



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)

My great love for the printed word in the form of a book has been renewed in recent weeks as I have worked with the Archives and History Library Rare Book Collection. I appreciate handmade paper with its wire impressions left in the sheet of finished paper, and thrill at the discovery of the papermaker's watermark woven into the grid of the paper tray that held the layer of pulped rag and shredded paper to dry. Marbled paper used for book covers and end papers is always a delight for the eye. Gilt accents in the embossed letters of titles as well as decorative lines and figures add richness. Variations in type styles and quality of printing absorb me. Most of all, I love the sense of history and mystery in a volume—who has held this book? How did reading this book affect someone's life? Why was it important enough to be passed from person to person, from bookshop to library for as much as 300 years? For me, words on a computer screen compared to a well-made, well-loved book produce as much feeling as does a black and white image of a flower bouquet, lacking all the color, texture and fragrance of the real thing.

“Look What I Found in This Book!”

By Susan Scouras

As the cataloger for the West Virginia Archives and History Library, as a librarian assisting patrons and as a researcher of mail requests and internal agency questions, I handle several thousand books and pamphlets every year. Because I have found so many interesting things stuck in books over my fifteen years as a librarian here, I always flip through the pages of every book that we acquire through donation or purchase and check all the covers and end pages, as well as the text pages, for any loose items, signatures, dates, drawings, glued-in photographs, notes, etc., that make the book more valuable (usually historically rather than monetarily, but sometimes both) or that are notable items in themselves.

Autographs and inscriptions are always the most obvious find, but I have discovered anywhere from a dried dandelion (in one of Boyd B.

Stutler's reference books—left by a grandchild perhaps?) to an albumen photograph of George Atkinson pasted as a frontispiece in a book he authored, to a rare pamphlet tucked in a volume on a related subject. When the book

already has been on the shelf for years, the finds are truly serendipitous and even more delightful. From time to time I will share with you a story about a find that piqued my curiosity and led

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The Greenbrier to be Focus of October 7 Lecture

On Tuesday, October 7, 2014, Dr. Robert Conte will present “Thirty-Five Years Studying—and Being Part of—the History of The Greenbrier” 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.

Conte has been the historian at The Greenbrier since 1978. He was responsible for establishing the archives of The Greenbrier's historical materials, which he maintains, and is the curator of the

Presidents' Cottage Museum. During his tenure, the secret underground Cold War facility for U.S. Congress was opened to the public, and resort ownership passed from CSX Corporation, which had owned The Greenbrier through its predecessor companies for nearly one hundred years, to current owner Jim Justice.

A native of San Jose, California, Conte received a bachelor's degree from Santa Clara University and, after two years in the military, his

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doctorate from Case Western Reserve in Cleveland, Ohio. Before coming to The Greenbrier, he worked at the Western Reserve Historical Society in Cleveland and at the National Archives. As historian at The Greenbrier, he is the only full-time professional historian employed by a hotel or resort in the United States.

Conte is the author of *The History of The Greenbrier, America's Resort*, published in 1990. An enlarged and revised edition appeared in 1998 and was updated in 2010. In 2007

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

he produced a historical chapter for a coffee-table photography book, *The Greenbrier: America's Resort*. An informal but wide-ranging conversation with Erik Hastings, the resort's Director of Media Productions, resulted in the creation of a DVD in 2011 entitled "A Brief History of The Greenbrier," which includes photographs and footage from the resort's archives.

Conte has written numerous articles for local and regional publications and contributed to newspaper articles, books, and

museum exhibits. He currently serves on the West Virginia Archives and History Commission and is a member of the Board of Directors of the Preservation Alliance of West Virginia and the Board of Directors of the Greenbrier Historical Society.

On October 7, the library will close at 5:00 p.m. and reopen at 5:45 p.m. for participants only. For additional information, call (304) 558-0230.

Poetry in the Archives and History Library Collection

By Susan Scouras

You may be surprised to learn that the West Virginia Archives and History Library collection includes many books and pamphlets of poetry and essays written by West Virginians from all walks of life. Alongside beautifully designed volumes from professional publishers and printers are self-assembled mimeographed pages of typing paper with a construction paper cover, and everything in between. Many are illustrated with drawings by the poets or their friends or family members. While the quality of the poetry would draw anything from raves to grimaces from literary critics, the passion with which the words were penned is usually unmistakable, and is part of a long Appalachian tradition of poetry composition. Friends and family often composed poems for each other and for special occasions. My Eastern Kentuckian grandmother, Lillian Daniels Preston, almost always enclosed a poem written just for me in my birthday card each year, and did so for all of her grandchildren. Most 20th-century small town newspapers printed poetry by local writers in every issue, and some still do.

