Commissioner’s Corner

As you will see from the pages of this issue of the Museum newsletter, there is no shortage of topics for us to cover. You will discover the diversity of our staff’s abilities and skills when you read each article.

Features on the summer programming and activities give you a glimpse of the programming that most people see like West Virginia Day and the Appalachian String Band Festival. Other articles that cover care of artifacts, interesting stories about our wonderful state collection and education give you an insight into the behind the scenes work that goes on every day.

I hope you will enjoy this issue and that it gives you a greater appreciation for the care that we are proud to take of these wonderful collections and the heritage of our state!

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Photos by Steven Holsclaw, Tyler Evert and Stephen Brightwell
New animitronic enhancements have been added to the West Virginia State Museum. A United States Marine can be seen resting against a stone pillar outside the Harpers Ferry engine house. He tells of John Brown’s raid on the Armory in 1859 when the abolitionist led a group of 21 men in an assault on the arsenal.

Additional enhancements to this section include a portrait gallery of historic figures at the John Brown Discovery Room and a tent housing two soldiers discussing their anticipation of their first battle.

As you approach the Wheeling docks, you will walk onto the deck of the newly installed steamboat, the Mountain Boy; which provides details of the voyage on March 28, 1870 as state officials, records, and property boarded the steamboat in Wheeling.

Farther down the path, telephone poles line the country road and native animal species react to the movement of visitors; cardinals, rattlesnakes, owls, hawks, crows, and raccoons all make their presence known.

Stories from the Collection

By Charles Morris

With more than 60,000 items in its inventory, the West Virginia State Museum collection is a treasure trove. Whether it is a permanent wave machine from Clarksburg, a mastodon jaw from St. Albans or an apple butter kettle from Meadowood Farms in Ellenboro, artifacts in the collection all have a West Virginia story.

Whenever the museum staff opens an exhibition, it is exciting to hear how visitors relate to the artifacts and art on display. A recent portrait exhibition triggered the memories of many patrons, who recalled stories about family members, friends, and notable personages from the past such as Anna Jarvis (1864-1948), the founder of Mother’s Day; William W. Sanders (1916-61), Superintendent of Negro Schools and Louise McNeill Pease (1911-1993), Poet Laureate.

The extensive collection would not be possible without many generous donations from people who want to see special items preserved and their stories shared. Recent donations to the collection include a side saddle made by John J. Shelton for his daughter Louisa, a razor strop used by Joe Smith and father-in-law John Guy Wilson, and historic sports memorabilia from the now closed Sport Mart Inc. of Charleston.

The museum collection staff is careful about collecting the provenance of each and every artifact. The museum relies on native West Virginians to donate family artifacts, thus ensuring their preservation.

I would like to personally thank you for the tremendous support and many donations that makes the West Virginia State Museum one of the top attractions in the world.

Mastodon jaw found near St. Albans

On the cover . . .

By Holli Vanater

Harpers Ferry engine house. He tells of John Brown’s raid on the Armory in 1859 when the abolitionist led a group of 21 men in an assault on the arsenal.

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Old Time Food Preservation
By Jim Mitchell

Editor’s Note: This article does not contain recipes for the processes described. You should not try any of these preservation methods without a good cookbook and expert hands-on instruction.

Prior to the 1856 invention of refrigeration and the 1858 invention of the Mason jar, our forefathers used a number of methods to preserve food.

Preservation methods included drying meat, fish, herbs, fruit and vegetables; salting beef, pork and mutton; smoking pork and venison; baking hardtack and sea biscuit; brewing beer and ale; sugaring fruit; alcohol leaching herbs and fruit; pickling cucumbers, cauliflower, and cabbage in vinegar; and burying root vegetables stored in sand in a root cellar.

Some vegetables, fruits, meat, and fish can be preserved by drying. After cutting into thin strips and removing seeds, pits, fat and/or bones, the food was placed in trays and set out in the hot summer sun. The weather had to be watched so that the trays could be put under cover in case of rain.

