

West Virginia Archives & History NEWS

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WEST VIRGINIA
DIVISION OF
CULTURE & HISTORY

From the Editor:

You may have noticed that February's newsletter included a number of articles written by Archives and History staff other than newsletter editor Susan Scouras. This month's edition has been prepared entirely by other staff, who are helping out while Susan is away on extended leave. In her absence, we will do our best to keep you up to date on what's happening at Archives and History. It is a busy time. History Day is over, but Bryan Ward continues to oversee regional History Bowl competitions leading up to the April state tournament in Charleston. Our monthly Tuesday night lecture series and Thursday night Genealogy Club programs continue, and staff are hard at work on various projects related to the sesquicentennial commemoration. Meanwhile, we all send our best wishes to Susan and our hopes for her speedy return. This writer, for one, hopes that she will be back with us in time to prepare the April newsletter!

Annual Hoot Owl All-Nighter Scheduled for April 1–2

By Mary Johnson

This year, the annual Hoot Owl night, now in its twelfth year, will be held April 1–2. Sponsored by Mining Your History Foundation (MYHF) and West Virginia Archives and History, the popular all-night research event will be held in the West Virginia Archives and History Library beginning at 6:00 p.m. on Friday, April 1, and concluding at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday, April 2. In addition to the opportunity to use the library's resources all night, participants will be able to take a behind-the-scenes tour of the non-public areas of the Archives. They also will be able to confer with knowledgeable West Virginia genealogists from MYHF. While scanners and cameras are not permitted, participants may bring their laptop computers into the library.

It's not all work, however. Refreshments—typically lots of

refreshments—will be available in the Archives conference room, and orders will be taken late in the evening for pizza, available for purchase by the slice. Those who can't stay awake all night should

bring a pillow and a blanket or sleeping bag so they can curl up in a vacant corner for some shut-eye. If you are one of those with a nicotine habit, don't despair at the thought of "Hoot Owl" continued on the next page

Dr. Michael Workman to Present "The Forgotten Battles of the Mine Wars: The Fairmont Field" on March 1

Dr. Michael Workman will present "The Forgotten Battles of the Mine Wars: The Fairmont Field" at the monthly Tuesday evening lecture in the Archives and History Library at 6:00 p.m. on March 1, 2011. Coal was nearly as important to the economy of the Monongahela Valley in north-central West Virginia as it was to the southern part of the state. However, unlike southern West Virginia, the Fairmont coal field was

developed by indigenous capitalists, especially the Watson family of Fairmont. The Watsons were the coal barons of the north, controlling coal production through the Fairmont Coal Company and its successor, the Consolidation Coal Company, which became the largest bituminous coal producer in the world during the late-1920s. Workman will provide an illustrated presentation on the clash "Workman" continued on the next page

"Workman" continued from page 1
of Fairmont Field coal companies against the United Mine Workers of America during the 1920s. While there were no large-scale, dramatic confrontations like the Battle of Blair Mountain to the south, this conflict lasted longer (1924-1933) and had greater impact on national developments than did events in southern West Virginia.

Michael Workman worked as an underground coal miner in Kanawha, Raleigh, Boone, and Logan counties during the 1970s and early 1980s before he attended West Virginia University, where he earned a bachelor's degree in political science and his master's and Ph.D. in history. A historian for the Institute for the History of Technology & Industrial Archaeology at WVU for a number of years, he has been an assistant

[This article originally was prepared by Mary Johnson for the Archives and History Web site based upon information provided by Dr. Workman.]

Boone County to be Focus of March 10 Genealogy Club

Joetta McCallister Kuhn will discuss the Boone County Genealogical Society at the March 10 meeting of the monthly Thursday evening Genealogy Club. The club meeting will be held in the West Virginia Archives and History Library in the Culture Center in Charleston and will begin at 6:00 p.m.

Kuhn will provide a general overview of the society and discuss projects members have completed and plan for the future. She also will discuss what the society offers researchers who have ancestors in Boone County as well as publications on vital records, census, and family histories.

Joetta McCallister Kuhn began doing genealogy before she reached 11 years of age, taking notes of what her grandfather told her before he died. She has been a member of the

professor at West Virginia State University since 2010. Workman has written and published on labor, industrial, and West Virginia history. His latest manuscript is a study of the Civil War as it impacted Parkersburg and the Mid-Ohio Valley.

All Archives and History workshop and lecture sessions are free and the public is invited to attend. On March 1, the library will close at 5 p.m. and reopen at 5:45 p.m. for participants only. To register in advance, contact Robert Taylor, library manager, by e-mail at bobby.l.taylor@wv.gov 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, contact the Archives and History Library at (304) 558-0230.

