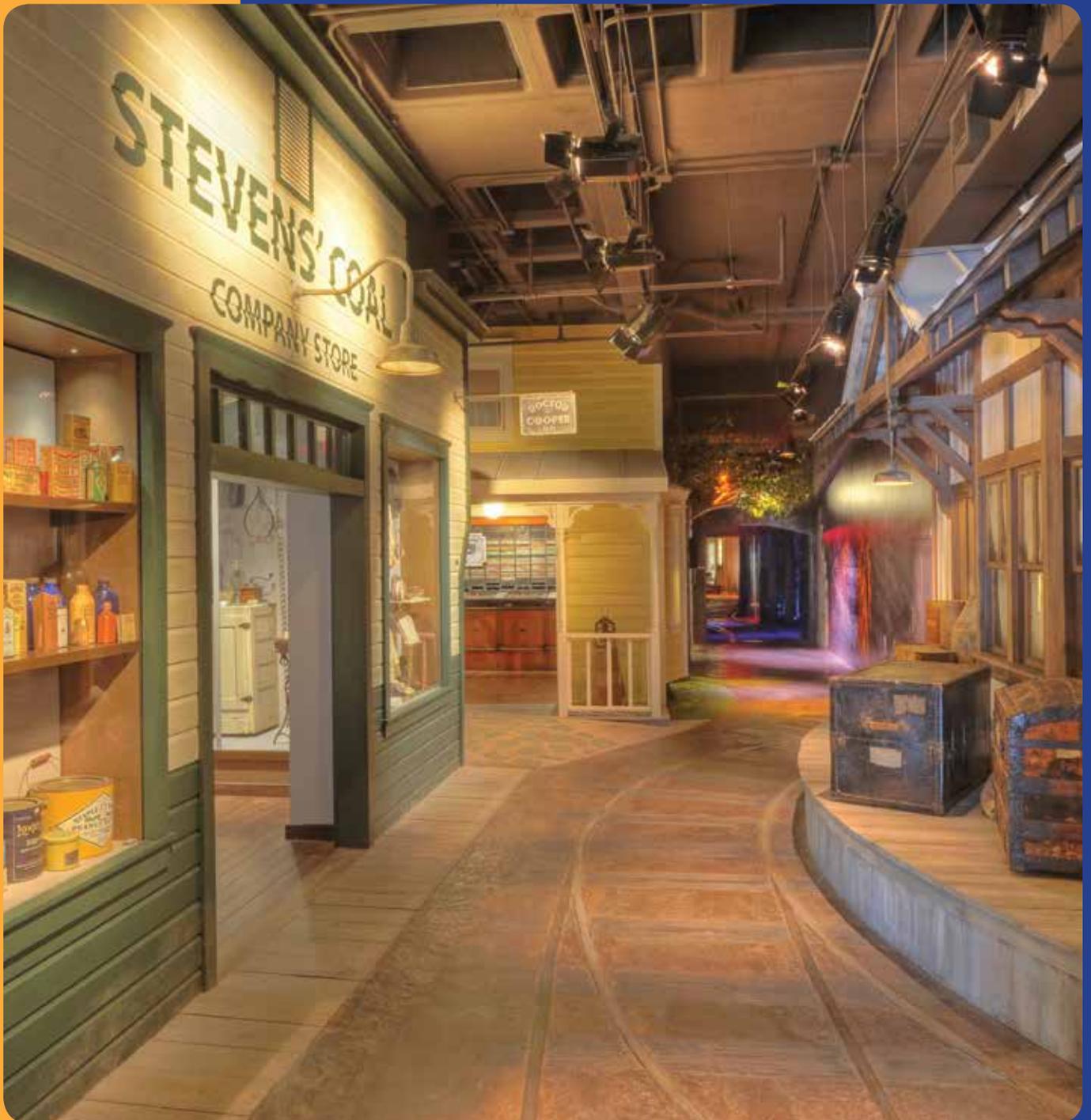




West Virginia State Museum *Heritage*

Volume 5, Issue 7

Summer/Fall 2019



The Curator's Corner

The State Museum education staff is continuing to expand its educational reach in 2019 to include outreach programs, afterschool programs, a home school program and many updates to its online Digital Primer. They are constantly creating new ideas to educate students across West Virginia about the history and stories of the Mountain State.