The West Virginia State Museum has a large wooden trough on exhibition that was made from a tree trunk. The trough was used to soak cuts of meat in a salt solution (brine) before being stored in watertight oak barrels. Readers of 18th-century naval fiction often see references about sailors eating boiled meat which had been preserved in barrels filled with salt. A contractor slaughtered livestock, salted the meat, packed it in watertight barrels and sold it to the Navy and private merchant ships. The sailors also ate hardtack, dried peas and beans with their boiled meat.

Grains were milled into flour and baked into hard bread commonly called hardtack or sea biscuit. As long as it did not get wet, it could last indefinitely. It could be broken up and mixed with water, coffee, or molasses to be more palatable.

Malted barley was the source for beer. The barley was malted and fermented with hops flowers to make beer and ale.

Fruits could be preserved by adding sugar to create jams. The flavor, aroma and color of fruit can be preserved by leaching the fruit in 60 proof alcohols to create liqueurs.

Some heavy, water-bearing fruits and vegetables were preserved by soaking in vinegar, salt and spices for a period of time. Ultimately, these brined foods were stored in the solution in salt-glazed stoneware crocks. Cabbage, when treated this way, is called sauerkraut.

Vegetables, which grow as roots, stayed in the ground and were dug up as needed. If they were grown in a very cold climate, they were stored and reburied below the frost line in a root cellar. Apples and pears could be stored in baskets or barrels and placed in a similar cool, but not cold, fruit cellar. Late Russet and Delicious apples were even wrapped individually in newspaper to assist in slow ripening while stored.

Some food commodities such as nuts, coffee, sugar and honey as well as spices and herbs can survive cold weather without processing.

continued on page 14
Recent events at the Museum Sites

Above - Participants at the Appalachian String Band Music Festival 2015, Camp Washington Carver at Clifftop, Fayette County

Above - Portraying medicine man (White Horse) is Historic Re-enactor Jed Jackson at Museum in the Park in Logan on West Virginia Day 2015

Below - Sherri Mestovic of Valley Grove is one of the artists featured this year at Grave Creek Archeological Complex in Moundsville

Dedication of the statue honoring Francis H. Pierpont, West Virginia Independence Hall in Wheeling on West Virginia Day 2015
Part Two: Museum Display Lighting

By Pat Arnold

Editor’s Note: This is the final of a two-part series on how museums determine the best lighting for the artifacts, art and collections that they display.

Lighting displays, as we previously discussed, is not as simple as pointing a light at the object. There are many factors that must be taken into account to ensure that artifacts and art are properly lit and cared for.

As you choose lighting for your galleries and exhibits, here are some points to consider.

A programmable light dimming system is an important component of display lighting. While a large programmable central system can be expensive to install, it provides the best amount of lighting control in the long run.

Two proven, efficient systems are a centrally located dimming system for display areas and a system of smaller lighting dimmers controlled by modules in each display area.

Small systems can be retrofitted into existing lighting circuits and easily removed later. These types of systems are limited to the circuits and the amount of power available.

Dimmers are important because they can be used to lower wattage from original settings and mute the glare and warming effects of lights. Dimmers also allow you to store settings which means lighting can return to specific settings every day and change with exhibits. This extends the life of a lamp by running it below its rated level. This is a valuable tool for most flood lamps and fixtures with harsh light.

Ultraviolet (UV) light is a component of natural light that emanates from regular light fixtures. Over time, exposure to UV light deteriorates organics, paint, fabric and many other materials. Remember: Paintings and valuable collections can get sunburned, too.

Incandescent lights have high amounts of UV. Filters are needed on any fixture pointed at an item that may deteriorate. Fluorescent lights also have high amounts of UV; and should never be used in museums or galleries.

To minimize the effects of UV, quality light fixtures have glass or gel filters available to block the bulk of UV exposure from lights. Natural light coming in from windows should be filtered and can be done by adding UV-blocking overlays to the glass. Overlays are press-apply films and are available from window and auto glass shops. They are sufficient to block the majority of UV rays without changing the color of the natural light. However, a sun-blocking film that darkens windows and blocks sunlight can be applied if it is needed to help properly illuminate objects.

The West Virginia State Museum is lit with UV-filtered incandescent lamps and is transitioning to lower-wattage equivalent lamps as the older lamps burn out. In the future, the museum will transition to LED, or light-emitting diode lamps, wherever possible.