Boone County Genealogical Society since 1976 and is its current vice president. Her area of focus is the Peytona District, including Brushton, Ashford, Ridgeview, and Nellis. Kuhn is also a member of the Nellis Historical Church Group and current chapter regent of the Anne Bailey Chapter, National Society Daughters of the American Revolution.

Advance registration for the program is not required, but is

[This article originally was prepared by Mary Johnson for the Archives and History Web site based upon information provided by Joetta Kuhn.]

"Hoot Owl" continued from page 1
being locked in for the night. There will be opportunities for those who need to take a break outside to do so.

Participation in Hoot Owl is limited to 50. Registration is \$25, payable by check or money order to MYHF, and must be postmarked by March 18. Late registration, if space is available, is \$35. A copy of the brochure with registration form is available on the Archives and History Web site at <http://www.wvculture.org/history/hootowl2011brochure.pdf>. The completed form and payment should be mailed to MYHF, P.O. Box 6923, Charleston, WV, 25362-0923. For more information contact Joe Geiger, (304) 558-0230, joe.n.geiger@wv.gov, or Wes Cochran, (304) 422-1774, wescochran@juno.com.

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

encouraged to help plan seating arrangements. To register in advance, contact Robert Taylor, library manager, at bobby.l.taylor@wv.gov 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, contact the Archives and History Library at (304) 558-0230.



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a publication of the West Virginia Division of Culture and History.

Evening Workshops and Lecture Schedule

Date	Conducted by:	Subject
March 1 Tuesday	Dr. Michael Workman	<i>The Forgotten Battles of the Mine Wars: The Fairmont Field</i>
April 5 Tuesday	Lloyd Lewis	<i>An Introduction to the Railroad History of West Virginia</i>
May 3 Tuesday	Bobby Taylor	<i>West Virginia's Heritage Music</i>
June 7 Tuesday	Dick Fauss	<i>Archives and History Movie Night: Footage from the Collection</i>

Registration for these free workshops is helpful but not required.
 Call our office at (304) 558-0230, or e-mail bobby.l.taylor@wv.gov.

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.

Check out West Virginia Archives and History on Facebook and YouTube

By Joe Geiger

Archives and History is now on Facebook and YouTube. WVU-Tech student Jimmy Fauss created our YouTube page and uploaded several dozen video clips from the West Virginia State Archives. Our Facebook page enables those with

an interest in the history of West Virginia to receive updates on recent online additions, preparation for the Golden Horseshoe and History Bowl, upcoming lectures, and anything else going on at Archives and History. Check us out, and remember to "Like Us On Facebook!"

Farewell to Archives Staffer Nancy Waggoner

By Mary Johnson

At the end of this month, longtime staff member Nancy Waggoner will be leaving Archives and History. She and her husband J. D. Waggoner, state librarian and secretary of the West Virginia Library Commission, are retiring after many years of service to the State of West Virginia.

Nancy has worked for Archives and History since 1986. Nancy's voice likely is the first you have heard if you have called us and her face likely the first you have seen if you have visited our offices. She has been the glue that holds us together, and she will be sorely missed.

We hope that she and J. D. enjoy retirement, travelling to visit loved ones at home or abroad, pursuing various interests, or just relaxing along the river in Pocahontas County.



Meet Volunteer Jerry Grady

By Mary Johnson

One of Archives and History's current volunteers is Jerry Grady. Since November 2010, Jerry has been scanning West Virginia militia letters. He has already scanned more than 1,000 images that are being made available online as one of Archives and History's sesquicentennial projects. The letters can be found at <http://www.wvculture.org/history/wvmemory/militia/findingaid.html>.

Jerry Grady is a native of Jackson County and now lives in Kanawha. A retired West Virginia Social Studies teacher who taught at Ripley for five years, he came late to the teaching job he always dreamed of having. Previously, he was a 4-H agent in Jackson County and also worked in vocational education. After retiring in 2010, Jerry's love of history and West Virginia, as well as his desire to become involved, drew him to volunteer for Archives and History. Although he finds the opportunity to hold 150-year-old letters written to Gov. Francis H. Pierpont and Gov. Arthur Boreman exciting, his goal is to complete the scanning project before summer. In fact, he would like to have it done by April 12, the 150th anniversary of the firing on Fort Sumter, South Carolina, the start of the Civil War.

At present, Jerry is filling many of his days at the Culture Center. In addition to scanning letters first one and now two days a week, he is working on his own project two days a week, attending Archives and History's monthly lecture and genealogy club programs, and participating in the Library Commission's book discussion program. On the days he works on his own project, Jerry is making use of the resources of

Continued on the next page

the Archives and History library to gather information for a history of the 4-H in Jackson County. He has pictures that he has taken over the years, as well as oral histories, and currently is going through the county newspapers gathering 4-H reports with the goal of producing a printed publication and a DVD. In his spare time, Jerry has been working on his memoirs so that his daughters will have a lasting record of his life, and he also is nearing completion of the requirements for



master naturalist certification, a program funded by the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources Wildlife Resources Section.

