



WEST VIRGINIA
 DIVISION OF
 CULTURE & HISTORY

From the Editor:

State and local calendars are filling up with fall and winter events for history and genealogy enthusiasts and scholars. Almost all of the speakers and workshops being offered around the state are free or low-cost, helping to offset the price of gasoline needed to travel there. Please take advantage of these opportunities to learn more about an old interest, or to develop a new one. Your attendance at an agency or society-sponsored event is much appreciated evidence that West Virginians are truly interested in teaching and preserving the history and culture of the Mountain State and her people.

MYHF Fall Conference Features NARA Archivist Jefferson Moak

The 2008 Fall Conference and Annual Meeting of the Mining Your History Foundation (MYHF), co-sponsored by West Virginia Archives and History, will be held Saturday, November 15, and will feature Jefferson Moak, archivist for the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) Mid-Atlantic Region in Philadelphia. The Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives house historically significant federal records from 1790 to the present for Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia and West Virginia. Mr. Moak, who began at the City of Philadelphia Archives in 1987 and moved to NARA's Mid-Atlantic branch in 2000, will speak about the West Virginia materials in the collection. He is known for his expertise in genealogy, cartographic history and Philadelphia local history, and is author of numerous books and articles. His academic background includes history, library science and public administration. Recently Mr. Moak assisted in resolving a

document theft case, as reported in an April 2008 *Smithsonian* article, "To Catch a Thief," by Steve Twomey (<http://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/archaeology/tocatchathief.html?c=y&page=1>).

Mr. Moak will speak from 9:00 to 11:45 a.m. Following a lunch break, with a light lunch available, the MYHF Annual Meeting will convene at 1:00 p.m. All are welcome to attend the meeting, but only members may vote. Following the meeting, attendees are encouraged

to finish the day exploring the resources of the West Virginia Archives and History Library until 5:00 p.m.

Mining Your History Foundation has both individuals and societies as members. Goals of MYHF include networking among genealogical and historical societies in West Virginia; supporting the West Virginia Archives and History Library with financial donations, volunteers and donation of books and microfilm to

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Evening Workshops Schedule

Date	Conducted by:	Subject
October 16 Thursday	Greg Carroll	<i>African American Resources in the West Virginia Archives and History Library</i>
<p><i>Registration for this free workshop is helpful but not required.</i> Call our office at (304) 558-0230, or e-mail bobby.taylor@wvculture.org.</p> <p>Workshops are held 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. in the West Virginia Archives and History Library, The Cultural Center, Charleston, West Virginia.</p>		

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the collection; plus dissemination of information pertaining to research in and about West Virginia. Benefits of membership in MYHF include four issues of their *Mountain News* newsletter, the ability to submit three queries per newsletter issue, notice of workshops and programs in West Virginia, and distribution of member societies' publications, flyers and brochures at state and national conferences by MYHF representatives. Dues for individuals and societies are \$15.00.

The conference is free, but registration is requested. For more information, contact Esther Warner, ebw104@suddenlink.net; Virginia Gillespie, vgillespie@aol.com; call Archives and History, (304) 558-0230; or check *Latest News* on the Archives and History Web site, <http://www.wvculture.org/history>.

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

Capitol Complex Visitor Parking Update

While the employee parking garage is being repaired now through November 30, employees with parking garage permits will be parking at Laidley Field as needed during this time. When the Laidley Field parking lots are being used for staff parking, they will not be open for visitor parking. (You will need to check with the security guards at Laidley Field upon arrival.) Visitor parking will be available only at the meters on the Complex on those days. Metered parking is \$.25 per half hour and meters accept up to \$2.00

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Archives Library Microfilm Reader-Printers

Visitors to the West Virginia Archives and History Library who have visited the Library previously will notice a few changes in the physical setup of the microfilm reader-printers. We have moved three microfilm reader-printers from the regular Reading Room into the Microfilm Reading Room. Two of the reader-printers share a free-standing laser printer, and one is a self-contained machine. The three reader-printers have coin boxes which accept quarters, nickels and dimes to print copies at \$.25 each. (Change is always available from the Copy/Security Desk in the Reading Room.) In order to use these reader-printers, a patron must fill in his name and the time on the Microfilm Reading Room sign up sheet kept at the Reference Desk. A limit of 30 minutes per patron per session is posted in the Microfilm Reading Room in order to give all patrons fair opportunity to use the reader-printers. When all of the reader-printers are in use, any patron still using a reader-printer after completing a 30-minute session will be asked to give a waiting patron a turn.

