



WEST VIRGINIA Archives and History NEWS

From the Editor:

**VOLUME XV, No. 9
November 2014**

**Archives and History News
is available on the
Archives and History Web site
[http://www.wvculture.org/history/
ahnews/ahnews.html](http://www.wvculture.org/history/ahnews/ahnews.html)**

The Archives and History section of the Division of Culture and History is continuing its efforts to bring you informative, interesting and entertaining live presentations in the Archives and History Library on the First Tuesday of every month and on at least one Thursday evening a month (December excepted). If you are unable to attend an event, you may view a recording on the Archives and History YouTube channel. Once posted the videos remain available indefinitely. Sometimes we repeat speakers or have subjects that seem similar to previous ones, but speakers do not repeat their previous talks, and the topics themselves are always new in content or in approach. Speakers and topics relevant to West Virginia are all considered and suggestions of presenters and topics are always welcomed, as well as feedback after an event. Please join us in person or online to learn more about the people, culture and history of the Mountain State from the researchers who have studied the past or the citizens who have lived it.

West Virginia Archives and History News Becoming a Quarterly E-Newsletter

Effective April 2015, *Archives and History News*, the newsletter of the Archives and History section of the Division of Culture and History, will be published quarterly and online only in April, July, October, and January. Several factors weighed into this decision, including the cost of postage and paper for the printed version mailed to West Virginia genealogical and historical societies, as well as the staff time required to publish a monthly newsletter. We also want to include articles and information from a wider variety of staff members and about Archives and History activities with more photographs. You can look forward to the following writers and subjects:

Joe Geiger: Archives and History Director, State Historian and State Archivist. *From the Director*, with news and comments about West Virginia

Archives and History as a whole, and highlights of specific projects.

Denise Ferguson: County Records Archivist. Records Management and Preservation Board, Statewide Preservation Project, county records

news and grant information.

Randy Marcum: Historian. Upcoming programs, interviews with speakers (past, present and future), Archives Library exhibits, West Virginia

"E-Newsletter" continued on page 3

Three Thursday Lectures Scheduled for November

The Archives and History Library will host three Thursday lectures in November. With Election Day falling on Tuesday, November 4, the first Tuesday program will be held on Thursday, November 6, instead. That evening, author, journalist, and documentarian Eric Douglas will present "West Virginia Voices of War: Oral Histories from West Virginia War Veterans." *West Virginia Voices of War* is a documentary weaving

together the thoughts of 46 West Virginia war veterans on leaving for war and fighting to get back home afterward. The documentary includes veterans from World War II to Afghanistan. Douglas will show excerpts from the documentary and discuss recording oral histories.

The following Thursday, November 13, Anne Montague and three former Rosie the Riveters will

"Thursday" continued on page 2

"Thursday" continued from page 1
present "The West Virginia Rosie the Riveter Program: A Model for America." Begun by Thanks! Plain and Simple, Inc., the Rosie Program has achieved solid success in its first phase, emphasizing West Virginia Rosies. The groups plans to launch the second phase, a National Rosie

the Riveter Movement, by Memorial Day, 2015.

On November 20, museum curator Jim Mitchell will present "Firearms throughout West Virginia's Early History." Mitchell's discussion will begin with early flintlocks and end with some of the later cartridge rifles and shotguns. He will focus

primarily on civilian muzzle loading percussion cap lock rifles that were made by hand by gunsmiths and were either made in West Virginia or gravitated to the state and were used here. Mitchell will have several period weapons on display.

These lectures will begin at 6:00 p.m. and are free and open to the public. For more information, call (304) 558-0230.

The Evan Dale Evans (1915-1991) and Richard Alan Evans Mountain State Forest Festival Collection



Richard A. Evans

Last fall Richard A. Evans responded to a request published in the September 2013 issue of *Archives and History News*

for donations of programs from West Virginia festivals (<http://www.wvculture.org/history/ahnews/0913news.pdf>). Programs for specific festivals and years needed were listed. Evans offered to donate not only the issues the library was missing, but an entire collection of all Mountain State Forest Festival programs from the first in 1930 through the 78th in 2013, as well as a collection of newspaper clippings, photographs, parade brochures, special newspaper supplements and whole issues of the *Elkins Inter-Mountain* full of articles and

photographs. The collection was begun in 1930 by his late father, Evan Dale Evans, who assisted with the Forest Festival in numerous ways and enjoyed the Festival's various events over the years.

