

# West Virginia Archives & History NEWS

VOLUME VI, No. 2 APRIL 2005



WEST VIRGINIA  
DIVISION OF  
CULTURE & HISTORY

## From the Editor:

*We hope those of you who are planning trips to family cemeteries this spring will take advantage of the information now available on the State Historic Preservation Office Web site, and will refer to previous cemetery articles in Archives and History News for advice and information sources regarding caring for cemeteries in ways that promote preservation. If your family cemetery has not been fully documented, the procedures for registration with the West Virginia Cemetery Survey provide step-by-step guidelines. Especially for larger public cemeteries, local genealogical and historical societies and public service groups of all types can cooperate successfully to clean up the physical grounds and to compile a record of burials. Cemeteries with special historical significance may qualify for placement on state and national historic registers. You have probably heard of the "Adopt a Highway" program—how about an "Adopt a Cemetery" program?*

## Cemetery Information on SHPO Website

The West Virginia State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) has posted a section entitled "Cemetery Information" on its Web site at <http://www.wvculture.org/shpo/cemeteries.html>. The following articles are included:

- *Cemeteries 101: An Overview of Tools and Techniques for Basic Cemetery Rehabilitation*, by Joanna Wilson
- *West Virginia's Cemeteries and the National Register of Historic Places*, by Lora Lamarre
- *Pushing Up Yucca...And Other Traditional Cemetery Plants*, by Rachel Black
- *West Virginia Cemetery Codes* (excerpts of relevant sections of West Virginia State Code regarding cemeteries)

The West Virginia Cemetery Survey is described, with an introductory statement that "[t]he West Virginia Cemetery Survey is a program designed to help genealogists, archivists, and other interested persons to locate, record, and

preserve information about cemeteries within the state." The Survey form, form instructions and a brochure are available for printing from the Web site.

*West Virginia Archives and History News* issues for September 2000 and April 2004 also feature advice and suggestions for working in cemeteries, as well as sources of further information on care of grave

### Identity Theft and Genealogical Web Sites

An article titled "Using RootsWeb: Private Concerns," in *RootsWeb Review* (Vol. 8, No. 15, April 13, 2005) addresses the hot topic of identity theft and the risk of information in genealogy resources (online or other) being used for fraud. The e-zine asserts the following: *A recent survey reported on the Better Business Bureau website indicates that the vast majority of so-called "identity theft" cases involve "paper" theft—not Internet theft. Even the cases that do involve the Internet are the result of computer viruses, spyware, stolen passwords, and "phishing"*

markers, recording burials and the history of cemeteries. All issues and limited indexes are available on our Web site at <http://www.wvculture.org/history/ahnews.html>.

There are other West Virginia based resources, as well. The West Virginia Cemetery Preservation Association, Inc., has cemetery listings and many useful links on their

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*scams and are not due to information found on genealogy websites. Genealogy websites do not even represent a blip on the radar of this problem.*

The survey to which the article refers is the *2005 Identity Fraud Survey Report*, conducted by the Better Business Bureau with Javelin Strategy and Research as an update to the *2003 Identity Fraud Survey Report* by the Federal Trade Commission. An informative discussion of the 2005 survey report

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*"Identity Theft" continued from page 1*  
 with a list of the main sources of identity theft, tips on preventing fraud, and an Identity Fraud Safety Quiz can be found on the Better Business Bureau Web site: <http://www.bbbonline.org/idtheft/safetyQuiz.asp>. *RootsWeb Review* is available online at <http://e-zine.rootsweb.com/>, and by free e-mail subscription at <http://newsletters.rootsweb.com/>.

[NOTE: The Editor read the articles and went through the entire Identity Fraud Safety Quiz, and can verify that absolutely nothing genealogy-related is mentioned as increasing risk of identity theft, including anything regarding copies of vital records or information obtainable from such records. The emphasis is on personal business activities, particularly how online account passwords and paper mail are handled.]