LED lights are made in lumen and color equals to almost all popular lamps sold today. They are more expensive, but are expected to last 20 to 25 times longer than traditional lighting. Using as little as 10 percent of the power, this saves money over time.

This new LED technology has continued on page 14
The Artistic Pursuits of Sarah “Ella” Orr Rightmire (1881-1973)

By Melissa May

The West Virginia State Museum received a donation of several items hand painted by Tucker County artist Ella Orr Rightmire from Chris Kidwell and Alice H. Rathbone, granddaughter of the artist. Among these items are two framed paintings, three individual tiles, a tile plaque, a glass kerosene lamp, and a teapot. Her work is a good representation of the artistic life of women of her era and reflects the life of a woman of independence and accomplishment.

Rightmire was born in Iron Dale Furnace, Preston County, on December 31, 1881. She married Warren H. Rightmire and raised their two children in Parsons. Rightmire attended Davis and Elkins College and had a career as an elementary school educator. Active in the Parsons community, she served as temporary mayor for one month in 1923 when Mayor Clarence Pifer had typhoid fever. During this time she issued a proclamation announcing the death of President Warren G. Harding and declared a period of mourning.

As was common for women at the end of the 19th century, Ella adorned her home with decorative domestic and folk arts. Her home was filled with handmade rugs, statues, tiled tables, paintings and quilts. The museum has 11 quilts made by three generations of the Orr/Rightmire/Harris family.

As early as 1870, china painting became a socially acceptable leisure activity for women interested in artistic and cultural pursuits. Amateur painters took up paintbrushes to decorate ceramic items for their homes. As interest grew, hobby clubs formed with guest artists invited to conduct lectures and demonstrations. American potteries responded to the trend by making black ceramic tiles. While many women became well known professional china decorators, there were others, like Rightmire, who painted for their own pleasure and expression.

In a September 17, 1970 interview with Valerie Cuonzo for the Preston County Journal, Rightmire said, “I paint and just naturally put the designs on. I just make them up as I go.” She had a good command of color and brushwork and created soft edged vignettes of animals and flowers as well as scenic landscapes. Her travel experiences contributed inspiration for subjects and techniques but most of her work reflects regional influences. She earned local recognition for her work. In his 1962 book, The History of Tucker County, Homer F. Fansler referred to Ella Rightmire as “one of the best artists in Tucker County.”

When Cuonzo wrote her article in 1970, Rightmire was 88 years old and still lived independently. Her final remarks to the interviewer captured her wisdom and creative spirit, “Now we are confronted with a revolution of change, new ideas, new attitudes of deep social forces and we must listen with all of the vast knowledge of the past,” she said.
After a lengthy teaching career Carol Cutlip, born in Clarksburg (Harrison County), began contemplating how she would fill her time. After all, she was used to working two jobs to support and educate her children. During her recovery from double knee replacement surgery, she spotted an advertisement in the Sunday newspaper for a $5 quilt class at Sneed’s, a Charleston-based family-owned-and-operated Vacuum and Sewing Center (est. 1956). Every month, she returned for another class and learned to make a new block. At the end of the session, Carol had made a total of six blocks. Not only had she finished her first quilt but she had learned the skill of piecing and was hooked. Since her first creation, she has pieced 47 quilts.

From there, she ventured into long arm quilting and eventually invested in a computerized IQ quilting machine. In 2010, she started her own small business doing custom quilting. She says, “Each quilt is a challenge.”

In the 2014 Quilts and Wall Hangings Exhibition, Cutlip entered her wall hanging titled Pink Lemonade, winning First Place and the Purchase Award in the Wall Hanging category. It took nearly two years to complete because there are no repeat color fabrics. This required her to use more than 360 different colors. The quilting design she used to finish the wall hanging is also a one-of-a-kind idea she developed. She said that making this wall hanging “was a challenge of love.”

This is not Cutlip’s first quilt entry in the West Virginia Division of Culture and History’s Quilt and Wall Hanging Exhibition. She has entered three times and won twice. She has also entered quilts in the State Quilt Show and won four ribbons.
It was in 1857 in Blue Sulphur Springs, Greenbrier County, that an American Saddlebred horse of Grey Eagle stock was born. Owned by Andrew Johnston, who named him Jeff Davis, he was entered into the Lewisburg fairs in 1859 and 1860 winning the top prizes.