Richard Evans has continued to add to the collection in his father's honor and was seeking a place where his father's efforts would be preserved, so he responded to the invitation in the newsletter article. The West Virginia Archives and History Library gladly accepted his offer and created the "Evan Dale Evans (1915-1991) and Richard A. Evans Mountain State Forest Festival Collection." Evans recently added two copies of the 2014 program and accompanying brochures and newspapers to the collection, and kindly sent us his photograph for the newsletter. We appreciate his generosity in giving historical ephemera important to his family, and his dedication in keeping the collection up to date.

October First Tuesday

On October 7, 2014, Dr. Robert Conte enthusiastically discussed "Thirty-five Years Studying—and Being Part of—the History of the Greenbrier" as the October First



Tuesday lecture in the West Virginia Archives and History Library. You can view a recording of this evening on the Archives and History YouTube channel, <http://www.youtube.com/user/wvarchivesandhistory>, and see additional photos at <http://www.wvculture.org/history/workshops.html>.

Neil Gaiman on Libraries via YouTube

Author Neil Gaiman made many interesting points about the need for libraries and librarians in the 21st century in a brief interview available on YouTube, <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uH-sR1uCQ6g>. One quote in particular stood out to the librarian community: "Google can bring you back 100,000 answers. A librarian can bring you back the right
"Gaiman" continued on page 3

**Check out Archives and History's
YouTube and Facebook Pages**

<http://www.youtube.com/user/wvarchivesandhistory>
<http://www.facebook.com/pages/West-Virginia-Archives-and-History/168933289812323>

"E-Newsletter" continued from page 1 history topics, and articles about Archives and Library holdings that tie together to tell a more complete story than each item by itself.

Patricia McClure: West Virginia Veterans Memorial Archives volunteer. Continuing information about biographies of veterans listed on the Memorial and related articles.

Debra Basham: Archivist. Features and general discussion regarding photographs and still images, manuscripts, special collections, and archival (government) records.

Susan Scouras: Librarian, editor and chief author/compiler of the newsletter for its first 15 years. Archives and History Library services, book and pamphlet collections, rare books, genealogy and history resources, and research tips.

Matt McGrew: Education Coordinator. Historical Highway Markers program, West Virginia History Bowl, and history education.

Terry Lowry: Historian. West Virginia Civil War Medals, military history, Civil War and West Virginia history.

Articles will also cover Web site features, audio/visual collection, West Virginia state publications and more. Volume XV ends with Number 12, the February 2015 issue. There will be no newsletter in March 2015, and the first

online quarterly issue will be posted on the Archives and History Web site in April 2015 as Volume XVI, Number 1.

Eloping to Pennsylvania

According to the late Helen L. Harriss, Certified Genealogist, in her foreword to *Marriage Records of Squire Isaac and Joseph F. Mayes* (compiled by Harriss, Elizabeth J. Wall and Betty Treat Petrich, 1978), West Alexander, Pennsylvania was a popular "Gretna Green"* up until 1885. Pennsylvania did not require a marriage license until October 1885, and many local justices of the peace performed marriages for couples from Ohio, western Virginia (prior to 1863) and West Virginia. The location of West Alexander on the National Road halfway between Washington, PA and Wheeling led many couples to the door of Justices of the Peace Isaac Mayes (served 1811-1844), and his son, Joseph F. Mayes (served 1862-1887), to be married without the expense and hassle of a marriage license as required in their home states.

A quick flip of the book's pages shows a multitude of Ohio County couples, along with a few from Wood, Monroe, Wetzell, Brooke, Lewis and Marshall counties, for example. Many couples from Belmont and other State

"Gaiman" continued from page 2

one." You may see West Virginia librarians sporting this quote on garnet T-shirts and sweatshirts distributed by the West Virginia Library Association this year.