New tables have been installed in the Reading Room microfilm

reader-printer area. Currently we have two new reader-printers in this location, sharing a laser printer. The new machines are offered on the honor system for payment, although pre-paid card payment mechanisms are to be installed soon. Until then, patrons are asked to count their copies, then pay \$.25 per copy at the Copy/Security Desk before leaving the Library. The reader-printers in the Reading Room are for making copies only, not for browsing or searching. Patrons should use the readers in the Microfilm Reading Room to search, then may either use the reader-printers in the Microfilm Reading Room or the machines in the Reading Room to quickly print copies of identified items.

As always, Archives and History Library staff members are ready and willing to advise patrons in use of all the microfilm readers and reader-printers. Please call upon the staff to replenish paper, change lens sizes, or otherwise deal with mechanical issues. For tips and advice in using microfilm, see the April 2008 issue of *West Virginia Archives and History News* on our Web site at <http://www.wvculture.org/history/ahnews/ahnews.html>.

Start Planning Now for 2009 History Heroes and History Day

West Virginia historical, genealogical and preservation societies are urged to begin planning now to nominate History Heroes and to organize their displays and other participation in History Day at the Legislature on March 5, 2009. Information packets with nomination and registration forms will be mailed at the end of October to all groups currently on the Archives and History mailing list, and will be posted on the Archives and History Web site, <http://www.wvculture.org/history>.

Not sure if your society is on our list? Has your organization notified us of any change in mailing address since last year? Check the list posted on our Web site at <http://www.wvculture.org/history/histsocs.html>, or contact Nancy Waggoner at (304) 558-0230, nancy.waggoner@wvculture.org. To learn about West Virginia History Heroes for 1997 through 2008, visit <http://www.wvculture.org/history/histhero.html>.

Visit the Archives and History Web Site Often

The Archives and History section of the West Virginia Division of Culture and History Web site is teeming with facts, lists, photographs, transcribed text of articles and documents, digitized images of actual documents, guides, references resources and much, much more. Visit <http://www.wvculture.org/history> often to explore all its offerings.

New features:

- Guidelines and applications for the 2009–10 Records Management and Preservation Board Grants, <http://www.wvculture.org/history/rmpb/rmpb.html>. [Deadline for applications is November 1, 2008.]
- Finding aid for the Cecil H. Underwood Photograph Collection (first administration and personal), <http://www.wvculture.org/history/collections/ph87-124.html>.
- Finding aid for the Cecil H. Underwood Collection (first administration and personal), Ar1803, <http://www.wvculture.org/history/collections/ar1803.html>.
- A list of newspaper clippings on West Virginia mine disasters available in the Archives vertical clipping files, <http://www.wvculture.org/history/notewv/coalminedisasters.html>.

Always check the *Latest News* column on the right hand side of our home page, <http://www.wvculture.org/history/archivesindex.aspx> for new features and events.

Popular longtime features:

- *On This Day in West Virginia History*, on our home page at <http://www.wvculture.org/history/archivesindex.aspx>. A complete listing of events for every day of the year is accessible at <http://www.wvculture.org/history/thisdayinwvhistory/thisday.html>.

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- Daily Trivia Question of the Day, <http://www.wvculture.org/history/trivia/trivia.aspx>. Send in your answer and receive acknowledgment of your participation. Be correct and be listed on our Web site the next day!
- Quick Quizzes, <http://www.wvculture.org/history/trivia/quizindex.aspx>, with a County Seats Quiz and, at present, 144 quizzes on all aspects of West Virginia.

Note to teachers and home-schoolers: Consider using these features in your classrooms on a regular basis, as many educators across the state have informed us they already do, especially as an aid in preparation for the Golden Horseshoe examination.