Randall Reid-Smith

The outreach program's portable kits are available on request. They include suitcases full of artifacts, photographs, primary source documents, books and films on the topics of ancient culture, early settlement, 20th-century immigration, the Civil War and fossils.

Afterschool programs are offered Tuesday through Friday in the museum classroom. Parents and students are encouraged to sign up to learn more about the museum, the state, and its history with fun, exciting activities.

The museum-run website – WV: A Digital Primer offers teachers, parents and students access to lesson plans based on West Virginia education requirements directly from their homes and classrooms. Ninety new lesson plans were created this summer for eighth graders by public school teachers and will soon be added to the site.

Teachers, home school educators and youth organizations can continue to schedule field trips throughout the year to participate in the museum education's many programs for students in grades k-12.

Contact the education staff today for more information on how to utilize these wonderful education-based programs.

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State of West Virginia
Jim Justice, Governor



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Stories from the Collection

Happy 125th Birthday to the West Virginia State Museum

By Charles Morris



On April 3, the West Virginia State Museum turned 125 years old. From its modest beginning in the 1885 State Capitol Building at the north end of Capitol Street in Charleston to its current home in the State Culture Center, the museum celebrates this milestone with national honors for its state-of-the-art museum. The collection continues to grow as we preserve the rich history and culture of West Virginia; the educational programs are unsurpassed; and the staff takes great pride in maintaining only the highest standards in preservation and a welcoming experience for all visitors.

The collection of the West Virginia State Museum finds its beginnings with the West Virginia Historical and Antiquarian Society, organized in the Senate Chamber of the State House in Charleston on January 30, 1890. At this time it was an organization with limited state support, but with a home on the first floor of the capitol to showcase its collection.

In 1893, Governor William A. MacCorkle and Dr. John P. Hale, president of the Historical and Antiquarian Society, worked together to create exhibits for the 1893 West Virginia Building at the Columbian Exposition at the World's Fair in Chicago, Illinois. MacCorkle

sent out an invitation to the citizens of West Virginia to welcome all to the opening of the State Museum on April 3, 1894. The new museum contained the artifacts on exhibit at the 1893 World's Fair as well as exhibiting the valuable collection of the Historical Society. An article the next day in the newspaper applauded a large turnout for the event and the efforts of Governor MacCorkle, Colonel Bob Carr, Colonel A.D. MacCorkle and Captain John Baker White.

The two collections continued to be exhibited together when on February 18, 1905, by an act of the legislature, the artifacts from the Historical Society legally became part of the West Virginia State Museum. When the legislation passed to combine the collections, additional funding and a new residence for the state museum was found. The museum moved to the Capitol Annex across the street from the new capitol building completed in 1903. It turned out to be a great move for the early museum collection and saved it from the capitol fire of 1921. When the 1932 West Virginia State Capitol building was completed, the collection of the state museum was placed in the basement for exhibition. For the next 44 years, it was the home of the museum. The dressed fleas Alexander and Emmeline, still on display today, became household names. With collections being moved out of state due to a lack of space and room for growth, the museum was in dire need for both exhibit and storage areas.

Continued on page 3



“The museum moved to the Capitol Annex across the street from the new capitol building completed in 1903. It turned out to be a great move for the early museum collection and saved it from the capitol fire of 1921.”



The General Store exhibit opened in the State Culture Center and the West Virginia State Museum on July 11, 1976.

In April 1969 after only three months as governor, Arch A. Moore Jr. listened to the concerns of museum staff and particularly Norman L. Fagan, the first commissioner of the new Science and Culture Center. The state needed a showcase facility that would become the welcome center of the state and a treasure that could make the citizens of the Mountain State proud. It became the top priority of the new governor. Fagan stated, "Much of our artistic beauty is our very life itself. This is what we'll strive to capture in the (Culture) Center."