## Ulster Historical Foundation visits Kanawha County

Dr. Brian Trainor and Fintan Mullan from the Ulster Historical Foundation in Belfast, Northern Ireland, bring their ever-popular all-day seminar back to West Virginia, to the Dunbar branch of the Kanawha County Public

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## Archives and History Library Seeks Book

The West Virginia Archives and History Library is missing *Monongalia County (West) Virginia Records of the District, Superior, and County Courts, Volume 8, 1811-1812 and 1814-1820*, by Melba Pender Zinn, from our set of the eleven volumes of Monongalia County court records indexed and abstracted to date. We have scoured the new and used book market and can not find a copy to fill the gap in our collection.

*"Cemetery" continued from page 1*  
 Web site, <http://members.citynet.net/WVCPA/>. The West Virginia Cemeteries message board on RootsWeb, administered by 2005 History Hero Linda Cunningham Fluharty, offers a forum for exchange of information regarding burial locations and cemeteries in West Virginia. You can read the message

board at <http://boards.ancestry.com> (under the topic list, click on cemeteries, then on United States, then West Virginia), and you may sign up to participate in the West Virginia Cemeteries mailing list at <http://lists.rootsweb.com/index.other/Cemeteries>. (In the "Others" topic box, click on cemeteries, then click on WV-CEMETERIES.)

## New Titles

**Hardy County WV Marriages, 1950-1970:** Wes Cochran, 2004.

**Barbour County WV Deaths, 1929-1948, Volume A-L and Volume M-Z:** Wes Cochran, 2004.

**Calhoun County WV Marriages, 1927-1947:** Wes Cochran, 2005.

**Calhoun County WV Marriages, 1948-1969:** Wes Cochran, 2005.

**Wood County WV Deaths, 1919-1931, Volume M-Z:** Wes Cochran, 2004.

**Sorting Some of the Wrights of Southern Virginia: Part IV: William Wright (Franklin County), His Wife Nellie or S. (\_\_\_\_) Wright, and His Descendants:** Robert N. Grant, 2004.

**Epling/Eplin: Volume IV: Families of Generation 7 and Later of Philip (2):** Robert Louis Massard, 2004.

## "Eating and Drinking at the Jenkins Plantation in the 1850s"

The Jenkins Plantation Museum, located in the Green Bottom Wildlife Management Area of Cabell County, hosted a cultural heritage program entitled "Eating and Drinking at the Jenkins Plantation in the 1850s" on Saturday, April 9. Jim Mitchell, West Virginia State Museum Curator,

talked about the pottery and porcelain that were used at the Jenkins Plantation before the Civil War. His information is based upon shards and animal bones excavated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in 2002. The excavation also revealed some of the foods that were eaten at the plantation. Mitchell discussed popular drinks of the era, from milk and cider to beer, wine, and heftier quaffs. Mitchell displayed some of the shards, along with porcelain and pottery objects of a similar nature from the West Virginia State Museum collection.

For more information about cultural heritage program presentations at the Jenkins Plantation Museum, call Matt Boggess, site manager of the facility, at (304) 762-1059, or Mitchell at (304) 558-0220, ext. 727. The Jenkins Plantation Web site is <http://www.wvculture.org/sites/jenkins.html>.

### 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.

If you know of an available copy of Volume 8, please call Susan Scouras at (304) 558-0230, Ext. 742, or e-mail [susan.scouras@wvculture.org](mailto:susan.scouras@wvculture.org).

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Library on May 16. Registration is required for "Connect With Your Past: Tracing Your Irish and Scots-Irish Ancestors," recommended for both beginning family historians and experienced genealogists. For more information on the seminar, visit the Kanawha County Public Library Web site at <http://kanawha.lib.wv.us/> and click on "Calendar of Events." For more information on the Ulster Historical Foundation and their 2005 American tour, visit <http://www.ancestryireland.co.uk>.

### **Social Security Death Index Updated Through February 2005**

According to *RootsWeb Review* (Vol. 8, No. 14, April 6, 2005), online at <http://e-zine.rootsweb.com/>, the Social Security Death Index (SSDI) has been updated with records through February 2005. The article states that the database is made available "thanks to Ancestry.com," and that the SSDI will be updated monthly. The SSDI database can be accessed online at <http://ssdi.rootsweb.com>, and help in using it can be found in the RootsWeb genealogy lesson entitled "Exploring the SSDI," at <http://rwguide.rootsweb.com/lesson10.htm>.