Following is a poem by a Huntington man that evoked emotional responses from some of

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Recent Evening Programs in the Archives and History Library

Brian Kesterson spoke about "Incidents of Morgan's Raid with an Account of Stovepipe Johnson's Retreat through West Virginia" as the September First Tuesday Lecture. If you were unable to attend, watch this lecture and many others on the WV Archives and History YouTube channel, <http://www.youtube.com/user/wvarchivesandhistory>.



Bob Taylor, Archives and History Library Manager and champion old-time fiddler, presented "Family Heritage Music" about his own family's fiddling traditions. He also played examples of the music he talked about, with the assistance of friends Kim Johnson on banjo and Charlie Winter on guitar. (You may recognize Johnson as a member of the *Goldenseal* magazine staff.) Taylor is holding up fiddlesticks that he made himself. For



photos showing fiddlesticks being played, Taylor's display of fiddles and more, visit <http://www.wvculture.org/history/workshops.html>.



Barbara Hicks Lacy took her audience on a walk around "The Block" on August 28, 2014, as she informed and entertained with descriptions of her childhood neighborhood. "African American Lives In Charleston: A Personal Perspective Part III" may be viewed on our YouTube channel, along with the rest of "The Block" series.

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to further exploration, and what I hope is a good story.

The same concept applies to pieces of information, photographs, documents and other items in the West Virginia State Archives collections that relate to one another in some way, or reveal something unknown or unexpected when the trail of evidence is followed. "Serendipity" is a well-known concept here! My Archives and History colleague, historian Randy Marcum, refers to it as making connections, or connecting the dots from sometimes dissimilar small pieces to form a larger, surprising cohesive picture. He will be sharing some of his finds as well in months to come, but we will start with one of mine.

Recently while attempting to catalog a book that had been in the collection for a while but had not been entered in the electronic catalog, I was unable to do so because the accession number was rejected by the cataloging program as belonging to another book, a copy of *Betty Zane* by Zane Grey. Both frontier heroine Betty Zane and famed author Zane Grey, a Zane family

descendant, are much beloved by West Virginians. I retrieved *Betty Zane* from the shelf to straighten out the accession number conflict, which I did, but was delighted to discover that this copy had the gift plate of the Chicago Historical Society's library noting that the book had been donated by Grey himself. On the adjacent flyleaf was the autograph of Zane Grey in his signature purple ink. Wondering how the West Virginia Archives and History Library came to have the book, I looked through it and found that it had been deaccessioned by the Chicago Historical Society. (While we can't know for sure, the book may have been offered to the Archives at that time, or may have been sold to someone and eventually donated to the Archives.)

Tucked inside the back cover I found a small piece of folded notepaper that I realized was the personal stationery of "Zane Grey, Altadena, California." It was a typed note from him to the Chicago Historical Society dated May 13, 1925, stating, "At your request, I am sending to you, under separate cover, a copy of BETTY ZANE. Yours sincerely," closing with

the purple-inked signature of Zane Grey. Now we know we have both a signed book and a signed letter by Zane Grey. The book has been moved to the Rare Book Collection and the letter is now in the Manuscript Collection. If the Archives and History Library assembles a display of signed items or about the Zane family sometime in the future, we have two wonderful pieces to show.

Capitol Complex Parking Reminder

We welcome your visit to the Capitol Complex and to the West Virginia Archives and History Library, and we want your visit to be a pleasant one. We hope that advising you of the current parking rules will help you plan your visit and make it more enjoyable.

Parking enforcement at the Capitol Complex in Charleston is authorized from 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. Two parking attendants are on duty at the Capitol until 5:00 p.m. According to 148CSR6, Rule 6.2 Metered Parking, the owner of a motor vehicle parked at metered parking with elapsed time during the hours of 8:00 a.m. through 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, except holidays, is subject to overtime parking fines. In addition to metered parking enforcement, permit parking in reserved employee parking areas is enforced until 5:00 p.m. A valid Handicap Parking Permit is required for designated Handicap Parking spaces at all times, and Handicap Parking spaces are metered. All meters accept quarters, dimes and nickels. Once you are in the Archives and History Library our staff can make change for you, but you will need to bring change for initial payment at the meter. For more details, see the September 2014 issue of *West Virginia Archives and History News*, <http://www.wvculture.org/history/ahnews/ahnews.html>.

