mark your calendar! The Mining Your History Foundation (MYHF) has set Saturday, November 3, 2007, as the date for their annual meeting and workshops. Registration information, speakers and workshop topics will be announced at a later date. All events will be held in The Cultural Center in Charleston and are open to both members and non-members. For information about MYHF, visit <http://www.rootsweb.com/~myhf/>.

illustrations and icons. Users will find the new online catalog to be much easier to use than the current one, with search mechanisms and features similar to those of today's online search systems. Novice researchers will appreciate the easy-to-learn interface, while more sophisticated searchers will value its wealth of options to define and limit search criteria. The system empowers library users to generate results without hands-on instruction.

[A note about Ex Libris: Ex Libris is a leading worldwide developer and provider of high-performance applications for libraries, information centers and researchers, with installations in 62 countries. Voyager®, the Ex Libris integrated library solution, has been installed worldwide. For further information on Ex Libris, please visit www.exlibrisgroup.com.]

Clipping File and Surname File Folder Titles Now Online

Folder titles for subjects in our Clipping File and for surnames included in our Surname File are now listed online at <http://www.wvculture.org/history/wvsamenu.html>, thanks to efforts above and beyond the call of duty by staff member Cathy Miller. Researchers interested in clippings or surname files can check the lists for topics or names of interest, and can send a research request letter for a search of the file and/or copies of its contents. Be sure to include your phone number in your research letter so we can let you know the number of articles or pages in the folder and

Once the Voyager® catalog is up and running in October, if all goes as planned, watch *West Virginia Archives and History News* for instruction in use of the new system and for research tips for exploring the online catalog. In keeping with the sailing theme of Voyager®, we hope you will join us in Charleston for an official "Launch Party" at a date to be announced later, and wish us "Bon voyage!"

**Archives and History News
 is available on the
 Archives and History Web site
<http://www.wvculture.org/history/ahnews/ahnews.html>**

what the copy costs would be. Instructions and fee information for research letters can be found in the May 2007 issue of *West Virginia Archives and History News*, in our brochure, and on our Web site at <http://www.wvculture.org/history/services.html>. If you do not have access to the Internet, visit your local public library (most offer free or low cost Internet access), or call the Archives and History Library Reference Desk at (304) 558-0230, to see if the subject or surname you need is available.

Historic Preservation Survey and Planning Grants Applications

The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) of the West Virginia Division of Culture and History is now accepting applications for historic preservation survey and planning grants. Approximately \$80,000 is earmarked for this grant program, which is funded with money appropriated by the U.S.

Congress for preservation efforts through the National Park Service Historic Preservation Fund. State or local government agencies, not-for-profit organizations or firms, and educational institutions are eligible to apply. Eligible projects include architectural and archaeological

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surveys, preparation of nominations to the National Register of Historic Places, heritage education programs relating to preservation activities, pre-development activities, and comprehensive planning documents and development projects. Funded projects must be completed by June 30, 2009.

Grant funds are awarded on a matching basis. A competitive process is used to determine the recipients, with the final decision being made by the West Virginia Archives and History Commission. The Commission selects projects that best meet the established priorities and criteria. Development projects will be considered only when all of the justifiable funding needs of eligible projects in other categories have been addressed. All grant monies must be administered in accordance with federal and state requirements. The deadline for applications is October 31, 2007. Program descriptions, a grants manual and application packets, including funding priorities and selection criteria are available by contacting Pam Brooks, grants coordinator for the SHPO, at (304) 558-0240, Ext. 720, or by writing: SHPO, West Virginia Division of Culture and History, The Cultural Center, 1900 Kanawha Blvd. East, Charleston, WV 25305-0300, or from the Web site at <http://www.wvculture.org/shpo/forms.html>.

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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.

“FROM DAWN UNTIL DUSK: FARMING, AGRICULTURE, AND RURAL LIFE IN UPSHUR COUNTY,” June 10–September 30: Upshur County Historical Society, The History Center Museum, Buckhannon.

2007 PADEN CITY LABOR DAY FILM FESTIVAL, August 31–September 3: Sponsored by Paden City Eagles Club with support from Paden City Public Library and endorsement of the West Virginia Labor History Association, Paden City.

LABOR DAY, September 3: Archives Library will be *closed*.

“PORTE CRAYON’S MEXICO: DAVID HUNTER STROTHER’S DIARIES,” September 27:
 Dr. John E. Stealey III, lecturer, Robert C. Byrd Center for Legislative Studies, Shepherd University, Shepherdstown.

MINING YOUR HISTORY FOUNDATION ANNUAL MEETING AND WORKSHOPS, November 3: The Cultural Center, Charleston.

GOODBYE, MISS FOURTH OF JULY, FILM SHOWING WITH SPECIAL GUEST, CHRISTOPHER JANUS, November 10: Sponsored by the West Virginia Labor History Association and the South Charleston Museum, LaBelle Theater, South Charleston.

ARCHIVES AND HISTORY COMMISSION MEETING, September 28: Huntington Museum of Art, Huntington.

**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.

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 America Presidential Candidate Arnold Miller at Miners’ Rally (1972), and Dedication of the Mine Health and Safety Academy (1976). For more information, contact: Steve Fesenmaier, West Virginia Labor History Association, (304) 558-3978, Ext. 2015, fesenms@wvlc.lib.wv.us; Jesse King, Paden City Fraternal Order of the Eagles Club #2281, (304) 337-9495, agerie2281@verizon.net;

or Paden City Public Library, Sharon Kastigar, Director, (394) 337-9333, Kastigar@weirton.lib.wv.us.

For more information about the audio/video collections of the West Virginia State Archives, contact Richard Fauss, archivist, (304) 558-0230, dick.fauss@wvculture.org. A selection of our audio/video files are available on the Archives and History Web site at <http://www.wvculture.org/history/av.html>.

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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.

Contact *West Virginia Archives and History News* Editor
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Mary Johnson Historian
Terry Lowry Library Assistant (Veterans records)
Cathy Miller Library Assistant (WV State documents, periodicals)
Sharon Newhouse Secretary
Harold Newman Library Assistant (microfilming, Revolutionary War)
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
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