

West Virginia Archives & History NEWS

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WEST VIRGINIA
DIVISION OF
CULTURE & HISTORY

From the Editor:

We hope many of you will be able to visit with us on December 7 as we show off some of the most interesting items in the collections of the West Virginia State Archives. We will also be giving attendees an opportunity to review changes in rules and procedures for patrons of the West Virginia Archives and History Library. What better time to introduce changes for the protection and preservation of the Archives collections than while displaying some of the Archives' most historically significant possessions? We understand and appreciate our roles as caretakers of West Virginia's treasures, and we hope you will, too.

Archives Showcase December 7

You are cordially invited to attend the West Virginia Archives and History Showcase on December 7 from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. in The Culture Center in Charleston. Activities will take place in both the Archives and History Library and in the Great Hall, where refreshments will be served. In a casual, open house atmosphere intended both to show appreciation for our patrons and to welcome first-time visitors, the staff will present unique items from the Archives collections, including photographs, rare books and manuscripts, newspapers, Civil War documents and West Virginia Civil War medals. Many of the items are rarely made available to the general public. Staff will conduct behind-the-scenes tours and will discuss Veterans Memorial biographies, conservation techniques and genealogy tools. You may enjoy little before seen video clips and listen to musical selections from the audio/visual archives.

Visitors will be able to enjoy the results of the recent renovations and updates to the West Virginia

Archives and History Library Reading Room, and may use the newly installed free lockers to store personal items while partaking in the discussions or a tour. While some of the treasures that belong to the

people of West Virginia are on display, you can learn more about how we strive to protect them. New and updated rules for use of the Archives Library and its collections will be reviewed.

"A Glimpse at Some Lesser-Known Prominent West Virginians" on December 1

By Mary E. Johnson

Dr. Kenneth R. Bailey, historian, will present a program on lesser-known West Virginians on December 1 from 6:00 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. at the Archives and History Library in the Culture Center. He will discuss ten to fifteen West Virginians whose lives were unique in the history of the state but who are not known to most West Virginians and who do not appear in most written histories.

"Over the years, I have been struck by how many folks had an influence on West Virginia's history simply in living and working in the state," according to Bailey. "Each person has a story, admittedly some are more spectacular than others, but each has an impact. Investigating

lesser known people of the past can make us realize how important our own actions can be."

Among the West Virginians who will be included in Bailey's presentation are William F. Dusenberry, James H. Ferguson, Albert E. Humphreys, Naomi Hosterman, and Thomas G. Nutter. Dusenberry and Humphreys were businessmen, and Hosterman was an artist. Both lawyers and politicians, the Democratic Ferguson's life spanned most of the 19th century, while Nutter came of age during the African American civil rights struggles of the early 20th century.

Kenneth Bailey is the retired

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dean of the College of Business, Humanities and Sciences at WVU Institute of Technology and has been the editor for the *West Virginia Historical Society* newsletter for a number of years. He has written articles for *West Virginia History* and other publications and is the author of several books: *Alleged Evil Genius: The Life and Times of Judge James H. Ferguson* (2006); *Kanawha County Public Library: A History* (2004); and *Mountaineers Are Free: A History of the West Virginia National Guard* (1979, revised and expanded in 2008).

All Archives and History workshop sessions are free and the public is invited to attend. On November 3, the library will close at 5 p.m. and reopen at 5:45 p.m. for workshop participants only. To register in advance, contact Robert Taylor, library manager, at bobby.taylor@wvculture.org or at (304) 558-0230, ext. 163. Participants interested in registering by e-mail should send their name, telephone number and the name and date of the session. For additional information about the workshop, contact the Archives and History Library at (304) 558-0230.

VRR Now on New Servers

The West Virginia Vital Research Records database is now on its new servers and running quickly and smoothly. With the exception of some Kanawha County marriages, all eligible county and state records are online and searchable. If you haven't tried VRR lately, go to http://www.wvculture.org/vrr/va_select.aspx and give it a whirl. Searching Smiths? The 26,857 death records for everyone named Smith pop up in a matter of seconds. Anyone for a rousing round of the "Hallelujah" chorus?