New Titles

Rural America in a Globalizing World: Problems and Prospects for the 2010's: Conner Bailey, Leif Jensen and Elizabeth Ransom, editors, 2014.

The Psalms of Israel Jones: Ed Davis, 2014.

Va. West Va.: Selected Poems: Paul C. Harris and T. Byron Kelly, editors, 2014.

Genealogy of Elizabeth Hughes Corson, 1635-2002: John Hughes Corson and Hughes C. Corson, 2014.

The following are all pamphlets:

Linger on the Lines: Rev. O. Afton Linger, [1957?]

Selections from The Mountain State Story: The Heritage and History of West Virginia: The C&P Telephone Company of West Virginia, 1967.

A Catechism of Agriculture: T. C. Atkeson and D. W. Working, 1909.

Collective Works of The Hill Poets, Authors, and Writers Club: The Hill Residence Hall Complex [West Virginia University], 1980.

Shadows and Sunshine and Other Poems: Eston P. Covington, Sr.

Alternatives to the Coming Death of Schooling: Ron Iannone, 1971.

View from College Avenue: Margaret McDowell, 1974, c1973.

Flowers Grow in Coal Dust: Shirley Young Campbell, 1974.

Florida Bells: Edith Eleanor Day, 1949.

Stars of Gold: Waitman Barbe, 1919.

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George Washington High School Advanced Placement U.S. History Class Writes Veteran Biographies

By Patricia Richards McClure,
West Virginia Veterans Memorial
Archives Volunteer

This third article on West Virginia Veterans Memorial Biographies features an exceptional high school class for which the writing of a biography became a semester-long project. In January, George Washington High School (Charleston, West Virginia) teacher Kathy Bush asked if I would work with her Advanced Placement U.S. History (APUSH) class of high school juniors, instructing and assisting them in the writing of veteran biographies. Aware of my interest in World War II and the work I had done with the biography project, she believed we might get students actively involved in the history of the

period. This proved to be a win/win situation—for the class and for the Veterans Memorial Archives.

Frankly, at first I did not know what to expect—it had been a long time since I had been in a high school classroom. Would the students be bored? Would they see the preparation of their article as just another assignment? Fortunately, the teacher had primed the pump. Prior to the one class period allotted to me to explain the assignment, she had them read some of the online biographies (<http://www.wvculture.org/history/wvmemory/vets/vetbios.html>), and she set the bar high when it came to expectations for their profiles—students would receive final exam credit for their writing.

Meanwhile, I spent some time putting together information packets on specific World War II veterans whose names are carved on the Memorial. We decided to give the students the option of working in pairs or individually, and the number of packets prepared worked out just right. Because of my limited face time with the class, I stressed three principles that guide my work with the biographies: First, research with integrity. The information presented must be accurate in order to be useful to future historians and genealogists. Second, involve the family of the veteran (if possible) to ensure they are comfortable with the way the information is presented. Even after decades, they may still be grieving. Finally, do your utmost to breathe life into your subject, making that person

a flesh-and-blood entity, not just a set of statistics.


We learned a lot in this first attempt at working with students and plan to continue the project in 2015. Joe Geiger, Director of Archives and History, has consistently expressed support for student involvement, but notes the project would not work for just any class and any teacher. My fears were allayed immediately when I met this group; not only were they a polite bunch, they were downright enthusiastic. Winter 2014 was a very challenging time in Kanawha County Schools because students missed days on end due to weather emergencies and the local water crisis. One day to explain the assignment was not enough—two would have been better, but it seemed unreasonable to ask for more time in an already truncated year. On the other hand, we had a good e-mail system going for questions and responses. Students asked questions and sent drafts; I offered feedback and always got back to them within 24 hours. The teacher wisely set up periodic deadlines for various portions of the assignment. There was to be no procrastination in the preparation of the final product; it could not be done the night before it was due.

An aspect that needs to be tweaked for future student participation is the preparation of the information packets. What is the right balance of the preparation and research I do versus the amount expected of the students? I researched, provided print documents, and offered suggestions, but by no means did I do it all. Students were expected to supplement my research by finding additional sources, interviewing families, and piecing together an interesting and informative narrative. One item I left to all groups to perform on their own
“Class” continued on page 5

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was to research the military history of their veteran’s unit. My plan for the next class includes less preparation on my part (in terms of their information packets) but more guidance in finding appropriate materials for student research. Let’s hope for fewer snow days to take the pressure off all of us!