Mark Your Calendars!
19th Annual History Day,
February 19, 2015

of Ohio counties, made the trip also. If you have Northern Panhandle relatives with elusive marriage records, check this alphabetized transcription of the Mayes' registers. If you are not able to visit the Archives and History Library in Charleston, drop us a research letter with the appropriate fee and we will be happy to search on your behalf.

*Gretna Green is a village in Scotland that historically has been a popular site for elopement from the 1770's to the present, originally due to more lax marriage laws in Scotland than in England or Ireland, and a good road leading to the village. The name of the town has become synonymous with slightly scandalous elopement, similar to the reputation of an American "Vegas wedding" in years past, and has become a term for any town that is a frequent destination for elopement. Many American couples have traveled to the nearest state border over two centuries to escape restrictive laws, blood tests, fees and/or parental disapproval. The directions of travel across the borders varied from time to time as new laws were enacted in first one state or the other.

New Titles

The Great Migration Begins: Immigrants to New England, 1620-1633: 3 volumes, Robert Charles Anderson, 1995.

New England Marriages Prior to 1700: Clarence Almond Torrey, 1992.

Hills of Home: Debbie Richard, 2014.

Essays on the History of Transportation and Technology: Emory L. Kemp, 2014.

The Vanishing American Outhouse: A History of Country Plumbing: Ronald S. Barlow, 1989.

We're All Crazy: A Genealogy of the Jones Family of Big Ridge, Alleghany County, Virginia, and Kanawha County, West Virginia: Kathy Jones-Kristof, 2014.

We're All Crazy, 2!: A Genealogy of the Dean Family of Loudoun County, Virginia, and Fayette County, West Virginia: Kathy Jones-Kristof, 2014.

Veteran Biographies Project Update

*By Patricia Richards McClure,
 West Virginia Veterans Memorial
 Archives Volunteer*

In the August, September, and October 2014 issues of *West Virginia Archives and History News*, we brought you articles about new developments in our ongoing effort to post online biographies of the veterans whose names are carved on the West Virginia Veterans Memorial at the Capitol Complex. We'd like to inform you of additional happenings in our online efforts.

First, Leon Armentrout, our featured writer in August, continues to identify veterans of interest. Since August, he has contributed articles about James Columbus Kerns (WWII, Randolph County), Harry R. Sine Jr. (Vietnam, Marion County), and Foster Vandevander (WWI, Pendleton County). He also provided an update to the biography of Cecil W. Kittle, Jr. (Vietnam, Randolph County), who recently had a bridge named in his honor. Perhaps too modest to mention this himself, Leon, a veteran of Korea, recently participated in an Honor Flight from Florida to Washington, D.C., enabling him to see the Vietnam Wall, the World War II and Korean War Memorials, and Arlington Cemetery. Leon continues to write with the promise of additional carefully researched biographies to come.

In September, we told the story of several international collaborations wherein we were able to provide answers to questions from folks in Belgium and Italy, and they in turn provided us with additional information about our West Virginia veterans. From Veronica

Stasio, our contact at the Sicily-Rome American Cemetery in Nettuno, Italy, we learned of two American WWII nurses, 2LT Sara Blanche Vance (McDowell County) and 1LT Anna Maria Fisher (Kanawha County), who lost their lives in Italy. These are interesting life stories to investigate because the role of West Virginia women in the military (unlike our Rosie the Riveters) in World War II has not been highly publicized. So far we have identified 28 West Virginians interred at Nettuno or listed on the Wall of the Missing, so it appears that our information sharing will be highly productive.

Tamara Ardenoy, adopter of the grave of Angelo Mazzarella (Preston County—see September 2014 issue) in Flanders Field where three West Virginians are buried, introduced us to Danny Demeulemeester and his wife Dorine Allegaert. The couple e-mailed to inform us that they had adopted the grave of World War I veteran PVT Sherman Williams (Mercer County) in Flanders Field. Our Belgian adopters take their roles seriously and speak of their adoptees as though they are family members. With the graves of Mazzarella, Charles Asa Moffett (Greenbrier County), and now Williams all adopted, we are three for three in Flanders Field!




Danny Demeulemeester and Dorine Allegaert at Sherman Williams' grave marker. Photo used with permission

BE WISE!