History Day and History Hero Deadlines

History Day at the West Virginia Legislature is scheduled for February 18, 2010 at the State Capitol Complex in Charleston. On that day an awards ceremony will be held in the Norman L. Fagan West Virginia State Theater to honor the latest History Hero award recipients. Registration forms for History Day tables in the Capitol and nomination forms for 2010 History Heroes were mailed in early November to historical or genealogical societies, preservation and landmark commissions, and patriotic or other similar groups already on our list. If your history-related group is already receiving our monthly newsletter, *West Virginia Archives and History News*, by mail, then you are included on our mailing list. If your group would like to be added to the list, or if a current group on the list has not received a registration packet, call

Archives and History at (304) 558-0230.

History Hero nominations must be postmarked by December 31, or hand-delivered to the Archives and History Library at The Culture Center by the Library's holiday noon closing time on that day. History Day table space registrations are due by January 28, 2010. Table space in the Capitol is limited and History Day is one of the most popular Legislative days for both participants and attendees, so our staff may not be able to accommodate late applicants, particularly if the Legislature itself decides to give space to another activity that day, as was done last year unbeknownst to our staff until everyone began arriving for setup. For more information about History Day, or to request nomination or display space reservation forms, contact Archives and History at (304) 558-0230.



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.

Book Review: *The Poor Farm of Pendleton County, West Virginia*

The Poor Farm of Pendleton County, West Virginia: A History, by William D. Rexroad, published by Dolphin Publications, 2009, is a great example of how a persistent researcher can pursue a subject for which, on the surface, there is very little information, then organize his findings and produce an interesting, well-documented history. In addition to the few records existing for the overseers of the poor or for the poor farm itself, Rexroad went through almost 100 years of Pendleton

County Court Orders, as well as gleaning bits of relevant information from Chancery Court orders, bonds, personal property tax records, deeds and available newspapers. In addition, he studied laws dealing with the poor, giving a background and framework on which to hang fragments of data to produce a more understandable whole. Rexroad also collected old photographs of residents of the poor farm, their caretakers and the buildings, and

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photographed himself the buildings and cemetery as they are today. Perhaps most valuable are the oral histories he collected from those who actually lived and worked on or near the Pendleton County poor farms. The names he collected of both the recipients and providers of services to the poor are of value to genealogists, and for some paupers may be the only record of death, and for some children the only record of guardianship or adoption. Rexroad is to be commended for an excellent book on a very difficult topic. We hope local historians and genealogists in other counties will follow his example. The book is available from William D. Rexroad, 300 Crescent Blvd., Hutchinson, KS 67502, rexroad3@cox.net, (620) 663-9749.

Archives and History News
is available on the
Archives and History Web site
<http://www.wvculture.org/history/ahnews/ahnews.html>

William and Mary Quarterly Special Issue on Slave Trade

According to an e-mail received from the publishers of *The William and Mary Quarterly*, the October 2009 (Third Series, Volume LXVI, No. 4) issue is a special one, "Abolishing the Slave Trades: Ironies and Reverberations." Twice the size of a usual issue, with color illustrations for only the second time in the journal's history, the topic of the Atlantic slave trade expands outside the *Quarterly's* usual focus on North America to encompass the history and effects of the slave trade within Africa itself. Rising out of a 2007 conference at The Historical Society of Ghana and the University of Cape

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New Titles

- Thots of a Mountain Preacher:** George Cochran, 1983.
In the Heart of the Hills: Dwight Harshbarger, 2005.*
West Virginia Merchant Tokens: David Schenkman, 2009.*
Peter Ruffner and His Descendants: Volume IV: The Descendants of Peter the Pioneer's Eighth Child [Emanuel]: Barbara Rowles, Ruffner Family Association, 2009.*
Wright Family Patent Deeds. . . Amherst County, Virginia: Robert Grant, 2009.*
Black Residents of Greenbrier, Monroe, Pocahontas & Summers Counties: Carol Haynes, 2009.*
- Part 2, [B] Section 1
 - Part 2, [B] Section 2
 - Part 3, [C] Section 1
 - Part 3, [C] Section 2
 - Part 5 [F]
- The Poor Farm of Pendleton County, West Virginia:** William D. Rexroad, 2009.*
The Dow Story: Don Whitehead, 1968.
Our McCutcheon Family: Larry McCutcheon, 2009.*
"School Ain't No Way": Ron Iannone, 1972.
Mountain Memories: Coal Camps and Castor Oil: Tales From the Good Old Days in Southern West Virginia: compiled by Bob Lasley and Sallie Holt, 2009.

*Donated by author.