Thousands poured into the new building on July 11, 1976. The West Virginia Science and Culture Center opened with beautiful exhibitions of history and culture. The Great Hall of the Center with its marble and dodecahedron chandeliers was a majestic sight for all. The center became home for the State Museum, State Archives, State Historic Preservation, Arts, the State Theater and the Library Commission.

In 1976, the features at the time included eight-track players explaining state history, slide presentations, and fluorescent lights with ballasts. These lights would eventually become worn and dangerous according to the new standards of museum preservation and exhibition. At the end of the 20th century, it was determined that a new design was needed to tell the state's history and exhibit the state's artifacts. The museum was taken down to the original concrete pad and a blank canvas for the renovation. On June 20, 2009, Governor Joe Manchin, Secretary Kay Goodwin, Commissioner Randall Reid-

Smith and other dignitaries cut the ribbon on a state-of-the-art museum that today takes over 27 hours to read the accompanying text and look at all the artifacts and stories.

Over the last few years, the State Museum has received accolades from the Travel Channel, TripAdvisor, American Art Institute, *West Virginia Living*, members of professional organizations, citizens of the state and visitors from all over the world.

The staff often meets with visitors who praise the museum as one of the best in the country. School groups attend from every county in the state. The collection's storage is state of the art and the museum education programs not only meet the needs of every visitor, but also produce many

lesson plans used by teachers across West Virginia. The State Museum Gift Shop reflects the award-winning artists in juried exhibitions as it represents creations from a variety of West Virginia businesses and individuals. The staff takes great pride in the professional museum practices that they follow every day.

The museum has become what all envisioned throughout the years. Visited by people from every state



The Museum in the basement of the capitol.

as well as many foreign countries; preserving the state's artifacts for future generations; a destination location; showcases to the world West Virginia's rich history of the land, the people and the places; and emphatically is the state's welcoming door to the state.

Today, now known as the Department of Arts, Culture and History, Curator Randall Reid-Smith works with Governor Jim Justice to ensure the museum's continued preservation of the state's history and art. Through their dedication, we thrive in all aspects of professional museum procedures that translate into education and tourism. The state's kindergarten through 12th grade students just recently had the opportunity to submit artwork for the Inaugural Governor's Art Exhibition developed by the Governor's Office, West Virginia Tourism Office, State Museum and Arts, Culture and History. The exhibition is on display in the state capitol rotunda.

As state museum director for the past nine years, I strongly feel the professionalism and dedication of the staff is unsurpassed. I am proud of the job we do, but I also applaud the tremendous dedication of the staff in the 1890s and the turn of the 20th century. Climbing a mountain to uncover the Kanawha Madonna, documenting Daniel Boone's time in West Virginia, preserving the tombstone of Catarina Beierlin from being trampled in a cow pasture and preserving the state's Civil War battle flags are just a few of the treasures the founding staff helped to secure. I am sure that Governor MacCorkle and Dr. Hale cherished that April spring-time evening 125 years ago when they first opened the State Museum doors.



Museum craft collection in the current museum

On the Cover

On the cover is a picture of the company store. One of the most popular exhibits in the new museum. The company store contained everything for the family. Owned by the company as were the employee houses, they often became the community center. Companies paid with scrip which was used in the stores. Please visit the company store in the museum.



Natural history exhibit in the Capitol Annex



STATE MUSEUM HOURS

Tuesday-Saturday
9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

CLOSED
Sunday & Monday
(304) 558-0220

Stories From the Collection: High School Souvenirs

By Jim Mitchell

To most high school students, athletic letters are the epitome of High School accomplishments, but other awards are also given for writing, newspaper editing, scholarship, music, art, acting and future endeavors such as architecture, chemistry, science, engineering, and military service.

During the past few years, the West Virginia State Museum has received donations from several donors which have included a variety of these high school prizes, which were awarded prior to graduations in 1926, 1936, 1943, 1952, 1953 and 1964. In planning to write this article, I wanted to stick to just high school activities and to do it in chronological order, but my plan went astray when we received a football letter sweater which belonged to a young man who became a genuine American hero.