SEARCH

VOYAGER®



**Archives and History
 Library's Online
 Public Access Catalog**

*Click the
 "Voyager Online Catalog"
 link on the
 Archives and History homepage
 or go to
<http://archives.lib.wv.us/>.*

At the same time we learned of Williams' adoption, Max Poorthuis, president of the 16th Infantry Regiment Historical Society, informed us that he had adopted the grave of World War II soldier 1LT Edward Thompson (Harrison County), who is buried at American Cemetery Henri-Chapelle, also in Belgium. Poorthuis says: "We consider ourselves experts on the 16th Infantry Regiment during World War II, so we might be able to help [with the research of veteran biographies]!"

From the Netherlands, we have a new correspondent, Astrid van Erp, who researches for Foundation United Adopters American War Graves (<http://www.adoptiegraven-database.nl/>). Astrid has identified a number of World War II soldiers interred in various European cemeteries, notably Margraten in the Netherlands, Henri-Chapelle in Belgium, and Ardennes in France. Not only has she been able to supply photos

"Update" continued on page 5

"Update" continued from page 4

of their gravesites, her research has provided new documents, including burial records, service registration, after-action reports, and the like. The Foundation's Fields of Honor database states that they have posted information regarding 19,000 soldiers, with 4,000 more pending.

October's newsletter featured the story of George Washington (GW) High School's Advanced Placement U.S. History project. All the veterans' biographies written by the students have now been posted in the Biographies section of the Web site, <http://www.wvculture.org/history/wvmemory/vets/vetbios.html>. GW teacher Kathy Bush plans to continue the project this year. She generally approaches teaching about WWII in January or February each school year, and we are currently gearing up to present the information to this year's crop of students in 2015. We learned much that should alleviate student frustration with the project and hope to introduce ways for them to be more creative while participating more directly in the research process.

On another academic front, Professor John Hicks of Alderson-Broadus University brought a group of students to the West Virginia Archives and History Library who are researching World War I veterans from Barbour County. When the students finish their articles we will have another 19 biographies added to our growing list. While we remain far from our goal of posting more than 10,000 profiles of 20th century casualties, we have made considerable progress this year.



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.

GENERAL ELECTION DAY, November 4:

Archives Library will be *closed*.

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

MINING YOUR HISTORY FOUNDATION

CONFERENCE AND ANNUAL MEETING, November 15:

Archives and History Library, The Culture Center, Charleston.

For more information, visit

<http://www.wvculture.org/news.aspx?Agency=Archives&Id=2529>.

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*.

SATURDAY, December 6: Archives Library will be *closed*.

CHRISTMAS EVE, December 24:

Archives Library will be *closed at noon*.

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

NEW YEAR'S EVE, December 31:

Archives Library will be *closed at noon*.

NEW YEAR'S DAY, January 1, 2015:

Archives Library will be *closed*.

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

WEST VIRGINIA
Archives
and **History NEWS**

West Virginia Division of Culture and History
The Culture Center
1900 Kanawha Boulevard, East
Charleston, WV 25305-0300

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

Archives and History Staff

Joe Geiger Director
Debra Basham Assistant Director/Archivist (photographs, special collections)
Jillian Barto Cultural Program Associate (county records preservation project)
Constance Baston Cultural Program Associate (Project Access)
Kyle Campbell Cultural Program Specialist (county records preservation project)
Matt Dailey Part time
Dick Fauss Archivist (microfilm and moving images collection)
Denise Ferguson County Records Archivist
Allen Fowler Part time (special projects)
Elaine Gates Library Assistant
Ed Hicks Photo Archivist
Susan Holbrook Secretary
Mary Johnson Historian/Webmaster
Terry Lowry Historian (Veterans records, Civil War, Civil War medals)
Randy Marcum Historian (map collection)
Matt McGrew Cultural Program Coordinator (History Bowl, highway historic markers)
Harold Newman Library Assistant (microfilming)
Susan Scouras Librarian (cataloging, library collection, newsletter editor)
Jaime Simmons Library Assistant
Volunteers Carolyn Conner, Hayes Strader, Bill Kelley, James Wilburn,
and Patricia Richards McClure

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