Archives and History is fortunate to have Jerry Grady as a volunteer!

New Hours for Genealogy Club

The weekly Tuesday morning Genealogy Club has moved to Thursday evenings. The club will meet between 6:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. in the Archives and History Library. The weekly club is designed to help beginners learn basic research techniques, and attendees will receive personal attention from library staff. Those who come for the club meetings can stay and research until the library closes at 8:00 p.m.

The weekly club will not meet on the second Thursday of the month, which will continue to be used for the monthly genealogy lecture

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Five Dozen Attend Both West Virginia African American Women's Activism and Lineage Society Research Programs

By Mary Johnson

On February 1, 2011, approximately 60 people attended Dr. Lois Lucas's

Bateman. Images from the program are available at <http://www.wvculture.org/history/workshops/wkshp020111.html>.

On February 10, the Genealogy Club program on lineage societies and research conducted by Bob Fish drew approximately the same number of people. Fish emphasized the need to establish



lineage connections through acceptable documents such as births, marriages, wills, deeds, and other contemporary records. After Fish completed his comments,

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Genealogy Club

Archives and History
 Library

Every Thursday Evening
 6:00-7:00 p.m.

Once a month,
 on the second Thursday,
 there will be a special
 program with a speaker.
 6:00-7:30 p.m.

Continued on the next page

"Five Dozen" continued from page 4
 members of both the Sons and the Daughters of the American Revolution were available to discuss individual lineage research with attendees. A number of people

stayed until the library closed at 8:00 p.m. Images from the Genealogy Club program are available at <http://www.wvculture.org/history/workshops/2011februarygenclub.html>.

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 program. For more information about the weekly or monthly gatherings, contact Robert Taylor, library manager, at (304) 558-0230 or bobby.l.taylor@wv.gov.

Weekly Sesquicentennial Trivia Question

By Mary Johnson

As part of Archives and History's sesquicentennial commemoration, each week a trivia question related to the 1861–1865 period is posted online. For example, for the week ending February 6, the question was:

"When Virginia voters went to the polls on February 4, 1861, this future Confederate general was one of the two delegates chosen to represent Monroe County at the Virginia State Convention in Richmond."

Did you know that the answer is John Echols? Echols lived in Monroe County for almost twenty years before the Civil War. He began

the war as a lieutenant colonel in the Confederate army and rose to brigadier general.

The weekly trivia question draws on information found in the Civil War and Statehood timeline on our Web site and sometimes may require a little bit of additional knowledge. The question is changed each Monday (except holidays), and those who provide their name or appropriate pseudonym in the body of their reply will be included in the list of correct respondents. Go to <http://www.wvculture.org/history/sesquicentennial/timelinetrivia.html> and test your knowledge.

New Civil War Exhibit in Library

Archives and History has a new exhibit on display in the Archives and History Library. Titled "A Valley Torn Apart," the exhibit contains items from the collections of the State Archives concerning the 8th West Virginia Infantry (later the 7th West Virginia Cavalry)—Union—and the Kanawha Riflemen—Confederate. These two organizations were the premier groups in the Kanawha Valley at the start of the Civil War. This exhibit is part of a multi-year commemoration of the sesquicentennial of the Civil War and West Virginia statehood.

Program on Recent Archaeology at Independence Hall Scheduled for Grave Creek on March 31

If you live in the Moundsville area, or will be nearby on March 31, you may want to check out the program "The History and Archaeology of West Virginia Independence Hall," which will take place at 7:00 p.m. at Grave Creek Mound Archaeological Complex. Built in 1859 as the U.S. Customs House for the Western District of Virginia, Independence Hall achieved its most lasting legacy through its association with the formation of West Virginia during the Civil War. The building served as the setting for the Second Wheeling Convention in 1861, the Restored Government of Virginia (1861–1863), and the convention that wrote the constitution for the new State of West Virginia (1861–1862, 1863).

The March 31 program will be

presented by Travis L. Henline, site manager for West Virginia Independence Hall, and David E. Rotenizer, site manager at Grave Creek Mound Archaeological Complex. They will discuss the history of Independence Hall and the recent archaeological findings made during renovation work at the property. During installation of a fire suppression system in 2010, a trench was excavated on the north side of the building in a vacant lot on which a succession of structures had stood in the 19th and early 20th centuries. Fortunately, various fill episodes had capped and preserved a buried historic

occupation level. Staff and volunteers at Grave Creek, Independence Hall, and Archaeological Consultants of the Midwest, Inc., worked to recover and document artifacts, which are now being processed at the Grave Creek research facility. A total of 2,548 artifacts were recovered, with preliminary analysis suggesting the deposit dates to the early 1800s.