Sold to Captain Joseph M. Broun for the price of $175 (around $4,437 today), the horse was renamed Greenbrier and was described as a high-spirited horse with a bold carriage and “…would walk five or six miles an hour over the tough mountains of western Virginia with his rider firmly in the saddle.”

By 1861 the American Civil War had begun and in the fall of that year, the 60th Virginia camped on Sewell Mountain, Fayette County, to oppose the advance of the Union. This is where General Robert E. Lee caught his first glimpse of his soon-to-be horse as he took over command of the Confederate troops. One year and a transfer to South Carolina later, Lee and Broun met again, this time with Broun offering to give Lee his horse. Lee refused and instead bought the horse for a sum of $200 (around $4,600). Lee renamed his horse Traveller and the two would share a special bond during the years to come.

Profiles of West Virginia Veterans:
WORLD WAR I: HENRY BUREN DAVIS

By Melissa May

The West Virginia State Museum has an extensive collection of historical military uniforms and accoutrements representing the involvement of West Virginia citizens to our country’s military history. Each item tells a story of an individual like Henry Buren Davis (1890-1974), an Army Private in World War I, from Willis Branch.

Davis’s uniform, among other items, includes a wool blouse with military patches and ribbons. From these, Davis' military career can be revealed. For instance, he earned a red honorable discharge stripe and two overseas chevrons indicating he had 12 months of overseas service; Victory Medal ribbons have two campaign stars indicating involvement in either the Somme Offensive or the Meuse-Argonne campaigns; and because his right sleeve is bare, we know that he held the rank of private and was never wounded.

Upon returning home, Davis married Marie Aline Horch and they lived in Pax, Fayette County, where he owned and operated the Buren Davis Esso Service Station and Garage for more than 50 years. He was civically active in his community throughout his life and a member of the local Masonic Lodge. He is buried in the Pax Cemetery.

When a Horse Isn’t Just a Horse

By Rachel Moses

It was in 1857 in Blue Sulphur Springs, Greenbrier County, that an American Saddlebred horse of Grey Eagle stock was born. Owned by Andrew Johnston, who named him Jeff Davis, he was entered into the Lewisburg fairs in 1859 and 1860 winning the top prizes.

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2015 Diversifying Perspectives Art Contest and Exhibition

By Cailin Howe

The period for the 2015 Diversifying Perspectives Art Contest and Exhibition came to a close for another year at the end of July. Eighteen artists from across the state submitted 36 entries in a wide variety of mediums for judging. This exhibition, presented by the West Virginia Division of Rehabilitation Services, features original artwork created by people with disabilities to promote their creative and unique abilities, talents and contributions. More than 10 West Virginia counties were represented in the show, with entries arriving from as far away as Ohio County in the northern panhandle to Monroe County in the southeast corner of the state. Many local artists were represented in the contest as well, making for a truly diverse judging and exhibition.

Judging for the 2015 exhibition was conducted by local artist Pat Roberts. She was thrilled to be working with the Division of Rehabilitation Services to jury this show and was very impressed by the artwork. Pat is inspired by the colors that accompany the changing seasons and the beauty of nature, and enjoys communicating those emotions through her own artwork. She paints mostly with watercolor and acrylic, but also incorporates other mediums into many of her paintings including collage, assemblage, and different textures and objects. Pat is a member and the president of Gallery Eleven in Charleston, as well as a member of many organizations and guilds, notably the Allied Artists of West Virginia, Signature Status in the West Virginia Watercolor Society and Region II Director, National League of American Pen Women, and the West Virginia Art and Craft Guild. Pat has exhibited her work extensively both in state and out of state.

This year’s Grand Exhibitor is Greg Siegwart for his colored pencil drawing, titled “1865,” a visual biographical portrait of Abraham Lincoln. Born in Wheeling, Siegwart’s love of painting began when he picked up a brush at the age of 10. This hobby turned into a therapeutic refuge for Siegwart after experiencing a traumatic brain injury from an automobile accident in 2000. This self-taught artist continues his love of oil painting while progressing further into the world of fine arts. As the Grand Exhibitor, Greg and his artwork will be featured in a poster promoting National Disability Awareness Month, which is celebrated annually in October.