The assignment provoked unanticipated outcomes and insights. The day after I presented at George Washington, a senior who had been in the previous APUSH class asked the teacher how he might get in on the project—this gave us two more biographies, and we now had word-of-mouth advertising! Reflecting on the assignment, a student commented thoughtfully that we were writing about a period of time when individuals’ lives did not garner much attention—until they met their untimely deaths. This was a reality check for a generation that is used to having every moment documented through instant communication, selfies, and social media.

One team showed me how to break the rules. I generally follow a formula of personal information (date and place of birth, parents and siblings, schooling, employment prior to military service, etc.) followed by the veteran’s military history, leading up to his or her death. Ryan Hayes and Grant Lares turned this technique upside down in their veteran’s biography. They started with a few basic facts of Ralph



Rebekah Kambara and Rachel Cokeley. Photo used with permission

Lewis Boone’s life and then launched immediately into the military history, describing the naval battle in which he lost his life. They then transitioned into the personal information, concluding with his honors, thus producing a moving and effective story. Wow!

In addition to working hard, Rebekah Kambara and Rachel Cokeley lucked out when their veteran turned out to be a Medal of Honor recipient. They also wrote a letter to Ruth Bennett Teem, who had provided information about Clinton Monroe Hedrick when names on the Veterans Memorial were first confirmed. Unfortunately, Mrs. Teem is now deceased, but the letter was forwarded to her son Paul Teem Jr., who sent along several helpful documents—and gave us the name of another veteran from Randolph County whom his mother had researched.

Some students jumped at a challenge. I told the class that writing a biography of veteran Bill W. Richardson would present a difficult

assignment. In the folder of paper documents Archives holds on each veteran, there was just one small newspaper clipping, and that one stated he had been killed in action in North Africa. Adila Fathallah and Juliana Spradling did not flinch when they got the packet for Richardson. Their research, though, found some conflicting information. Pvt. Richardson was buried in the Sitka (Alaska) National Cemetery. The official request for burial in that cemetery leaves no doubt that



Adila Fathallah and Juliana Spradling. Photo used with permission

we were researching the right Bill Richardson because the date of birth and service number corresponded to that of the West Virginia Richardson carved on our memorial. Research on his unit’s involvement in World War II indicates service in Alaska in the campaign to win back the islands of Kiska and Attu from the Japanese. We asked ourselves, “Why would a veteran killed in North Africa be buried in the Sitka National Cemetery?” We concluded it was unlikely the information in the newspaper article was correct, but the students carefully worded their article to present both possibilities. An object lesson of history: Always look at the subject from several angles.

One pair managed to inject a bit of humor in what was otherwise a *“Class” continued on page 6*

Evening Workshops and Lecture Schedule

Date	Conducted by:	Subject
November 6, Thursday	Eric Douglas	“ <i>West Virginia Voices of War</i> ”
For information, 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.		

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 tragic story. It fell to Emma Tinney and Kiara Cogar to relate the tale of Seaman Second Class Jack Wayne Wade, who was killed in the Battle of Leyte Gulf, arguably the largest naval battle in history. After two years at Roosevelt-Wilson High School in Clarksburg, seventeen-year-old Wade decided to join the Navy because it was reputed to have better living conditions than other branches of the military. The family never did get complete details of his death, but Wade was topside his ship, the *USS Birmingham*, during explosions that occurred as it gave aid to a sister ship. A family friend explained that the expression "He bought the farm" originated in wartime and referred to the death of a soldier and his insurance money being sent to his family. Emma and



Emma Tinney and Kiara Cogar. Photo used with permission

Kiara concluded: "Though it isn't sure whether he actually 'bought the farm,' it is true that after Jack's death, the Wade family moved to a larger home in Norwood, West Virginia."

Gene Bailey, APUSH student who worked at Archives and History over the past summer, had this to say about his experience: "I learned a considerable amount about the World War II era, not only in the war zone areas but also on the home front as well. It [the project] was beneficial in honing writing skills and knowledge about the era in which my veteran was a soldier." As did all the students, Gene acknowledged some shortcomings of the assignment. He felt the format was too restricting and denied students the opportunity to explore their individuality and spontaneity. He called the required deadlines "frustrating," but admitted in an interview that those deadlines indicated good planning on the part of the teacher.

