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**Matthew M. Neely vs. West Virginia University**  
by  
**Kenneth R. Bailey**

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The 21st-century college student experiences a campus climate of free speech and expression largely unknown in earlier generations. Though there were exceptions, students from the late 1800s were generally at the mercy of college administrations, and legislatures, who arbitrarily enforced standards of conduct on them. In 1900, when Jerome Hall Raymond, president of West Virginia University, orchestrated the expulsion of student Matthew M. Neely, he had every expectation that the expulsion was final. However, a resulting legal action filed on Neely's behalf reversed Raymond's action.

Neely was born in Doddridge County in 1874 and was educated there and at Salem College. While at Salem he taught school for four years and interspersed his teaching with continued higher education. In 1897, at age 22, he entered West Virginia University to pursue a bachelor's degree.<sup>1</sup> At the end of his first year, war between the United States and Spain had broken out and, in May 1898, Neely joined the West Virginia National Guard as a private. He served until December 18, 1898, when he was discharged,

having achieved the rank of corporal.<sup>2</sup> He returned to West Virginia University and about January 1, 1899, he applied, and was accepted, for membership in the Cadet Corps. At that time, membership was limited to students under the age of 21, but members could be excepted from the rules and the 24-year-old Neely was appointed by a member of the West Virginia Board of Regents.<sup>3</sup> Apparently, other veterans had been similarly



Matthew Mansfield Neely, ca. 1913, by Harris and Ewing. Library of Congress.

appointed in recognition of their service during the war.

From documents submitted by Neely and the West Virginia Board of Regents in the lawsuit, it appears that Neely's expulsion was tied to an event which had nothing to do with his scholarship, attendance, or character. Instead, he ran afoul of President Raymond, with whom he had been on good terms socially, because Raymond was in a struggle with several faculty members whose employment at WVU he wished to terminate. Prior to Raymond's appointment as president of West Virginia University, the institution had been beset by political turmoil arising from a continuing struggle of former Union and Confederate supporters to exert influence over the school.<sup>4</sup>

Twenty-eight-year-old Jerome Hall Raymond received national attention when he was appointed president of West Virginia University in 1897. National magazines made much of the appointment of such a young man to lead a state university and one of his correspondents remarked that Raymond's name and picture must be as familiar to Americans as President William McKinley's.<sup>5</sup> The new president immediately undertook to revamp what was perceived as a slumbering institution and to breathe new life into it with enrollment (including female) increases, new and different academic programs (including correspondence courses), buildings, etc. Raymond's innovations had some success and while he had the support of the Board of Regents, his relations with a powerful and entrenched faculty were less cordial. He suggested that some did not possess academic credentials to be on the university faculty and instead had "honorary" degrees. To demonstrate, he began publishing the academic or other degrees of faculty members in the college catalog, to the discomfort of those who in fact did not possess appropriate credentials.<sup>6</sup> Raymond also created conflict with students and faculty with his effort to eliminate alcohol, tobacco, and dancing from campus life. Students responded to restrictions on their activities with a petition to remove Raymond as president.

By the fall of 1900, Raymond's success in Morgantown had begun to pale. He was facing a student petition asking for his ouster and publicly feuding with three senior faculty members who

had strong support from the public, students, and other faculty. Matthew M. Neely was among those who signed a petition to support the faculty members but apparently did not sign the student petition seeking to have Raymond removed. On October 10, students, seeking a public outlet for their displeasure with President Raymond, disrupted a meeting of the Knights of Pythias who had gathered to hear an address by Morgantown Mayor S. A. Posten. The students interrupted the speaker with "a mighty noise – applauding, hissing, catcalls, and shouting of all kinds."<sup>7</sup> The meeting of a private social fraternity would not normally be an official university function. However, this was the annual meeting of the Grand Lodge of the Knights of Pythias for the state of West Virginia. The university, the town of Morgantown, President Raymond, the faculty, and others all saw it as an opportunity to showcase the university and the progress it had made and its promise for the future. Instead, the opening meeting was turned into a debacle by the student protestors.