Gifts of Mining Your History Foundation

- Upshur County Births, 1897–1906:** Karon Lemley-King, 2006.
Desperation on the Western (PA) Frontier, 1871–1782: George C. Williston, 2009, c2007.
Salt in the Conemaugh Valley: William C. Dzombak, 2004.
Kentucky Soldiers and Their Regiments in the Civil War: 1863: Steven L. Wright, 2009.
Kentucky Soldiers and Their Regiments in the Civil War: 1864: Steven L. Wright, 2009.
Index to Fayette Co., Pa. Wills, 1783–1900: Bob Closson, 1980.
Marriages of Rowan County, North Carolina, 1762–1850: Jeffrey Campbell, 2004.
History of Wetzel County, West Virginia: John C. McEldowney, 2001, c1901.
The Great Decision: Jefferson, Adams, Marshall and the Battle for the Supreme Court: Cliff Sloan, 2009.
"Surrounded by Dangers of All Kinds": The Mexican War Letters of Lieutenant Theodore Laidley: James M. McCaffrey, 1997.
History of Berkeley County, West Virginia: Willis Fryatt Evans, 2007, c1928.
Lost Mountain: A Year in the Vanishing Wilderness: Radical Strip Mining and the Devastation of Appalachia: Erik Reece, 2006.
Fort Ligonier and Its Times: C. Hale Sipe, 2000, c1932.
Biographical Index to the County Histories of Iowa: Charles Morford, 1979.

Donations from the Collection of Dr. Paul Casdorff

- The Battles for Spotsylvania Courthouse:** Gordon C. Rhea, 1997.
Campbell Brown’s Civil War: Campbell Brown, 2001.
Battle on the Bay: Edward T. Cotham, Jr.
With Grant and Meade: Col. Theodore Lyman, 1994.
After Secession: Paul D. Escott, 1992, c1978.
To the North Anna River: Grant and Lee: Gordon C. Rhea, 2000.
First Blood: The Story of Fort Sumpter: W. A. Swanberg, 1957.
George B. McClellan and Civil War History: Thomas J. Rowland, 1998.
Pickett at Gettysburg: Charlton Laird, 1965.
Manassas (Bull Run) National Battlefield Park, Virginia: Francis Wilshin, 1957.
General Robert Edward Lee—The Southern Diadem: Ronald T. Clemmons, 1995.
Colossal Hamilton of Texas: John L. Waller, 1968.

introduce the perspective of Africa, rather than the United States or Great Britain, as the focus.

West Virginia and Civil War historians will find one article of particular interest for its insight into the role slavery played in the economic and cultural divide of western Virginia from the mother state, as well as slavery’s role in Virginia’s secession from the Union: *An “Abominable” New Trade: The Closing of the African Slave Trade and the Changing Patterns of U.S. Political Power, 1808–60*, by Steven Deyle. The article is described thus by the editors: “This article investigates how the closing of the African slave trade into the United States led to the development of a new middle passage within the American South. Virginia slave owners used their extensive political power in the early Republic to promote this new domestic slave trade, which quickly transformed southern society, making human chattel the most valuable form of property in the South. But this wealth came with a price. The slave trade tied Virginians slaveholders’ fortunes to the new southwestern empire for slavery. As enslaved Virginians poured into the Southwest via this trade, southern political power followed in their wake. When Abraham Lincoln’s 1860 election threatened the security of the South’s largest capital asset, politicians from the Deep South, not Virginians, took the lead in responding to this crisis with secession. This new American slave trade brought great wealth to the nation. Yet it also made slavery too valuable for southerners to give up and played a major role in leading the nation into a bloody civil war.” [Editor’s Note: Thank you to Cathy Miller for forwarding the *Quarterly’s* e-mail announcement and suggesting we include a mention here.]

Evening Workshops and Lecture Schedule

Date	Conducted by:	Subject
December 1 Tuesday	Dr. Kenneth R. Bailey	<i>A Glimpse at Some Lesser-Known Prominent West Virginians</i>
January 5 Tuesday	Scott Johnson	<i>Genealogy and Law: An Introduction to Some Legal Issues in Genealogical Research</i>
February 2 Tuesday	Doug Wood	<i>Digging into West Virginia’s 18th Century, Groundhog Style</i>
March 2 Tuesday	Jaime Simmons	<i>Going Back before 1850: Genealogical Strategies for Early American Research</i>
April 6 Tuesday	Dr. Paul Rakes	<i>West Virginia Coal Mine Disasters in the Era before Regulation</i>
May 4 Tuesday		<i>Election 1960: The West Virginia Primary</i>
June 1 Tuesday	Joe Geiger	<i>West Virginia Statehood</i>
July 6 Tuesday		<i>Scrapbooking Workshop</i>
August 3 Tuesday	Archives Staff	<i>Beginning Genealogy</i>

Registration for these free workshops is helpful but not required.
 Call our office at (304) 558-0230, or e-mail bobby.taylor@wvculture.org.
 Workshops are held 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. in the West Virginia Archives and History Library, The Culture Center, Charleston, West Virginia.