In addition to the four biographies mentioned above, Archives netted the following contributions:

Veteran	Student Writer(s)
Cpl. Sherald Brady	Tanner Ballard
Pfc. Clarence C. Comer	Cam Elliott
Sfc3 Tony Esposito	Gene Bailey
Pfc. Clarence C. Herrick	Cam Elliott
Ens. Melvin Livesay	Gene Bailey and Collin Castillo
Pvt. Parker Meikle	Constance Gerstle
Pfc. Abraham Sams	Will Nadas and Brock Darnell
Pfc. Willie R. Stollings	Grace Morris
Pfc. Carl E. Tatterson	Matt Lord and Ahmad Haffar
Pfc. James J. Waters	Amber Biel

To read this crop of student contributions, visit the Veterans Memorial Biographies site (<http://www.wvculture.org/history/wvmemory/vets/vetbios.html>).

Several more are in progress as students continue to write. Needless to say, we look forward with excitement and enthusiasm to next year's yield of student biographies.

"Poetry" continued from page 2
 the library staff.

Reflections at Gettysburg

By Eston P. Covington Sr.

I stood upon the battlefield
 And looked on marble bright:
 Memorials to the Blue and Gray
 Who fought to shield their right.

Those markers shine with splendor
 And grass grows fresh and green
 Since battle's roar is heard no more
 And it's agonies unseen.

But standing there I turned the page
 Of time to sixty-three.
 I saw the legions of Meade's men,
 And I saw the Grays with Lee.

I watched the men with Pickett
 Charge 'cross the field of wheat,
 And there I saw the thousands slain
 In battle's bitter heat.

Eight thousand men were soaked in blood—
 Brave men who wore the Gray,
 Eight thousand more were soaked
 in blood—
 Brave men in Blue that day.

And when the battle ceased to roar
 And it's [sic] smoke had cleared away,
 I walked upon the battlefield
 Among the Blue and Gray.

I saw there boys of tender age
 With bodies torn apart;
 The middle-aged and old men
 In agony depart.

I heard the groans of dying men;
 I heard them curse and pray;
 I heard them plead for loved ones
 As they bled and died that day.

And then I turned the pages back
 From days of sixty-three,
 And gazed upon great monuments
 To man's stupidity.

I searched in vain for glories
 That I've heard were written there,
 But I found those pages blotted
 By the blood of manhood fair.

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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.

“INVISIBLE ROOTS AND LEGENDS: A PHOTOGRAPHIC VIEW OF AFRICAN AMERICANS IN THE GREENBRIER VALLEY” EXHIBIT, September 20-October 6:
Cooper Gallery, Lewisburg.

PRICKETTS FORT LECTURE SERIES: “A WAR WILL BE INEVITABLE”: LORD DUNMORE AND THE CONQUEST OF THE OHIO COUNTRY, October 12:
Travis Henline, presenter, Pricketts Fort.

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

VIRGINIA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY AND AUGUSTA COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY COMBINED FALL CONFERENCE, October 17-18: Waynesboro and Staunton, Virginia.
For more information contact Chuck Novak, (703) 444-2445, chucknovak@msn.com, or visit <http://www.vgs.org/shop/events/vgs-2014-fall-conference-detail>.

PIONEERING ARCHAEOLOGY IN THE MOUNTAIN STATE: THE CAREER OF EDWARD V. McMICHAEL, October 30: Patrick D. Trader, speaker, Grave Creek Mound Archaeological Complex, Moundsville.

GUYANDOTTE CIVIL WAR DAYS, October 31-November 2: Guyandotte.

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

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

MINING YOUR HISTORY FOUNDATION CONFERENCE, November 15:
Archives and History Library, Culture Center, Charleston. For more information, contact Esther Warner at ebw104@juno.com.

NATIVE AMERICAN HISTORY AND RESEARCH IN WEST VIRGINIA, AD 1600-1800, November 20: Greg B. Carroll, speaker, Grave Creek Mound Archaeological Complex, Moundsville.

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

THANKSGIVING FRIDAY AND SATURDAY, November 28 and 29: Archives Library will be *closed*.

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

And as I looked upon the grass
It turned to crimson red
For it had fed upon the earth
Where mothers' sons had bled.

From *Shadows and Sunshine and Other Poems* by Eston P. Covington Sr., Huntington, WV, copyright 1942.

New Titles

West Virginia Standard Code of Necropsy or Autopsy Procedure: West Virginia State Medical Association and others, 1951.

Collyer's Pocket Guide: Army and Navy Insignia: 1918.

Chrysler: William Everhart, 1976.

Cuba and Anglo-American Relations: James Morton Callahan, 1898.

Outdoor Cookery: West Virginia 4-H Clubs: WVU Extension Service, date not known.

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and **History NEWS**

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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.

www.wvculture.org/history

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