Several students were hauled before a student discipline committee in hearings held on October 11, 12 and 13 for their behavior and various punishments were meted out. (The fact that the hearings began the day after the student misbehavior indicates some serious anger on the part of the college administration.) The most serious offenders, including Neely, were suspended from the university for a year. At the student conduct hearing, Neely admitted being present at the Knights of Pythias meeting and to clapping and cheering. He refused, however, to name others in the crowd that participated in causing the disturbance. His refusal to name names was, according to the student disciplinary committee, contrary to the rules governing student conduct. He was also charged with having defrauded the university by accepting a position in the Cadet Corps and reaping the benefits of membership despite being over the legal age when he was admitted.<sup>8</sup>

Immediately following his suspension, Neely filed a writ of mandamus requesting reinstatement as a student and as a member of the Cadet Corps. According to one of his legal filings, he did not appeal to the Board of Regents because it was not

in session and he did not appeal to a faculty committee because President Raymond controlled all those proceedings. After filing his suit, Neely was arrested and charged with “disturbing a public meeting.” However, a grand jury declined to indict him for that offense.<sup>9</sup>

In the various legal documents filed by Neely and the WVU Board of Regents, it appears that Neely was singled out for more harsh treatment because he was older, an officer in the Cadet Corps, and had been on friendly relations with President Raymond before they had a falling out over Raymond’s efforts to remove three men from the faculty. In a document titled “Alternative Writ of Mandamus,” Neely provided his recollection of a conversation

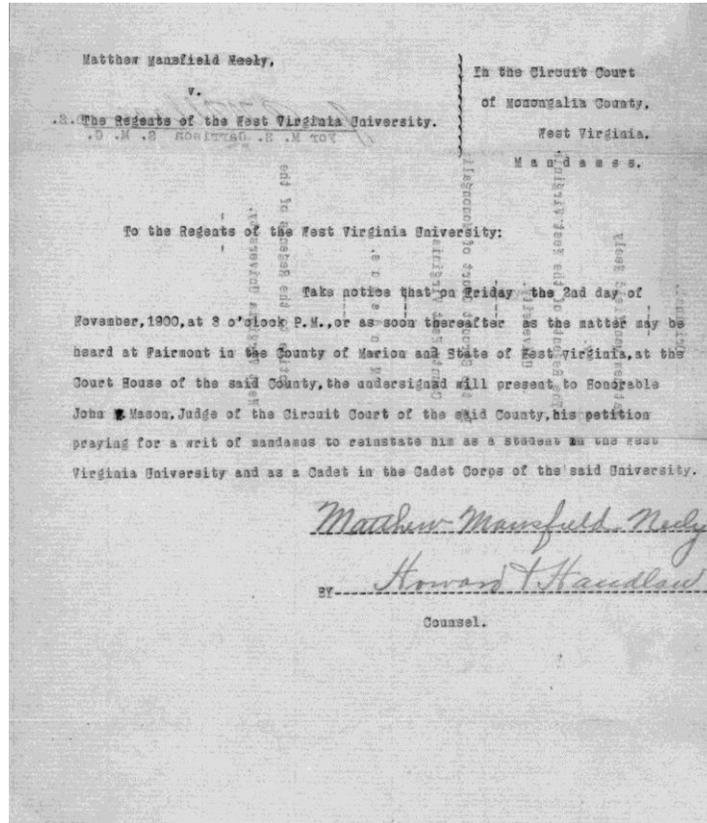
held October 11, the day after the Knights of Pythias meeting, between him and President Raymond. If Neely’s account can be taken at face value, there was definitely bad feeling between him and Raymond over Neely’s support of the three faculty members Raymond was attempting to dismiss. According to Neely, Raymond questioned why Neely no longer visited Raymond and his wife at their home and why he was now “disloyal” to him. Neely maintained that he had nothing against Raymond but one of the professors, a medical doctor, had aided him in time of severe illness and one of the others was a fellow Mason. The third had been one of Neely’s instructors and he could see no reason for Raymond to dismiss

him. Following what was obviously a non-productive meeting, according to the Alternative Writ, “the said Jerome Hall Raymond did for the purpose of gratifying his malice and spite against the said Matthew Mansfield Neely, thereupon on

the 13th day of October 1900 persuade and induce a Committee of the faculty of the West Virginia University, known as the Committee on Student Affairs” to suspend Neely from the university until September 1, 1901. That same committee stripped Neely of his commission in the Cadet Corps on October 22, again according to the Alternative Writ, because of Raymond’s personal animosity toward Matthew M. Neely.<sup>10</sup>