A former museum employee, Danolita Curnutte, gave us the orange South Charleston High School football letter sweater with a black SC letter, which had belonged to Herbert Joseph Thomas. He graduated in 1936. He then played football for Virginia Tech. He graduated in 1940. He enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Corps in 1941. He transferred to the Marines in 1942. He was leading his squad in 1943 in the Battle of Koromokina River on Bougainville Island when he threw a hand grenade which bounced back into their position. In order to save his men, he fell on the grenade and was killed. He was awarded the Medal of Honor, posthumously. In his honor, South Charleston memorialized their hospital for him, Thomas Memorial Hospital.

Another donor who is no stranger to The State Museum, its collections and exhibits is Vernon E. Lovejoy who graduated from Hamlin High School in 1964, as is represented by his mortarboard tassel and class

ring. His collection begins with two pair of cuff links that belonged to his father, Lester, as well as a tiny basketball dated 1948. Early in his life Vernon received two perfect attendance pins from his Methodist Church Sunday School and Hamlin Grade School. He earned the AAA Safety Patrol badge. In eighth grade, his memory earned him the coveted Golden Horseshoe pin, the only one in our collection. In 1952-1953, he was the sophomore class president when he was elected to the National Honor Society. His Morris Harvey class ring is dated 1971 indicating that he did something else immediately after High School. His service in Vietnam, in the United States Army is commemorated by the exhibition of his uniforms and equipment in the Viet-



Golden Horseshoe pin won by Lovejoy.



Thomas athletic letter sweater on display in the recent gifts to the WV State Museum case in the Capitol rotunda.

nam War case in Discovery Room 20, the Military History Gallery of the West Virginia State Museum's permanent exhibits. Among his treasures are two enameled brass pocket pieces, one from the U. S. Army Officer Candidate School Alumni Association and the other from the Special Forces Association of the West Virginia National Guard. As a Captain, he and his company were bivouacked one evening in 1970 near their armory at Huntington Airport. He turned on his little portable radio and discovered that a passenger plane had crashed at the approach to the airport. He and his company returned to their armory and assisted in the recovery of the bodies of Marshall University football players and other human remains which were placed in the armory as a temporary morgue. The radio is in our collection.

State Museum Gift Shop: Creations from Coal

By Steven A. Holsclaw

Coal sculptures and figurines have been around for a while. More than 125 years as the museum notes. The West Virginia State Museum has a boot carved from coal that has been on display since its opening in 1894.

The State Museum Gift Shop utilizes three vendors of coal sculptures that are Tamarack approved products and all are made here in West Virginia. Black Gold Crafts, from Raleigh, Mountaineer Coal Creations in Ansted, and Coal Camp Creations in Kimball, WV. All three produce coal figurines with a similar process. The process uses pulverized coal from West Virginia mines. Then the coal dust is suspended in a polymer binding agent and poured into a mold to create a cast. There is quite a bit more to it as coal is a messy business. The Figurines that are produced have a gray appearance when set due to the polymer. The figurines are then coated with varying finishes for the slick black appearance.

Mountaineer Coal Creations is ran by Bob and Tama Dickinson, owners and artists based out of Ansted. Situated in the heart of the Appalachian coalfields, Black Gold Coal Crafts in Raleigh was originally established in the 1970s and produced small trinkets and souvenirs from the natural resource of coal. But the company was reinvigorated when it was purchased in July 2015 by Jeremy Fairchild, Justin Fairchild and Brian Bowman. Today Black Gold produces many creative and custom art designs.

With very little research I found more of a story than I expected. Coal Camp Creations founder, Jean Battlo of McDowell County, comes from a coal mining family. She started Coal Camp Creations in 2006. The intent of the business is to produce a quality art that appeals to both collectors and souvenir hunters.

Besides being an artisan, Battlo is a playwright, poet, novelist, and historian. She holds a B.A. and

M.A. from Marshall University with studies in history, dramatic arts, English literature and a minor in philosophy. She is the daughter of Italian immigrant Tom Battlo. His name was changed from Fortunato Battaglia when he immigrated to the United States, which was a common practice for immigrants during this time. He settled his family in McDowell County to mine coal and start a new life.