The 2015 exhibition opened Thursday, September 3, at the Culture Center in Charleston with an opening ceremony and awards and will remain on display through November 7, 2015.

The West Virginia Division of Rehabilitation Services proudly presents this contest and exhibition in partnership with the West Virginia Office of the Secretary of Education and the Arts and the West Virginia Division of Culture and History.
Since 1979, artists and craftspeople from across West Virginia have participated in the West Virginia Juried Exhibition, showcasing the exceptional talent and creativity found throughout the Mountain State. For more than three decades, artists have continued to submit impressive artwork for jurying in a number of different mediums, including printmaking, sculpture, photography, mixed media, painting, crafts, and drawing, providing the public with a comprehensive view of art and craft activities in the state. The West Virginia Division of Culture and History has awarded numerous purchase awards to artists. For the 2015 West Virginia Juried Exhibition, $33,000 in awards will be presented to artists for their outstanding work.

More than 500 talented artists submitted 951 works of art for the inaugural 1979 West Virginia Juried Exhibition. Two jurors selected 113 works for the exhibition. The top awards for the 1979 exhibition were $3,000 purchase awards, and allowed the West Virginia Division of Culture and History to add new contemporary art, created by West Virginians, to the museum collection. Since 1981, the show has given artists the opportunity to receive awards in three categories; the Governor’s Award, Award of Excellence, and Merit Awards. The Governor’s Award, also known as the D. Gene Jordon Memorial Award, and the Award of Excellence remain purchase awards.

Although the artwork received for the juried show is diverse in medium and style, the inspiration artists take from the natural beauty and history of our state is a common thread. This creativity has garnered high praise from both jurors and governors. Many have said they believe the West Virginia exhibition is one of the finest art shows in the United States. In 2013, Governor Earl Ray Tomblin stated, “…each piece showcases the creativity of artists whose talents are unique and whose lives in the Mountain State are translated from thoughtful concepts to artistic completion.”

Please join us in Beckley at Tamarack: The Best of West Virginia to celebrate the opening of the 19th West Virginia Juried Exhibition on November 8 at 4 p.m., and view the unique artwork found throughout the Mountain State.

The variety of work displayed in the exhibition bears testimony that West Virginians are maintaining the quality of our heritage while also progressing in the contemporary media.

-- Governor John D. Rockefeller IV, 1981
Web-based Learning at the West Virginia State Museum

By Nancy Herholdt

The Museum Education’s website offers an introduction to the state museum in various ways. The chronological design and corresponding topics and themes are identified. Short video clips produced by West Virginia Public Broadcasting are available for each of the 26 discovery rooms. There are 38 lesson plans for educators to use in preparation for a museum visit. The original website resources were developed to support pre-visit preparation, on-site exploration and post-visit projects.

Teachers may select from a wide assortment of programs when scheduling a visit to the museum. Students return to the classroom with materials, memories and more insight into their state’s history and cultural heritage. Working with students one-on-one is very gratifying and provides an opportunity to observe first-hand what works and what doesn’t. There’s another audience for the state museum consisting of schools that cannot make the trip. Last year the groundwork was laid for a special project that serves this deserving audience.

Working with the support and enthusiasm of the West Virginia Department of Education’s Division of Learning, the museum education staff has been developing online resources for use in the classroom. The content is driven by the West Virginia History Standards that are now in place for K-5th and 8th grades. Textbooks have been available for 4th and 8th grades in the past. Data delivered via the internet for all grades is a welcome alternative. In October and November 2014, teachers were brought together to create teams for developing lessons and activities. The project’s lay-out and design is being produced by the museum education staff. The elementary grades will be launched soon. The secondary grades will continue to be developed.