The regents responded with legal filings claiming immunity from suits like that filed by Neely and stating at great length that students were obligated to abide by university rules and regulations. The regents alleged that Neely’s failure to name other students who had misbehaved and his receipt of Cadet Corps benefits despite his age were evidence that he was unfit to be part of the university community, that his suspension should be upheld, and that his request for relief should be denied.<sup>11</sup>

The legal filings took place between Neely’s suspension on October 13, 1900, and December 20, 1900. On the latter date, the regents decided to end the controversy by decreeing that Neely had been punished enough with a suspension for two



Notice from Neely to the Board of Regents of his intention to file a writ of mandamus for reinstatement. Monongalia County Circuit Court Records, West Virginia State Archives

months and that he be reinstated as a student and as a member of the Cadet Corps.<sup>12</sup> Apparently, the regents and Neely reached a compromise to allow him to continue his studies and military career in return for dropping his suit. On February 1, 1901, a final order was submitted in the case—*Matthew Mansfield Neely vs. The Regents of the W.Va. University*: “Order entered and sent Returnable to Nov 15, 1900. Dismissed each party to pay his own cost. Final Order.”<sup>13</sup>

Within six months, Jerome Hall Raymond was asked to resign as president of West Virginia University. (He had submitted letters of resignation twice before but the existing regents persuaded him to stay on.) His feud with Matthew M. Neely was not the cause of his leaving, but the public arguments with the faculty and staff had angered some powerful people in the state. George W. Atkinson, governor of West Virginia from 1897 to 1901, and the regents of West Virginia University supported Raymond and appreciated his efforts to reform and grow the student body at WVU but others wished to see a change in leadership at the university. Incoming governor, A. B. White, deferred to the West Virginia Legislature to deal with criticism of Raymond and the existing Board of Regents. A new board was appointed and Raymond was out.<sup>14</sup>

The students who had been suspended and then reinstated could not resist gloating. In the 1901 yearbook they reported, “The conflict is over, the din of battle has hushed, the smoke has cleared away, and Moreland, Corbin and Neely are with us yet.”<sup>15</sup>

Jerome Hall Raymond returned to Chicago where he became a renowned lecturer in the University of Chicago’s extension education department. He and his wife, Josephine Hunt Raymond, traveled to many foreign countries and using his broad experience, Raymond gave lectures on many topics across the United States until his early death in 1928.

Matthew Mansfield Neely had a successful legal and political career. He is the only person to have served West Virginia as both a United States Representative and Senator and also as Governor. As governor, and a loyal WVU alumnus, he had a keen interest in the workings of the university. He became displeased with the president of West

Virginia University and the existing Board of Regents in 1944 when some of his suggested changes were not carried out. His actions toward the university earned the enmity of a number of students who booed him as he left a Board of Regents meeting.<sup>16</sup> It would be interesting to know if the governor thought back to October 10, 1900, when he was one of those expressing displeasure with the mayor of Morgantown.

1. George W. Atkinson, *Bench and Bar of West Virginia* (Charleston: Virginian Law Book Company, 1919), 393-394.
2. West Virginia, *Biennial Report of the Adjutant General* (Charleston: The Tribune Printing Company, 1903), 17.
3. Special Replication #1, *Matthew Mansfield Neely vs. The Regents of West Virginia University*; Monongalia County Circuit Court Records (hereafter Neely, Replication #1), West Virginia State Archives (hereafter WWSA).
4. Though not specifically germane to the present article, the story is interesting and told in the Doherty and Summers history of West Virginia University, *West Virginia University, Symbol of Unity in a Sectionalized State*. See note 5.
5. William T. Doherty Jr. and Festus P. Summers, *West Virginia University, Symbol of Unity in a Sectionalized State* (Morgantown, West Virginia University Press, 1982), 61.
6. *Ibid.*, 65.
7. *Ibid.*, 72.
8. *Matthew Mansfield Neely vs. The Regents of the West Virginia University*, Relator – Mandamus Nisi. Defendant & Relator, Answer and Return of Respondent; Monongalia County Circuit Court Records, WWSA.
9. *Ibid.*; Neely, Replication #1.
10. *Matthew Mansfield Neely v. The Regents of the West Virginia University*, Alternative Writ of Mandamus; Monongalia County Circuit Court Records, WWSA.
11. The Regents of the West Virginia University, Respondent, Ats. Mandamus Nisi, Mathew M. Neely, Relator, Monongalia County Circuit Court Records, WWSA.
12. Doherty and Summers, 72.
13. Final Order, Monongalia County Circuit Court Records, WWSA.
14. Doherty and Summers, 77.
15. *Ibid.*, 73.
16. Ronald L. Lewis, *Aspiring to Greatness, West Virginia University Since World War II* (Morgantown: West Virginia University Press, 2013), 22.