To read more about the Battlo story and other crafters connections to The State Museum Gift Shop, visit their web pages at: www.coalcampcreations.com, <https://www.coalcrafts.com>, and visit The State Museum, <http://www.wvculture.org/>, and shop at the gift shop for your piece of collectible West Virginia coal.



Coal figurines for sale in the museum gift shop.

Juried Exhibition



“Sweet Springs” by Barry Vance of Valley Head, WV
First WV Juried Exhibition Purchase Award
for the Pemanent Collection

November 17, 2019

It has been forty years since the West Virginia Juried Exhibition first opened at the State Culture Center in 1979. The twenty-first exhibition will be opening in the West Virginia State Museum and the Culture Center for the first time since 2005. The popular biennial exhibition showcasing talent from throughout West Virginia features artwork of all mediums. Key awards are the Governor’s Awards with the D. Gene Jordon Award for the Best of Show, the Awards of Excellence and the Merit Awards. Featuring the best of West Virginia artwork, the exhibition will open on Sunday, November 17 at 2 p.m. with a reception in the Great Hall and program in the State Theater.

Artifact Spotlight



*Mandolin
The Bluegrass
Glen Dean Cecil
Charleston, 2004*

West Virginians are as well known for making fine instruments as they are for playing them. Although factory-made instruments have been available for more than a century, some of the best musicians in the world have come to West Virginia to buy violins and cellos made by Harold Hayslett, dulcimers made by Ray Epler and Jim Good, mandolins (like the one shown above) and fiddles made by Glen Dean Cecil, and steel drums made by West Virginia University Artist-in-Residence Ellie Mannelle.

The mandolin, pictured above, as well as tools and abalone inlays used by Cecil Dean are on display in Discovery Room 26 titled Traditions of Music.

Want To Know More?

Charleston filmmaker Bob Gates produced a 1996 documentary about master instrument maker Harold Hayslett of South Charleston. The film, *Making a Cello with Harold*, follows the retired pipe fitter over a seven-year period while he built a cello.

Old Time Music in West Virginia

By Laiken Blankenship

One of the great things about West Virginia is how well the rich culture and history of our state has been preserved. Of these traditions one that stands out the most is our music history, especially fiddling. In West Virginia and Appalachia in general, there is well preserved old-time music tradition, from old ballads and dance traditions, to fiddle and banjo tunes. West Virginia in particular is well known for its Old-Time and solo music traditions.

Unlike most old-time circles now where everyone plays the melody together at the same time, early on there was a focus on one musician and one instrument playing alone, for their own enjoyment, relaxation, or entertainment. One great example of this is the Hammons family from Pocahontas county. The Hammons family was the focus of a Library of Congress study in the 1970s, and consequently of particular interest to the folk revival of the same time.

The Hammons' can trace their family history in the region to the pre-civil war era, and music has always been a central aspect of their family narrative. When Maggie Hammons was being interviewed for the Library of Congress, researchers were startled to find her singing ballads mostly unchanged from the original versions found in Ireland and other European countries.

This is a great example of just how well preserved the music traditions of West Virginia are. The fiddling style of the Hammons is of particular note, as it was a mostly solo tradition, with very crooked melodies. Many great West Virginia tunes can be traced back to and credited to the Hammons family such as Old Sledge, Camp Chase, and Three Forks of Cheat. These music traditions were also being preserved and passed down through the generations by other West Virginian Families such as the Carpenter and Wine family, as well as numerous others. Each family has a history of traditional tunes that have been passed down and preserved through the generations.

Here at the West Virginia State Museum we are proud to house some of this history and to help preserve these continuing music traditions. On your next visit to the state museum, be sure to check out the fiddle, banjos, and various traditional instruments on display from both West Virginian musicians and West Virginian instrument builders. For more information about the tradition of fiddle music in West Virginia and the numerous families of note involved with the continued preservation of this tradition, visit the West Virginia State Archives and the West Virginia State Museum.

“In West Virginia and Appalachia in general, there is well preserved old-time music tradition, from old ballads and dance traditions, to fiddle and banjo tunes.”