Check out the current Museum Education website http://www.wvculture.org/museum/education/EDUindex.html and watch for the new changes coming soon!
Artifact Spotlight

The Ingles family clock
Ca. 1738
Discovery Room 4
Donated by Dr. John P. Hale

The Ingles clock first belonged to William and Mary Ingles, two of the earliest settlers in the Kanawha Valley. It came into the possession of the museum as the property of Dr. John P. Hale, a descendant of the Ingles Family.

Did You Know:
Mary Ingles was captured by the Shawnee Indians along with her two sons, Thomas and George, and her sister-in-law. They were taken more than 500 miles away. Mary was able to escape and made her way back home several months later. You can read her story in the book *Follow the River* by James Alexander Thom.

Museum Education

When it comes time to visit the museum, we have many different programs to assist school students in learning about the history of West Virginia. If you are visiting the museum with your family, we have activities for you as well. Ask at the front desk for the latest handouts.
State Museum Shop: J.Q. Dickinson Salt-Works

By Adam Jones

The State Museum Gift Shop has a new addition that is sure to add some flavor to your next meal: J.Q. Dickinson Salt. Located in Malden (Kanawha County), J.Q. Dickinson Salt-Works was founded in the early 1800s by William Dickinson. A businessman from Bedford County, Virginia, Dickinson heard of the successful salt industry in what was then Kanawha County, Virginia, and knew he had to invest in a “salt property.” By 1817 his business was flourishing.

After 165 years and many, many barrels of salt later, J.Q. Dickinson Salt-Works closed its doors. Fortunately for us, it wasn’t long until siblings and seventh generation descendants of Dickinson, Nancy Burns and Lewis Payne, decided to revive the family business. Today they use environmentally friendly techniques to produce small-batch finishing salt on the same farm where Dickinson lived.

You can pick up your very own jar of salt from the State Museum Gift Shop where store manager Sandy Eads says it is a popular item. “People really like it! We always have to restock and put in more orders,” Eads said. A 1-oz. jar is $4.50 and a 3.5-oz. jar is $7.95.

The State Museum Gift Shop, located inside the Culture Center, is open Monday - Saturday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and is closed on Sundays. For more information, call the State Museum Gift Shop at (304) 205-7911.

Old Time Food Preservation

continued from page 4.

When Mason jars became available, and the hot packing method for preserving foods became popular, the techniques described earlier became mostly obsolete. Refrigeration and freezing sounded the death knell for old processes and ushered in our modern age.

Museum Display Lighting

continued from page 6.

led to a gradual phase out of incandescent lights, which waste energy and produce more heat than light. This phasing-out is taking place by law and may be something that you have already noticed when you are purchasing lights for your business or home. Incandescent lights of 100 watts or above are no longer available; 75-watt lamps are being phased out to 60-watt equivalent lamps. This year, even 60-watt incandescent lamps will not be available.
It's Kid Time

West Virginia Trivia

1. What is the official state insect of West Virginia?
2. What was the former name of Parkersburg?
3. Who was West Virginia's fourteenth governor?
4. This West Virginian is the current host of the TV game show *Family Feud*.
5. Blackwater Falls is located in this county.
6. What river empties into the Kanawha River in Charleston?
7. If the temperature reaches 90 degrees, this town hands out free lemonade.
8. What is the official state animal?
9. The world's largest fully steerable radio telescope is found in what West Virginia community?
10. What is the oldest county in West Virginia?

...Did you know?

The longest cave in West Virginia is the Friars Hole Cave located in Pocahontas and Greenbrier counties. It has more than 44 miles of passages that have been explored so far. This cave system is the sixth longest in the United States.

Unscramble the letters below to find the name of this famous frontiersman who lived in the Kanawha Valley and Point Pleasant in the late 1700s.

E N A D L I N O O E B

[Unscrambled answer]

State Museum Hours

Tuesday - Saturday
9:00 - 5:00
Sunday - Monday
CLOSED
304-558-0162

The Culture Center Hours

Monday - Friday
8:30 - 5:30
Saturday 9:00 - 5:30
Sunday    CLOSED
304-558-0220

West Virginia Trivia Answers:
1. honey bee
2. Parker's Landing
3. Henry D. Hatfield
4. Steve Harvey
5. Tucker County
6. Elk River
7. Bluefield
8. black bear
9. Greenbank
10. Hancock
West Virginia State Museum