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**Jane McColloch (1764-1849): Early Settler  
of the Upper Ohio Valley**

by  
**Bruce D. Bonar**

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Recently, I wrote a history of my pioneer West Virginia ancestors. *A History of William Bonar and Jane McColloch: Pioneer Settlers of the Upper Ohio Valley* documents the story of two settlers who arrived on the northwest Virginia frontier just prior to the Revolutionary War. The book cites many original sources and histories of the period, including stories of many early families who settled West Virginia's northern panhandle region. While doing the research for the book, it became clear to me, except for a few stories of heroic acts, the history of West Virginia's border life during the Revolutionary War and its immediate aftermath is a tale told by men, the early history writers, about men. Often ignored are the contributions of the pioneer women.

My grandmother, Jane McColloch, was one of the first white women to settle in present-day Ohio and Brooke counties of West Virginia. Jane was born in Hampshire County and most likely arrived on the frontier in 1769 with her father George McColloch's family.<sup>1</sup> No doubt, Jane McColloch lived on the western Virginia frontier in 1777 when Thomas Newberry left her "A Certain Roan filly" in his will, the first recorded in Ohio County, Virginia.

Her mother was Nancy Van Meter, but since George McColloch was married a second time to Catherine Hedges, it remains unclear whether her mother accompanied the family westward. Therefore, she grew up in a household of siblings from both of her father's two wives. They lived on Pierce's Run, Buffalo Creek area, east of Wellsburg (Brooke County), near Independence, Pennsylvania.<sup>2</sup>

Col. George McColloch was one of four McColloch brothers who settled in the northern panhandle of West Virginia. He was born in

Gloucester County, New Jersey. George McColloch had received his commission as colonel of militia when he lived in the eastern panhandle of present-day West Virginia, presumably during the French and Indian War.<sup>3</sup>

With tensions rising between the British Crown and its recalcitrant colonies in America, Jane lived in a household devoted to the American cause. Her ancestors were Scots-Irish immigrants who left Northern Ireland to pursue their fortunes in America. Having suffered persecution in Ireland by the British upper class who owned the land farmed by the impoverished Scots, her people came to the colonies with a hatred of English oppression.

The McCollochs were leaders among the pioneer communities. Jane's brothers, uncles, and cousins filled the militia ranks. Along with other men on the frontier, Jane's father signed an "Oath of Allegiance to the Commonwealth of Virginia" in 1778, a declaration of loyalty to the American cause.<sup>4</sup> Col. George McColloch was active in the early court at West Liberty, a tiny hamlet on the edge of the western most frontier. On November 9, 1776, he was appointed a committeeman by Charles Simms, Secretary of Commerce of Virginia, along with his brother John, to raise two companies for the Continental Army.<sup>5</sup>

As a young girl, Jane McColloch was expected to perform farm chores, sew, weave, and help raise her younger siblings, children from both of her father's wives. Pioneer life was hard and revolved around the family unit where everyone worked on the farm. Far from any schools and without access to tutors, she did not acquire even a rudimentary education. Her will, probated in Brooke County in 1849, contained an "X" in place of her written signature.

It is not clear when Jane McColloch married William Bonar, an Ohio County militiaman. William had come west in 1774 to live with his sister, Catherine, who was married to Oliver Gorrell. The Gorrells lived on Apple Pie Ridge, two miles west of West Liberty, at the very edge of the westernmost settlements.<sup>6</sup>

Like the McCollochs, Jane's husband was Scots-Irish, the son of William, an immigrant who arrived in Virginia as a 17-year-old from Northern Ireland. He married and homesteaded on the

Roanoke River, where young William Bonar was born in 1752.<sup>7</sup> After Shawnee Indians attacked and killed many defenders at Fort Vause in 1769, near present-day Shawsville, Virginia, the immigrant William Bonar moved his family to Susquehanna Hundred, near Harve de Grace, Maryland.<sup>8</sup>