Useful Guides and Reference Sources:

- Research guides written by Archives staff, including research of Native American heritage, Revolutionary War service, Civil War service, adoption, and vital records, <http://www.wvculture.org/history/wvsamenu.html>.
- West Virginia historical, genealogical and preservation societies, with mailing addresses (and other contact information when provided to us), <http://www.wvculture.org/history/histsocs.html>.
- *Place Names in West Virginia*, providing names of past and

present communities, county in which located, date first recorded as a community, and previous or alternate names, <http://www.wvculture.org/history/wvplacenames.html>.

- Lists of all West Virginia elected officials, including dates served, political affiliation and home county, <http://www.wvculture.org/history/wvelectedofficials.html>.
- Biographies of governors up through Cecil Underwood (second term), <http://www.wvculture.org/history/govmenu.html>.
- Notable Events in West Virginia History, <http://www.wvculture.org/history/notewv/notewv1.html>, and Notable Individuals in West Virginia History, <http://www.wvculture.org/history/notewv/notewv.html>.
- *West Virginia Archives and History News*, current issue posted monthly with all back issues and indexes, <http://www.wvculture.org/history/ahnews/ahnews.html>.

Online Exhibits:

- A State of Convenience: The Creation of West Virginia
- U.S.S. West Virginia
- Hope to See You Soon: A Collection of West Virginia War Letters
- Shaping the Capitol Complex: Cass Gilbert, Inc.
- Buffalo Creek
- Celebrating Lives: A Glimpse at African-Americans in West Virginia

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Permission to reprint articles from *West Virginia Archives and History News* is granted, provided:

- (1) The reprint is not used for commercial purposes, and (2) the following notice appears at the end of the reprinted material: Previously published in *West Virginia Archives and History News*, [Volume and issue numbers], [Month, Year], a publication of the West Virginia Division of Culture and History.
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All are accessible at <http://www.wvculture.org/history/exhibits.html>.

West Virginia Vital Research Records (WVRR):

- Selected county court records of births, deaths and marriages from the following counties: Braxton, Cabell, Calhoun, Clay, Gilmer, Grant, Greenbrier, Hampshire, Hardy, Harrison, Jefferson, Lewis, Logan, Marshall, Mineral, Mingo, Pendleton, Pocahontas, Randolph, Wayne, Wirt, Wood and Wyoming.
- West Virginia Dept. of Health, Vital Registration Office death certificates for 1917 through 1957 (rolling up to 1958 on January 1, 2009).

Digital images of the actual records taken from microfilm are in a searchable database, http://www.wvculture.org/vrr/va_select.aspx. New counties will be added several times a year until all 55 counties are included. Please read the explanatory article linked from the WVRR page for further information on the scope and usage of the database.

West Virginia Memory Project Databases:

- John Brown/Boyd B. Stutler Collection, more than 20,000 digital images of photos, primary manuscript papers, Stutler correspondence, and other materials on John Brown, his associates and family, and his legacy.
- Golden Horseshoe, winners 1931–present
- Veterans Memorial. In addition to the database of men and women whose names are inscribed on the memorial on the Capitol Complex, there are pages with biographies of several individuals as well as

information on the physical memorial and select topics from World War II and the Korean Conflict: "Hellships of World War II," "Remembering Exercise Tiger," "The Tiger Death March & Johnson's List," and "The Chosin Reservoir."

- Union Militia, information drawn from muster cards in the West Virginia Adjutant General's Papers. The main page also includes links to a finding aid to the militia records, digital images of select letters, and transcriptions of rosters in a few counties.
- West Virginia Highway Markers
- Periodicals
- State Documents
- Photos, at present more than 5,600 records and digital images.
- Collections, descriptive records and digital images of select material from the manuscripts, archives, and special collections. This database presently contains

material from two collections: Civilian Conservation Corps, and "Jost Hite of the Shenandoah Valley and Descendants," by William S. Laidley.

- Pierpont-Samuels Papers, a descriptive finding aid to correspondence in the collection of Francis H. Pierpont and Henry Jefferson Samuels, respectively governor and adjutant general of the Restored Government of Virginia.
- History Timeline
- West Virginia History Film Project, identifying images from the film "West Virginia: A Film History," many records accompanied by digital images captured from video. Also available are links to transcriptions of interviews from the project and an inventory of materials given to the West Virginia State Archives. The Memory Project databases are available at <http://www.wvculture.org/history/wvmemory/index.html>

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.

