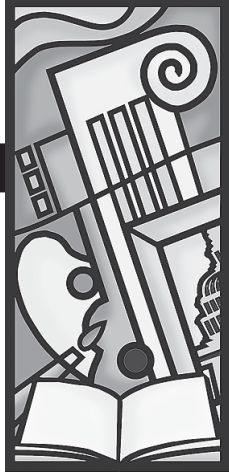


West Virginia Archives & History NEWS

VOLUME V, No. 10 DECEMBER 2004



From the Editor:

The comment period for the proposed changes to the West Virginia Archives and History Library Services and Fee Guidelines closed November 29, 2004. The January issue of Archives and History News will feature a summary and explanation of the new and changed guidelines that become effective January 15, 2005. Meanwhile, we look forward to seeing those of you who will take advantage of holiday travels to make a stop at the Archives and History Library for a little research. We wish everyone safe traveling and happy celebrations throughout the holiday season.

MYHF Donates Border County Books

Mining Your History Foundation (MYHF) is collecting census, cemetery, birth, marriage and other books for counties in Ohio and Kentucky that border West Virginia and donating those titles to the West Virginia Archives and History Library. Many are included in the *New Titles* list in this issue, and others will appear in the list as they

are acquired and cataloged. Those of you who have participated in any MYHF fundraisers or who have dropped a dollar in their donation box in the Library are now reaping your reward. We greatly appreciate the dedication of MYHF in supporting the Library, with our special gratitude extended to current MYHF Board members: President Wes Cochran,

Vice President Sheri K. Pettit, Secretary Virginia Gillespie, Assistant Secretary Esther Warner, Treasurer Lucile Foster, Assistant Treasurer Pat Pleska, Kellis Gillespie, Neva Gocke, James Miracle and Linda Camp. For more information on MYHF activities and membership, visit <http://www.rootsweb.com/~myhf/>.

More on Courthouses, County Records and County Seats

An article from the *Fayette Tribune*, January 25, 1933, "How County Records Were Preserved Through the War and Court House Fires," by A. W. Hamilton, provides very interesting reading. Mr. Hamilton, who purports to have witnessed some of the events himself and to have interviewed others who were directly involved, recounts the history of Fayette County's records and courthouses from 1861 up through 1932. He also outlines attempts to move the county seat from Fayetteville to Montgomery, or to another location along the C & O Railway. Mr. Hamilton's account does not explain entirely the gaps in existing Fayette County records nor

the damaged records that are so hard to read. As a bonus for Civil War historians, much detail is provided regarding the effects of Civil War strife on the Fayetteville area.

You may read the entire text of this article at <http://www.wvculture.org/history/fayetterecords.html>. Our Web master Joe Geiger has grouped this with similar articles about West Virginia counties under the heading of "Counties" accessible from both the *Genealogy Corner* and *History Center* pages of our Web site, <http://www.wvculture.org/history/>. If you know of similar newspaper articles or passages in local history books, or if you spot one while searching old newspapers and magazines, please

share your finds with us. (Archives and History staffer Terry Lowry found this article while looking for something else in the *Fayette Tribune*.)

Previous articles on West Virginia courthouses and records will be found in the following past issues of *Archives and History News*: August 2000, February 2001, August 2001, January 2003, May 2003, May 2004, October 2004, November 2004. An article on newspapers was featured in the March 2001 issue. These and other issues of the newsletter are available on-line through the Archives and History Web site at <http://www.wvculture.org/history/ahnews.html>.

Slave Insurance Policy Lists

Illinois Public Act 93-0333, effective January 1, 2004, required every insurance company registered to operate in Illinois to provide the Illinois Dept. of Financial and Professional Regulation, Division of Insurance, with information regarding policies written by that company or by a predecessor corporation operating during the time of slavery and issued to slaveholders for coverage for death or damage to their slaves. The compiled reports are available for viewing at <http://www.ins.state.il.us/consumer/slaveryreporting.nsf>, and include listings by slave name and by slaveholder name. Although the reports were required and compiled by Illinois, the policies themselves were written for slaveholders who were residents of southern slaveholding states. While I did not spot any West Virginia counties on the lists, I saw that many of the slaves were those with special skills that were often hired out, and more than a few of the slaves are identified as working on river boats, both situations applicable to West Virginia African Americans.

John Brown's Family

The February 2005 issue of *Civil War Times* includes an article by Sandra Weber entitled "Living Legacies of Harpers Ferry," recounting the effects on John Brown's family of his raid on Harpers Ferry, his trial and subsequent execution. While much has been written about John Brown himself, the events of the attack at Harpers Ferry, and the ways in which political and private thought were influenced by both, Ms. Weber recounts the emotional and physical suffering of family members, as well as the