In 1776, William Bonar bought 239 acres on Apple Pie Ridge from Isaac Meeks, a militia officer.<sup>9</sup> Sometime before 1782, when the 18-year-old Jane gave birth to their first child, Catherine, William and Jane had set up housekeeping. It is not clear where they were married or by what faith. Virginia law had required marriages to take place in a church. However, it became clear that such a requirement was impractical on the frontier, where formal churches were widely scattered. Usually, people met in cabins for worship or occasionally outside in a field lead by itinerate preachers, such as the Methodist Frances Asbury. So, Virginia law was amended to allow marriages to be certified by a court or militia officers.<sup>10</sup> It is possible, then, that William and Jane could have been married by Col. George McColloch. However, no documentation of their marriage has been found.

From the time of her arrival to the frontier with her family until the end of the eighteenth century when hostilities between the American settlements and the Native American tribes eased, Jane McColloch lived during a terrible time. Clearing land, planting, housekeeping, and raising ten children was stressful enough in an environment where disease, food shortages, and the constant fear of Indian attacks permeated frontier life. Additionally, Jane experienced the loneliness associated with long absences of her husband.

Frequently, the militia called men to perform their duty or report for training. According to one early historian, Jane's husband "participated in several expeditions against the Indians in Ohio."<sup>11</sup> These forays into tribal land west of the Ohio River occurred to punish the Native Americans for their attacks against the settlements and forts. Frontier armies invaded across the Ohio River in an attempt to eradicate the villages where warriors organized their war parties. In some cases, hastily gathered militia soldiers chased Indian raiders who had killed families living in isolated regions or captured women and children.

The militia became so active that frequent absences by the men to guard forts and grist mills, and to participate in expeditions caused several pioneers to petition Gen. William Irvine, the military commander at Fort Pitt, for relief. William Bonar and the men in his neighborhood signed a letter which was sent to Fort Pitt asking Irvine to send regular Continental soldiers to help the militia perform guard duty so that the men could feed their families. General Irvine ignored their request.<sup>12</sup>

With her husband active in the militia, Jane often was left alone in their cabin in charge of all duties to maintain the farm, feed and clothe her children, and protect them from Indians. In particularly dangerous times, pioneer families "forted up" for mutual protection. The early histories have reported many stories of frontier women performing the same duty as their husbands, defending cabins, blockhouses, and forts during this period.

Danger lurked everywhere in the lush valleys and forested hills surrounding the homestead of Jane McColloch. On July 30, 1782, across the hollow from her cabin "as the crow flies," Indians ambushed Jane's cousins, Maj. Samuel McColloch and his brother Capt. John McColloch near a prominence called Girty's Point. The McColloch brothers had left Fort Van Meter to scout for signs of Indians and were returning when Major Sam was shot and killed. John escaped. The next morning he led militiamen to retrieve his brother's body. Years later, Indians told the people at West Liberty that the warriors who killed McColloch knew he was the one who had escaped capture at Fort Henry in 1777 by leaping his horse over a steep incline, an act admired by the Native Americans. They ate his heart as a tribute to his bravery believing they would be brave too.<sup>13</sup>

Two of Jane McColloch's brothers served as scouts. William McColloch scouted a "range" of territory around Fort Frye, Ohio.<sup>14</sup> He married an Indian princess, the daughter of Isaac Zane, the founder of Zanesville, Ohio. When the War of 1812 began, Capt. William McColloch lived in the Zanesville area, where he operated a ferry. He raised a company of men and joined the war with the British. He became the chief scout for the American Army that attacked Fort Detroit.

Shawnee Indians, hiding in a cornfield, killed Captain McCulloch as he scouted ahead of the retreating army after its unsuccessful attempt to capture Fort Detroit. He was respected and admired among the officers and men he commanded.<sup>15</sup>

Jane's brother, George Jr., scouted on the frontier in the 1790s.<sup>16</sup> He returned to active duty during the War of 1812 and was killed at Fort Meigs, Ohio, along with Jane's brother, Silas. According to one McCulloch genealogist, Indians killed Jane's father, Col. George McCulloch, on his farm in 1787.<sup>17</sup>

Despite suffering the loss of neighbors and family members, Jane McCulloch persevered. As one pioneer remarked to Lyman Draper, who interviewed many settlers regarding the role of women on the frontier: "Everyone was a soldier."