Sailing, Sailing, Over the Bounding Main

By James R. Mitchell

In this day of rockets, space ships, and dreams of colonizing Mars, we often forget that just two hundred years ago, our forebears, be they European, African or Asian came to North America by sailing ship. Many ships were small, with cramped quarters, poor food, stale water, sickness and other hardships. The ships were manned and sailed by strong and agile seamen who persevered with more hardships than the passengers, because they had to work in the rigging sailing the ship.

Virtually none of these ships survived while many are remembered in early photographs, drawings and paintings. Some have been made into models, yet even model makers are few and far between. Large museums such as the Smithsonian Institution, Mystic Seaport and various mariners' museums have collections of both sailing ships and engine powered ships. In 1904, the St. Louis Exposition had a large display of ship models throughout history, including models of America's Great White Fleet.

We have a collection of twenty-eight ship models. Our model of James Rumsey's steamboat was part of the St. Louis exhibition. We have nine models of sailing ships, nine river boats and ten ships from both the British Royal Navy and the United States Navy. Some were made by Mehrel Shank of Nitro, Thomas C. Whitteker, Ralph Meadows and William "Bo" Shuman of Parkersburg.

Another modern model maker lives in Fairmont. He is Charles Fawcett and has been building ship models for more than thirty-five years. Some of his models include HMS *Victory* which was Admiral Lord Horatio Nelson's flagship at the Battle of Trafalgar in 1805; the *Charles W. Morgan*, a whaling ship from New Bedford which made 37 voyages between 1867 and 1941 and a 38th voyage in 2014. It is the only wooden whaling ship afloat and is the second oldest American sailing ship after the USS *Constitution* in Boston, which Mr. Fawcett has also modelled.

In 2017 he donated four of his handmade wooden ship models to this museum: US Revenue Cutter *Dallas* made in 1995, Sir Francis Drake's galleon *Golden Hind* made in 1996, the Baltimore Clipper *Pride of Baltimore II* made in 2015 and US Brig of War *Niagara* made in 2016.

The models are displayed when we need them for exhibitions. Currently Charles Fawcett's model of Sir Francis Drake's *Golden Hind* is exhibited in a Recent Gifts case in the Capitol Rotunda, while one of our USS *West Virginia* (BB-48) battleship models is in Discovery Room 20. The model of the modern submarine is displayed in The Governor's Gifts case on the Balcony.

Incidentally some of the full-size ships are still afloat. The frigate USS *Constitution* is a commissioned unit of the United States Navy and is berthed in Boston Harbor. The US Brig *Niagara* is in Erie, Pennsylvania where she sails on Lake Erie. She is owned and maintained by the city of Erie, Pennsylvania. HMS *Victory* is in a dry dock in Southampton, England. A reproduction of the galleon *Golden Hind* sails the seven seas. The double topsail barque *Charles W. Morgan* has been fully restored and went on her 38th voyage in 2014, but hunted no whales. The nuclear-powered, guided missile submarine USS *West Virginia* (SSBN-736) is on secret, peace-keeping duty somewhere at sea protecting American interests.



*USS West Virginia
BB-48 Battleship model on display in
Discovery Room 20 of the museum*

Pageantry with a Purpose: Celebrating 75 Years of the Miss West Virginia America Pageant

By Charles Morris



75th Anniversary of Miss WV America exhibit currently on display on the balcony of the Great Hall.

In June, the West Virginia State Museum opened the exhibition Pageantry with a Purpose: Celebrating 75 Years of the Miss West Virginia America Pageant. This exhibition features beautiful gowns, swimsuits, talent gowns, jewelry and other accessories worn by former Miss West Virginians. One of the cases features shoes for the Show Me Your Shoes Parade, a contestant and fan favorite.

The history of the organization starts with its first contest in 1940 and continues with a pageant in 1941. The war effort during World War II discontinues the competition from 1942-45. After that, except for 1950, the event has been held annually every year in West Virginia since 1946, with the winner advancing to the Miss America pageant.