An archival study, with assistance from the Public History Program at West Virginia University and also from the Archives and History Section, is underway in order to understand and interpret the site's history and the context for its development.

[This article was prepared by Mary Johnson from information provided by David Rotenizer and Andrea Keller of the Division of Culture and History.]

Preparing for History Bowl

Archives and History's assistant director Bryan Ward is the point person for the division's History Bowl tournament. A lot of work goes on behind the scenes to prepare for the tournament, which has been expanded this year to include eight regional tournaments. On February 16, Bryan brought together in the Archives and History conference room several staff and volunteers who were planning to help him at the next regional tournament in order to test



the equipment and learn the duties of being moderator, judge, and scorekeeper. They also had a trial match, testing their own knowledge of West Virginia. The winner of this trial match is a mystery, however, since no one kept score.



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.

INSPIRED: HISTORIC GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES ART EXHIBIT, through July 24: The Culture Center, Charleston.

THE GREENBRIER: WEST VIRGINIA'S GIFT TO THE WORLD DISPLAY, through April 24: Balcony Gallery, The Culture Center, Charleston.

GENEALOGY FAIR, March 5: Kanawha Valley History Center, Rand Community Center, Rand. For more information or to register for vendor space, contact Linda Hoskins, (304) 925-2438, kvhc06@yahoo.com.

"CABIN CREEK/PAINT CREEK STRIKE OF 1912 AND 1913," March 14: Dale Payne, speaker, Erma Byrd Higher Education Center, Beckley. Presented by Concord University and Coal Heritage Highway Authority. For more information, call (304) 256-0270.

"THE HISTORY AND ARCHAEOLOGY OF WEST VIRGINIA INDEPENDENCE HALL," March 31: Travis L. Henline and David E. Rotenizer, speakers, Grave Creek Mound Archaeological Complex, Moundsville. For more information, visit <http://www.wvculture.org/eventdetail.aspx?Id=1423>.

HOOT OWL NIGHT, April 1-2: Archives and History Library, The Culture Center, Charleston. Co-sponsored by West Virginia Archives and History and Mining Your History Foundation.

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THIRD ANNUAL FESTIVAL OF NATIONS, April 2: Weirton Area Museum and Cultural Center, Weirton. For more information, visit <http://www.weirtonmuseum.com>, or call Dennis Jones, (304) 479-7266, or Dr. Juginder Luthra, (304) 794-6336.

“THE BLACK LUNG MOVEMENT IN SOUTHERN WEST VIRGINIA,” April 11: Dr. Donald Rasmussen and Craig Robinson, speakers, Erma Byrd Higher Education Center, Beckley. Presented by Concord University and Coal Heritage Highway Authority. For more information, call (304) 256-0270.

“VIRGINIA SECEDES!—THE BEGINNING OF WEST VIRGINIA STATEHOOD,” April 16: 150th Anniversary Program, West Virginia Independence Hall, Wheeling.

“CIVILITY IN A FRACTURED SOCIETY,” April 21: Jim Leach, speaker, The Culture Center, Charleston. West Virginia Humanities Council program.

WEST VIRGINIA HISTORY BOWL STATE TOURNAMENT, April 26: The Culture Center, Charleston.

“OHIO’S SMALL EARTHWORK SITES,” April 28: Dr. Jarrod Burks, speaker, Grave Creek Mound Archaeological Complex, Moundsville. For more information, visit <http://www.wvculture.org/eventdetail.aspx?Id=1424>.

“STORIES AND SONGS OF THE COAL FIELDS,” May 9: Jim Costa, speaker, Erma Byrd Higher Education Center, Beckley. Presented by Concord University and Coal Heritage Highway Authority. For more information, call (304) 256-0270.

“PEOPLE, PLANTS, PRIVIES AND PITS: ARCHAEOBOTANICAL STUDIES FROM WEST VIRGINIA,” May 26: Karen L. Leone, speaker, Grave Creek Mound Archaeological Complex, Moundsville. For more information, visit <http://www.wvculture.org/eventdetail.aspx?Id=1425>.

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

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

“GROWING A GARDEN AT GRAVE CREEK: A TOUR AND PROGRAM OF THE NEW INTERPRETIVE GARDEN,” June 20: Andrea K. Keller, speaker, Grave Creek Mound Archaeological Complex, Moundsville. For more information, visit <http://www.wvculture.org/eventdetail.aspx?Id=1426>.

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

FILM “SECRETS OF THE VALLEY: PREHISTORY OF THE KANAWHA,” July 28: Andrea K. Keller and David E. Rotenizer, hosts, Grave Creek Mound Archaeological Complex, Moundsville. For more information, visit <http://www.wvculture.org/eventdetail.aspx?Id=1427>.

**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.

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Dick FaussArchivist (microfilm and moving images collection)
Denise Ferguson..... County Records Archivist
Allen Fowler..... Special projects
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