After the Indian wars, Jane McCulloch and her husband lived a quiet life. William served the newly formed Brooke County court by recommending the paths for several roads in the county.<sup>18</sup> They became early believers in the teachings of Alexander Campbell, who established the Disciples of Christ Church in America.

Jane McCulloch proves the adage: "The apple does not fall far from the tree." Her ten children were successful farmers and public servants. Several were early settlers on the Ohio frontier,



Graves of Jane McCulloch (right) and William Bonar, West Liberty (WV) Cemetery.

along Duck Creek in Belmont County. One son was a member of the second West Virginia legislature during the Civil War. Two sons served in the War of 1812.

Jane's husband William Bonar died on July 23, 1830, aged 79. Jane McCulloch Bonar died on March 8, 1849, surpassing her husband in life by six years.<sup>19</sup> She is buried next to her husband in the West Liberty Cemetery in West Virginia. This cemetery is filled with more famous graves. Lying near Jane McCulloch's burial plot is the grave of Capt. Samuel Brady, scout and soldier in the Revolution. Nearby is the grave of Gen. Benjamin Biggs of the Ohio County militia. Numerous Ohio County militiamen who served in the Revolutionary War are buried there too.

In 2015, William Bonar was honored by the Sons of the American Revolution for his service in the Revolutionary War. The Bonar family installed new gravesite plaques with short biographies for both William and Jane Bonar. The family believed their grandmother deserved recognition for her service to the Revolutionary cause as well.

Few monuments to the pioneers of the northwest Virginia frontier exist. Fewer still for women. The first generation of Americans lay in lonely plots and unmarked graves, their contributions to modern life often forgotten and unappreciated. Yet Americans enjoy a political and economic system that is sustained by the same optimism and values of hard work, family, and community support people such as Jane McCulloch brought to the American frontier. Future generations are the custodians of their legacy and must remember the sacrifices that the pioneers of the old northwest endured, both men and women. For their impact transcends mere brick and mortar, living on as a kindred spirit, alive in the hearts and minds of every American.

1. Sam McCulloch, *McCulloch Family of Ohio County, West Virginia* (Katy, TX: privately printed, 1999), 81.
2. *Ibid.*
3. *Ibid.*
4. "Settlers in Wheeling and Ohio County in 1778." *The Wheeling (WV) Register*, August 31, 1919.
5. McCulloch, 81
6. J. H. Newton, ed., *History of the Pan-handle* (Wheeling, WV: J.D. Caldwell, 1879), 359.
7. Dorothy E. Brown, *Bonar Genealogy* (Wheeling, WV: privately printed, 1969), 25.
8. Walter W. Preston, *History of Harford County, Maryland*. (Baltimore: Regional Publishing

- Company, 1972), 285, 74.
9. Brown, 29.
  10. Susan Scouras, "Early Marriage Laws in Virginia/West Virginia." *West Virginia Archives and History News* (2004), 5, no. 4: 2-3.
  11. Newton, 359.
  12. Henry M. Muhlenberg,, John M. Buckalew, S. Reynolds, Jay G. Weiser, and George D. Albert. *Report of the Commission to Locate the Sites of the Frontier Forts of Pennsylvania*. Vol. 2: 422, 1896. Historic Pittsburgh Text Collection, <http://digital.library.pitt.edu/pittsburgh/> (accessed January 20, 2013).
  13. A detailed and historical analysis of Major McColloch's death can be found in the article "The Death of Major Samuel McColloch: Historical Record and Oral History" by Bruce D. Bonar, *West Virginia Historical Society* 14, vol. 4 (2004), <http://www.wvculture.org/history/wvhs1831.pdf>.
  14. S. P. Hildreth, *Pioneer History: Being an Account of the First Examinations of the Ohio Valley and the Early Settlements of the Northwest Territory*. (Cincinnati: H.W. Derby and Co., 1848), 446-47.
  15. E. H. Church, "Early History of Zanesville," *Zanesville Courier* (March 16, 1878): 160, Muskingum County, Ohio, Genealogy Web site, [Ancestry.com/~ohmuskin/articles/article0001.html](http://Ancestry.com/~ohmuskin/articles/article0001.html). (accessed October 17, 2017); Robert B. McAfee, *History of the Late War in the Western Country* (Bowling Green, OH: Historical Publications Company, 1816), 87.
  16. Lyman C. Draper, Draper Manuscript Collection, Wisconsin Historical Society, Madison, 5SS, 180.
  17. McColloch, 81.
  18. Gwendolyn Mackey Hubbard, Bobbi Britt Elliott, and Kenneth Fisher Craft Jr., *Brooke County Index*. Vols. 1-7, *County Court Order Book May 1797-1804*, (Wellsburg, WV: BNG Books, 1999), 1012, 1118, 1121, 1438, 1440.
  19. Newton, 359.