2018 Miss West Virginia Madeline Collins was a driving force to make this anniversary exhibition a reality. Working with the State Museum staff Madeline made numerous contacts to collect gowns and accessories from previous title holders.

Part of the exhibit title Pageantry with a Purpose reflects the hard work and dedication that comes with winning the Miss West Virginia title. Those who are selected have available to them the opportunity to participate in the organization's rich history in scholarship and service.

The Miss West Virginia Scholarship Organization along with the sister program, Miss West Virginia's Outstanding Teen, offer the ability to learn communication and leadership as well as skills that can be useful over a lifetime. This all the while competing for scholarship awards.

The opening program was emceed by Arts, Culture and History Curator Randall Reid-Smith with sev-

eral of the former Miss West Virginians offering insight, reflection and beautiful music. Kari Ann Blankenship (1996) sang a beautiful song special to her, Deborah Davis Wolfe (1979) gave a historic look back at the pageant and Madeline Collins (2018), a reflection of her year as Miss West Virginia.

The exhibition of 75 years of Miss West Virginia pageantry is a first for the Culture Center and possibly a first for the organization. The State Museum wants to thank all the former title holders who loaned their wonderful artifacts and memories.



Madeline Collins, 2018 Miss West Virginia

Improvements for the Collection

By Holli Vanater

The WV State Museum's main collection storage area upgrade is now complete. New concrete flooring with embedded rails were installed throughout. This system eliminates permanent isles within the shelving and maximizes storage space. Rolled textile units, garment racks, silver cabinets, pull-out drawer and implement units, and lateral nested art racks allow for proper storage.

Upon completion of the installation, the museum staff focused their efforts on removing artifacts from temporary storage, unpacking and cleaning, completing condition reports, photographing objects for inclusion in the new database, validating accession records, sorting objects according to their classification, and moving them to the new storage area. As far as collections management is considered, this is by far the most critical and time-consuming segment of the process and requires coordinated efforts among many staff.

Staff have been painstakingly removing artifacts from the temporary storage area, unpacking and removing old packaging material, physically inspecting and completing condition reporting for the conservator, taking photos, completing inventory records, and strategically placing items in the new storage units – ensuring 'like' objects are kept together. Due to limited space, most of the collection had been stored in boxes but with

the new system, we are able to convert this method to open storage. Rolled quilts protected with tissue are sorted and stored by decade in the rolled textile cabinets; military uniforms are hung in the garment racks by branch of service and decade; shoes are aligned by child, lady, and gent. Pull out one of the drawers and view the massive collection of miniature furniture or examine an assortment of baby clothes. There is a proper place for all.

Although this process is far from complete, we continue to make great strides not only to improve the storage methods but to validate our records, update the new collections management database and maintain a valid locator system.

As with all museums, the process of acquiring, exhibiting/presenting, preserving and interpreting is a life-time obligation. Those before us have paved the way to a treasure trove of West Virginia History. The treasure now resides in a new home and we have years of work ahead of us to ensure its sustainability. It is quite evident though, that the staff are committed to the mission of the museum, can meet any challenges and continue to make good decisions for the continued success of the WV State Museum. Nothing is more rewarding than to be part of this team and share in the efforts of preserving our past for the future.

Garment Storage



New Art Racks

Museum Education: Donation



A sample of the donated artifacts.

The museum education section received a generous donation this past year. Donald and Carol Knicely of Bridgeport donated an amazing collection of prehistoric spear points, arrowheads, stone tools, fossils and other artifacts. These artifacts were found by Donald and his sons in Randolph, Harrison, Wood and Braxton counties over the past three decades. Education coordinator Chris Reed said that this extensive collection of prehistoric artifacts will be used in various ways such as educational displays, classroom exhibits, museum education programs and outreach.

Museum Education After School Program



Who: Students in grades 2 thru 5.

What: A fun, educational after school program. Each day focuses on a different topic including art, West Virginia history and the museum collection.

When: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and/or Friday from 3:30 to 5:00 pm. There will be two, eight-week sessions. One fall session, September- October and one spring session, March-April.

Where: The WV State Museum Education Classroom.