CIVIL WAR RESEARCH AND WRITING: A WEST VIRGINIA STATE ARCHIVES PANEL DISCUSSION, September 29: Richard Andre, Steve Cunningham, Joe Geiger, and Terry Lowry, participants. Norman L. Fagan West Virginia State Theater, The Cultural Center, Charleston. For more information, visit <http://www.wvculture.org/history> or call (304) 558-0230.

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in quarters, nickels and/or dimes at a time. Note that some handicap permit-only spaces are also metered. Library patrons should bring at least enough change to put a little time on the meters, then will be able to get additional change from the Library Copy Desk if

needed. When parking on the side streets around the Capitol Complex, be sure to observe signs for permit-only resident parking and for restricted parking days/hours for street cleaning, as well as yellow curbs.

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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.

ARCHIVES AND HISTORY COMMISSION MEETING, October 3: Huntington.

GENEALOGY RESEARCH ON THE INTERNET, October 7: Kanawha Valley History Center, Rand Community Center, Rand. Contact Linda Hoskins, (304) 925-2438, kvhc06@yahoo.com.

FALL FESTIVAL AT WEST VIRGINIA INDEPENDENCE HALL, October 11:
West Virginia Independence Hall Museum, Wheeling.

COLUMBUS DAY, October 13: Archives Library will be open.*

WHAT DO OUR LOCAL LIBRARIES OFFER?, October 20: Kanawha Valley History Center, Rand Community Center, Rand. Contact Linda Hoskins, (304) 925-2438, kvhc06@yahoo.com.

2008 BETSY L. MCCREIGHT LECTURE IN THE HUMANITIES
“LINCOLN AT 200: THE MEASURE OF ALL PRESIDENTS,” October 30:
Richard Norton Smith, speaker, Norman L. Fagan Theater, The Cultural Center, Charleston.
For more information, visit <http://www.wvhumanities.org/mcreight.htm>, or call (304) 346-8500.

RECORDS MANAGEMENT AND PRESERVATION BOARD GRANT APPLICATION DEADLINE, November 1: Postmarked or hand-delivered to RMPB, The Cultural Center, Charleston.

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

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

MINING YOUR HISTORY FOUNDATION CONFERENCE AND ANNUAL MEETING, November 15: Jefferson Moak, archivist for NARA Mid-Atlantic Region, featured speaker. The Cultural Center, Charleston.

THANKSGIVING DAY, November 27: Archives Library will be *closed*.

THANKSGIVING FRIDAY, November 28: Archives Library will be *closed*.

THANKSGIVING SATURDAY, November 29: Archives Library will be *closed*.

CHRISTMAS EVE, December 24: Archives Library is scheduled to *close at 1:00 p.m.* Call before coming.

CHRISTMAS DAY, December 25: Archives Library will be *closed*.

NEW YEAR'S EVE, December 31: Archives Library is scheduled to *close at 1:00 p.m.* Call before coming.

NEW YEAR'S DAY, January 1, 2009: Archives Library will be *closed*.

HISTORY DAY, March 5, 2009: The West Virginia State Capitol and The Cultural Center, Charleston.

**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.

West Virginia Division of Culture and History
The Cultural Center
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Charleston, WV 25305-0300

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
Susan Scouras, (304) 558-0230, Ext. 742,
or by e-mail: susan.scouras@wvculture.org.

Archives and History Staff

Joe Geiger	Acting Director (Historian, Web page)
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)
Denise Ferguson	County Records Archivist
Allen Fowler	Special projects
Elaine Gates	Library Assistant (microfilming and microfilm repairs)
Ed Hicks	Photo Archivist (archival photography, darkroom)
Mary Johnson	Historian
Terry Lowry	Library Assistant (Veterans records)
Cathy Miller	Library Assistant (WV State documents, periodicals)
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
Bryan Ward	Acting Assistant Director
Part time	Matt McGrew
Volunteers	Carolyn Conner, Bill Kelley, James Wilburn, Sue Shank, Charlotte Thurston, Ken Bailey, and Mary Alice Johnson

This newsletter is a publication of : The West Virginia Division of Culture and History
Randall Reid-Smith, Commissioner