Peace  
by Agnes Lee

SUDDENLY bells and flags!  
Suddenly—door to door—  
Tidings! Can we believe,  
We who were used to war?

Yes we have dreamed her face,  
Knowing her light must be,  
Knowing that she must come.  
Look—she comes, it is she!

Tattered her raiment floats,  
Blood is upon her wings.  
Ah, but her eyes are clear!  
Ah, but her voice outrings!

Look—she is here, she lives!  
Beauty has died for her.  
Soon where the shrapnel fell  
Petals shall wake and stir.<sup>1</sup>

1. *Poetry: A Magazine of Verse*, Vol. 13, no. 3 (December 1918): 117.

Armistice Day 100 Years Ago  
by  
Mary Johnson

One hundred years ago on November 11, 1918, fighting in World War I, "the war to end all wars," ceased with the signing of the armistice between Germany and the Allies. For days, there had been anticipation among citizens in the Allied countries. The Ottoman Empire signed its armistice on October 30, Austria-Hungary surrendered November 3, effective November 4, and Kaiser Wilhelm II of Germany abdicated on the 9th.

More than 65 million people had been mobilized worldwide, with 4.3 million coming from the United States. More than 8.5 million died, the bulk of the Allied casualties coming from Russia, France, Great Britain, and Italy. The United States lost approximately 116,000 military, many of them to the Spanish Influenza.<sup>1</sup> In West Virginia, nearly 60,000 men served, and more than 1,800 lost their lives. On November 11, however,

people were so glad that the war had ended that the suffering of the conflict briefly took a back seat to joy.

“City Goes Wild Over Peace Announcement,” the title of one *Charleston Gazette* article proclaimed.

The greatest day in the history of the world since Christ was born in Bethlehem was celebrated in Charleston last night by a wildly happy people. They thronged the streets, thousands of them, and for several hours gave vent to their feelings over the complete downfall and annihilation of the autocratic government in Europe.

Every man, woman and child in the crowd carried a flag. Capitol street from Virginia to down beyond the state house was almost a solid blaze of national colors. Motor cars, some of them literally wrapped in bunting, others with American flags and the emblems of America’s allies flying from every end, sped through the thoroughfares until long past midnight. Cheers and songs were heard everywhere, and all through the night, even after most of the city was fast asleep, belated celebrators could be heard every now and then, giving ringing cheers over the great news that peace has come to the whole world.<sup>2</sup>

Similar scenes played out in other towns around the state. There was “utter abandonment to happiness” in Morgantown, while industry came to a halt in Clarksburg, Huntington, and elsewhere as mayor after mayor proclaimed November 11 a holiday.<sup>3</sup> Both impromptu and organized parades wound their way through communities as the news

spread. Within a half hour of hearing the news, a massive crowd was moving through the streets of Grafton, and large firecrackers, old muskets and

**PROCLAMATION**

**Germany has accepted the Armistice terms of the Allies. I, Byron S. Dilworth, Mayor of Grafton, do hereby declare this the Eleventh Day of November, 1918, a general holiday in the City of Grafton to be given up to celebration of victory.**

**The citizens will assemble on Main Street with Bands and form a Great Procession starting from the Railroad Station at 2 O’clock P. M. under the direction of W. A. Beavers, Chairman of the Council of Defense as Marshal.**

**Byron S. Dilworth,  
Mayor**

*Grafton Sentinel*, November 11, 1918

newer firearms, and railroad torpedoes added to the celebratory atmosphere, well in advance of the parade announced for two o’clock in the afternoon.<sup>4</sup> In Clarksburg, an early morning parade swelled from a handful of people to thousands as it moved through the streets, augmented first by



miners who came directly from Harrison County coal mines riding the mine mules and wearing their mine lamps and then by employees of Weirton Steel's local mills.<sup>5</sup>