This program is free and open on a limited basis. Parents are welcome. Sign up for one day or the entire eight-week session.

Recent Events at the Museum Sites



*Graduation Party at Camp
Washington Carver, Clifftop*



*Soldiers and Sailors
Monument
Independence Hall, Wheeling*



*New Exhibits
at Grave Creek Mound, Moundsville*

Museum Education: Fall Programs

We believe a museum is a natural environment for introducing new ideas and programs that provide innovative opportunities to share historic data and encourage exploration, discovery and reflection. Our primary objective is to establish the education staff as a strong community partner for educators. Take a look at our returning programs for the fall of 2019 as well as some new programs. Educators and home school parents schedule your trip to the museum today!

Returning Programs:

K-1

State Symbols Sticker Book
and Little Bits Scavenger Hunt

2nd-12th Grades

Discovery Guides, County Challenge, Young
Writers, Museum Trivia, X-Treme Museum,
and Media Stories

Workshops

Weaving and Painting

Homeschool Program:

“Home School Mondays” is a monthly program that includes activities that align with West Virginia state education standards, in subjects like natural history, science, art and cultural history. Open to homeschool groups the first Monday of each month.

Beginning September 9th, students can become archeologists in our investigating artifacts workshop or students can mix science and history in our 3D printing lab.

It's Kid Time

Symbols of the West Virginia State Flag



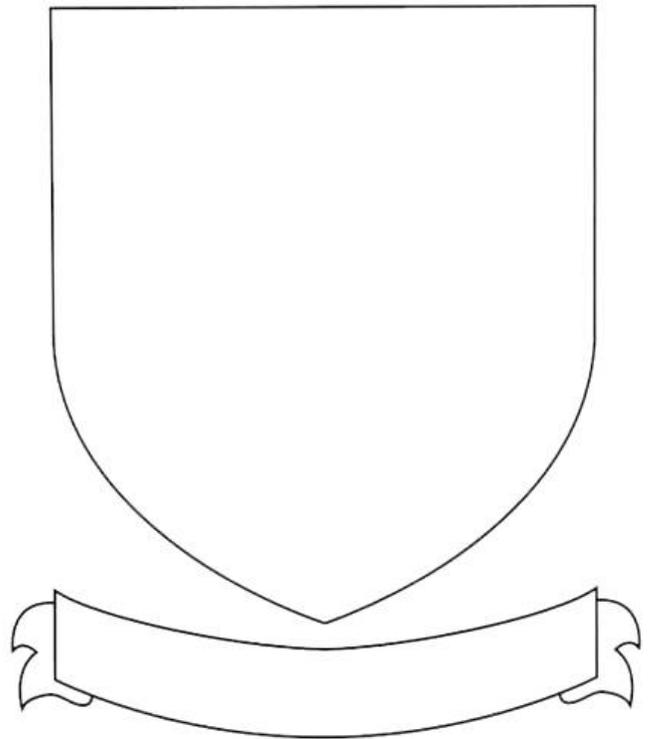
Officially adopted in 1929, the West Virginia flag is rich in symbolism. The white background represents purity and the blue border is for the union. The state coat of arms is prominently displayed in the center of the flag. Each symbol on the coat of arms represents something that has an important meaning to our state. It has a farmer and a miner on either side of the rock with the date we divided from Virginia. In front of the rock lie two rifles and the red cap of liberty that symbolizes freedom. The red banner on the bottom is our state motto: *Montani Semper Liberi*, Mountaineers are Always Free. Around the coat of arms is a wreath of the state flower.

What is the West Virginia state flower?

What year did West Virginia become a state?

Design Your Own Coat of Arms

Remember what you just learned about what a coat of arms is and create one to represent you, your family, your school or anything that is special to you. Create it using symbols that have important meanings.



CULTURE CENTER HOURS

Monday-Saturday
9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Sunday - CLOSED
(304) 558-0220



The Culture Center
State Capitol Complex
1900 Kanawha Boulevard East
Charleston, WV 25305-0300

Non-Profit Organization
US Postage
PAID
Permit No. 2868
Charleston, WV 25301

West Virginia State Museum