### **Tell us what you think**

Whether you are a one-time reader or a regular devotee of *West Virginia Archives and History News*, we would like to know what you think about our newsletter. We would especially like to hear from the genealogical and historical societies in West Virginia, and hope this topic will appear on a meeting agenda for discussion. You may respond electronically using the comment form posted on our Web site on the newsletter page at <http://www.wvculture.org/history/ahnews.html>, pick up a copy of the

## **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.**

**GENEALOGICAL WORKSHOP, May 2-6:** Co-sponsored by Raleigh County Public Library and Raleigh-Fayette County Genealogical Society, Raleigh County Public Library, Beckley.

**ARCHIVES AND HISTORY COMMISSION MEETING, May 6:** Chief Logan State Park, Logan.

**FILM PREMIER: THE APPALACHIANS, May 7:** State Theater, The Cultural Center, Charleston.

**"CONNECT WITH YOUR PAST: TRACING YOUR IRISH AND SCOTS-IRISH ANCESTORS," May 16:** Ulster Historical Foundation Genealogical seminar, Dunbar Public Library, Dunbar.

**"PIECES OF THE PAST," May 18:** Roberta Farmer, on the art of quilting, State Theater, The Cultural Center, Charleston.

**WV GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY GENEALOGY FAIR, May 21:** Blue Creek.

**VANDALIA GATHERING, May 27-29:** The Cultural Center and the Capitol Complex.

**MEMORIAL DAY, May 30:** Archives Library will be *closed*.

**DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION INSTITUTE TRAINING, June 1 and 2:** Wheeling.

**WEST VIRGINIA DAY, June 20:** Archives Library will be open.\*

**INDEPENDENCE DAY, July 4:** Archives Library will be *closed*.

**HISTORY DAY, February 16, 2006:**  
 The Capitol Complex, 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.

form in the Archives and History Library, or use the form enclosed with the paper copies of this month's issue. Societies are urged to make a copy for each member to answer individually, and/or to send a group reply from an organizational viewpoint.

Don't have a form? E-mail, call or write Susan Scouras using the contact information on the newsletter's cover page. Suggested topics for articles are most welcome.

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West Virginia  
**Archives & History**  
**NEWS**



**We would love to hear from you.**

Let us know what you find helpful in the newsletter, and what new topics you would like covered.

Contact *West Virginia Archives and History News* Editor  
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## Archives and History Staff

|                                 |  |
|---------------------------------|--|
| <b>Fredrick Armstrong</b> ..... | Director   |
| <b>Debra Basham</b> .....       | Archivist (photographs, special collections)   |
| <b>Constance Baston</b> .....   | Researcher (Veterans Memorial Archives)  |
| <b>Greg Carroll</b> .....       | Historian (Civil War, Native American history)   |
| <b>Dick Fauss</b> .....         | Archivist (microfilm and moving images collection)   |
| <b>Allen Fowler</b> .....       | Special projects   |
| <b>Elaine Gates</b> .....       | Library Assistant (microfilming and microfilm repairs)   |
| <b>Joe Geiger</b> .....         | Assistant Director (Historian, Web page)   |
| <b>Ed Hicks</b> .....           | Photographer (archival photography, darkroom)  |
| <b>Mary Johnson</b> .....       | Historian ( <i>West Virginia History</i> )   |
| <b>Terry Lowry</b> .....        | Library Assistant (Civil War)  |
| <b>Cathy Miller</b> .....       | Library Assistant (WV State documents, periodicals)  |
| <b>Sharon Newhouse</b> .....    | Secretary  |
| <b>Harold Newman</b> .....      | Library Assistant (microfilming, Revolutionary War)  |
| <b>Pat Pleska</b> .....         | Manager of the Veterans Memorial Archives  |
| <b>Susan Scouras</b> .....      | Librarian (cataloging, Kentucky, library collection, newsletter editor)  |
| <b>Jaime Simmons</b> .....      | Library Assistant (records of the 1700's and early 1800's, Pennsylvania)   |
| <b>Bobby Taylor</b> .....       | Library Manager  |
| <b>Nancy Waggoner</b> .....     | Secretary  |
| <b>Intern</b> .....             | Shari Haywood  |
| <b>Volunteers</b> .....         | Carolyn Conner, Bill Kelley, Angela Tolbert, Bob and Lucile Foster,<br>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