Continued on the next page

New Titles

- Register of the Inmates of Ohio County (WV) Infirmary:** Nancy Lewellen Roe, 2003.
- Civil War—West Virginia: Union Lives Lost:** Linda Cunningham Fluharty, 2004.
- Declaration of Naturalization: Ohio Co. West Virginia: 1876:** Wheeling Area Genealogical Society, [no date].
- Soldier of Southwestern Virginia: The Civil War Letters of Captain John Preston Sheffey:** James I. Robertson, Jr., Editor, 2004.
- Three Years With Wallace's Zouaves: The Civil War Memoirs of Thomas Wise Durham:** Jeffery L. Patrick, Editor, 2003.
- Kanawha County Public Library: A History:** Kenneth R. Bailey, 2004.
- The Rawn Family:** Anne Brown Rawn Cooke, 2003.
- Black Residents of Greenbrier, Monroe, Pocahontas and Summers Counties West Virginia: Part 5, H (in two sections); Part 6, I-K; and Part 7, L-M:** Carol L. Haynes, 2004.
- Ohio County (WV) Index: Master Cumulative Index to Volumes 1-12 and "Personal Time Line" Index:** Kenneth F. Craft, Jr., 2004.
- Ward W.Va. Annual Reunion: to Honor Old Friends:** Patsy Ruth (Hudson) Tucker, 2004.
- Locked in Time: West Virginia Penitentiary 1866-1995:** John William Lerner, 2004.
- West Virginia Penitentiary Cell Wall Markings:** John William Lerner, 2004.
- Fetty Family History:** Rebecca Grace Fetty McKown, 2004.
- Jacob Mann, Jr., Born 1745, Early Pioneer of Monroe County, West Virginia and His Descendants:** 2nd edition, Marilyn K. Fleshman, 2003.
- Gorby & Mullett Families: Doolin Run Neighbors, Wetzel County, W. Va.:** 2nd edition, Sam McColloch, 2003.
- Confederate Research Sources:** James C. Neagle, 1997.
- Hardy County WV Marriages, 1900-1949:** Wes Cochran, 2004.
- East Kentucky Cemeteries: Volumes 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12:** Joe R. Skeens, 1991.
- Albemarle County Marriages, 1780-1853: Volumes I, II and III:** John Vogt and T. William Kethley, Jr., 1991.
- Roane County WV Marriages, 1834-1950:** Wes Cochran, 2004.
- Marriage Records 1913-1925, Athens County, Ohio:** Beverly Schumacher, Editor, 2000.
- 1900 Belmont County Census [8 volumes]:** Ohio Genealogical Society, 2003.
- A Union Man: The Life of C. Frank Keeney:** Charles Belmont Keeney III, 2000.
- 1870 Elliott County Kentucky Census:** Charles A. Barker, 1988.
- Abstracts and Extracts from Athens County, Ohio Newspapers, 1890: Part I, The Athens Herald and the Athens Journal:** Mary L. Bowman, 1992.
- Hamilton County, Ohio Index of Early Deed Books, 1804-1806 and 1814-1817:** William H. Graver, 2004.
- Marriage Records of Jefferson County, Ohio: Book 7, 1850-1866; Book 8, Part 1, 1865-1874; Book 8, Part 2, 1874-1883:** Leila S. Francy, 1993.
- Athens County, Ohio, Birth Records: Volume 1, 1867-1881 through Volume 6, 1898-1920:** Mary L. Bowman, 1990.
- The Braxton County Monster: The Cover-up of the Flatwoods Monster Revealed:** Frank C. Feschino, Jr., 2004.
- Deaths Recorded in Jefferson County, Ohio, 1888-1898:** Leila S. Francy, 1997, c1986.

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adulation received from abolitionist supporters contrasted with the danger threatened by anti-abolitionists. Four of the photographs illustrating the article are from the Boyd B. Stutler Collection of the West Virginia Division of Culture and History, State Archives and History Library. To view additional Brown family photos, search the John Brown/Boyd B. Stutler Collection Database of the West Virginia Memory Project by entering "Brown Family" in the "Subjects-Topics" category, at <http://wvmemory.wvculture.org/implsintro.html>.

Archives and History News Indexes Online

A Subject Index and a Title Index for all issues of *West Virginia Archives and History News* are now available online. Publications, videotapes, articles and other means of communication that have been reviewed in the newsletter are also listed. The index is posted with the newsletter at <http://www.wvculture.org/history/ahnews.html>. We have tried to keep the Subject Index very basic in terms of subject headings used and of articles chosen for indexing. If any reader would like to suggest additional subject headings, or would like to point out a useful short article that was not included in the index, please contact the Editor.

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.

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.

HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE, MUSEUM IN THE PARK, December 18: Includes "Snapshots in Time: A Photographic History of West Virginia," an exhibit of photographs from the State Archives, Chief Logan State Park, Logan.

CHRISTMAS EVE, December 24: Archives Library will be closed.

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

NEW YEAR'S EVE, December 31: Archives Library will be closed.

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

MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY, January 17:
 Archives Library will be open.*

ARCHIVES AND HISTORY COMMISSION MEETING, January 28: Morgantown

HISTORY DAY, March 17: The 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.

U.S. African American Griots: Telling Our Story Through History and Genealogical Data

This Web site for African American history and genealogy is based on the role of the griot (gree-oh), the member of an African tribe who was responsible for remembering and passing on the genealogy, traditions and history of the tribe. Submitted family histories are posted at <http://www.rootsweb.com/~afamer/index.html>, as well as information on the Underground Railroad, links to other African American genealogy and

history sources, surname listings with e-mail contacts to researchers, and more. African American data and resources are being collected on a state-by-state basis as well. Currently fourteen states and the District of Columbia have links posted, including West Virginia, Virginia, Kentucky and Ohio. We are happy to report that the African American resources on the West Virginia State Archives Web site are included through links.

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 (*West Virginia History*)
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, Lorene Mullins, and Kellis and Virginia Gillespie

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