Coast (Accra and Elmina, Ghana) and Culture, editors Christopher organized by The Omohundro Grasso and Scott E. Casper have Institute of Early American History united a group of articles that

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.

“ALL QUIET ALONG THE POTOMAC—THE IMPACTS OF THE WAR BETWEEN THE STATES ON JEFFERSON COUNTY,” December 8: Doug Perks, speaker, Shepherdstown Men’s Club and Jefferson County Historical Society, Shepherdstown. For more information, visit <http://jeffersonhistoricalwv.org/events.html> or call (304) 724-7008.

CHRISTMAS EVE, December 24: Archives Library will be *closing at noon*.

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

DAY AFTER CHRISTMAS, December 26: Archives Library will be open*.

NEW YEAR’S EVE, December 31: Archives Library will be *closing at noon*.

NEW YEAR’S DAY, January 1, 2010: Archives Library will be *closed*.

DAY AFTER NEW YEAR’S, January 2: Archives Library will be open*.

“BLACK HISTORY OF JEFFERSON COUNTY,” February 8: Jim Taylor, speaker, Shepherdstown Men’s Club and Jefferson County Historical Society, Shepherdstown. For more information, visit <http://jeffersonhistoricalwv.org/events.html> or call (304) 724-7008.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH EVENT,” February 12: Francis X. Walker, speaker, Norman L. Fagan State Theater, The Culture Center, Charleston. Co-sponsored by the Division of Culture and History and the West Virginia Library Commission. For more information, visit <http://www.wvculture.org/eventdetail.aspx?Id=1035>.

HISTORY DAY AT THE LEGISLATURE, February 18:
 The West Virginia State Capitol and The Culture Center, Charleston.

KANAWHA VALLEY HERITAGE FAIR, March 6: Kanawha Valley History Center, Rand Community Center, Rand. For more information contact Linda Hoskins, (304) 925-2438, kvhc06@yahoo.com, or visit <http://kvhc.tripod.com>.

“THE WASHINGTON FAMILY IN JEFFERSON COUNTY,” March 8: Walter Washington and Betsy Wells, speakers, Shepherdstown Men’s Club and Jefferson County Historical Society, Shepherdstown. For more information, visit <http://jeffersonhistoricalwv.org/events.html> or call (304) 724-7008.

11TH ANNUAL HOOT OWL NIGHT AT THE ARCHIVES, March 26: Mining Your History Foundation and West Virginia Archives and History, Archives and History Library, The Culture Center, Charleston. For more information, call (304) 558-0230.

“THE MINE WARS’ IMPACTS ON JEFFERSON COUNTY,” April 12: Doug Estep, speaker, Shepherdstown Men’s Club and Jefferson County Historical Society, Shepherdstown. For more information, visit <http://jeffersonhistoricalwv.org/events.html> or call (304) 724-7008.

**Only the Archives Library will be staffed—all other Archives offices will be closed.*
 The West Virginia Library Commission Library in the Culture Center is closed weekends and all holidays.

West Virginia Division of Culture and History
 The Cultural Center
 1900 Kanawha Boulevard East
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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 Susan Scouras, (304) 558-0230, Ext. 742, or by e-mail: susan.scouras@wvculture.org.

Archives and History Staff

- Joe Geiger Director
- Bryan Ward Assistant 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)
- Denise Ferguson County Records Archivist
- Allen Fowler Special projects
- Elaine Gates Library Assistant (microfilming and microfilm repairs)
- Ed Hicks Photo Archivist (archival photography, darkroom)
- Mary Johnson Historian
- Terry Lowry Historian (Veterans records)
- Cathy Miller Library Assistant (WV State documents)
- Harold Newman Library Assistant (microfilming, Revolutionary War)
- 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
- Kyle Campbell Part time
- Volunteers Carolyn Conner, Bill Kelley, James Wilburn, Sue Shank, Charlotte Thurston, and Ken Bailey