Wheeling likewise began celebrating early, with several city policemen emptying their revolvers in the wee morning hours to awake the citizenry. Wheeling Corrugating's Creek Mill plant blew its whistle, followed by those of other nearby plants, and festivities began in earnest. According to the *Wheeling Intelligencer*, "the day will ever be remembered as the greatest day in the history of the city."<sup>6</sup>

For a short time it must have seemed so. There would be time enough to ponder the millions of lives lost, the millions more who would suffer from the effects of war, and the political collapse of four empires that war had left in its wake, time enough to deal with the postwar world—the Treaty of Versailles, the League of Nations, the Weimar Republic, etc. November 11, 1918, was a day for rejoicing in West Virginia, the United States, and among the allied countries of the world that the "days of horror and bloodshed" had ended.<sup>7</sup>

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1. John Graham Royde-Smith and Dennis E. Showalter, "World War I: 1914-1918," *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, <https://www.britannica.com/event/World-War-I/> accessed September 28, 2018.
  2. *Charleston Gazette*, November 12, 1918
  3. *The Morgantown Dominion News*, November 12, 1918; *The Clarksburg Daily Telegram*, November 11, 1918; *Huntington Herald-Dispatch*, November 12, 1918.
  4. *The Grafton Sentinel*, November 12, 1918.
  5. *The Clarksburg Daily Telegram*, November 11, 1918.
  6. *Wheeling Intelligencer*, November 12, 1918.
  7. *The Clarksburg Daily Telegram*, November 11, 1918.

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### Recent Books Related to West Virginia

Whitehair, CW. *Belle Boyd: The Rebel Spy*. Self published, 2017.

This new biography on Belle Boyd by Civil War author CW Whitehair is the first serious non-fiction look at the famous Confederate spy in more than three decades. As expected, the book devotes

much space to the most well-known period in Boyd's life, 1861 to 1865, but, interestingly, the book also provides much information on her postwar life. Whitehair utilizes Boyd's memoir *Belle Boyd in Camp and Prison*, diaries, letters, newspapers, and other sources to tell the fascinating story of Belle Boyd. Although the sources are listed, it would have been nice if the author had used endnotes.

Armstrong, Richard L., *The Battle of Lewisburg, May 23, 1862*. Charleston, WV: 35<sup>th</sup> Star Publishing, 2017.

The author of a dozen books, Richard Armstrong has written a book about a West Virginia battle that has heretofore received inadequate attention. Despite superior numbers, Confederate forces led by Gen. Henry Heth were soundly defeated by Union troops under Col. George Crook. In the aftermath, the Confederate dead were buried in a mass grave. Armstrong used a number of primary sources in writing this book.

Wilkins, Patricia H., *Sisters of the Soil: West Virginia Land Girls on the World War II Farm Front*. Parsons, WV: McClain Printing Company, 2017.

Between 1943 and 1945, more than 400 young women from West Virginia were sent to Ohio or Maryland to work on farms during the summer months, recruited to be part of the Women's Land Army of America. With many young men off fighting the war, these "farmerettes" or "Land Girls" were important to the war effort in agricultural production, just as Rosie the Riveters were to industrial production. *Sisters of the Soil* consists of a series of short stories and personal recollections by a few of the women who were part of the effort.

Tribe, Ivan M. *Folk Music in Overdrive: A Primer on Traditional Country and Bluegrass Artists*. Knoxville: The University of Tennessee Press, 2018.

*Folk Music in Overdrive* consists of revised and updated articles that appeared in various

magazines, many in *Bluegrass Unlimited*, and a couple of previously unpublished essays. The book is divided into five parts reflecting type of performer ranging from solo singers to groups, with Tribe providing a profile of each individual, duet, or group. Native West Virginians include Buddy Starcher, Buddy Griffin, George Krise, Joe Meadows, Wilma Lee and Stony Cooper, the Bailes Brothers, and the Lilly Brothers.

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### **Submissions**

The West Virginia Historical Society magazine welcomes manuscript submissions for publication consideration that deal with state or local history-related topics. Submissions, which should be of a length suitable for publication in the magazine and include footnote/ endnote citations of referenced materials, should be sent to the editor, West Virginia Historical Society, P.O. Box 5220, Charleston, WV 25361.

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