

Commissioner's Corner



On behalf of the West Virginia Division of Culture and History, I'd like to welcome you to our museums' newsletter, which we hope will help you to connect or reconnect with all the free, family fun events we host throughout the year. Whether you're a first-time visitor or a returning visitor, you and your family will find much to love and learn at our museums and historic sites that showcase our diverse culture and heritage all across West Virginia.

You will discover the marvels of the prehistoric Adena people at Grave Creek Mound Archaeological Complex in Moundsville and enjoy more than 6,000 artifacts on display at the West Virginia State Museum in Charleston. This year, as West Virginia celebrates its sesquicentennial, we unveiled a special exhibit in January that focuses on 150 people, places and events that helped to shape the lives of West Virginians over the past 150 years. West Virginia 150, which can be seen at the Culture Center on the state Capitol grounds, also features West Virginia's national and international accomplishments and achievements as they have unfolded since the state's birth on June 20, 1863. To learn even more about our state's early years, visit West Virginia Independence Hall in Wheeling, where period-costumed guides share stories about the 35th state to join the United States.

Our Museum in the Park at Chief Logan State Park showcases the best in West Virginia history and the arts, and features changing exhibits and displays of artwork and historical items from the collections of the West Virginia State Museum and the State Archives. You will find rich natural and cultural history at Camp Washington-Carve, set on an 83-acre wooded hillside at Clifftop. Named for Booker T. Washington and George Washington Carver, this former 4-H camp for African-Americans is home to the annual Appalachian String Band Music Festival in August that draws some of the best fiddlers and pickers from around the world.

As you can see, we offer something for everyone, so get to know us better and find that out for yourself! To learn more, visit wvculture.org.

Sincerely,
Randall Reid-Smith

WEST VIRGINIA STATE MUSEUM

Since 1894

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Welcome to the West Virginia State Museum

By Charles Morris

As Director of Museums, I would like to welcome you to the West Virginia State Museum. Founded in 1894, the State Museum in Charleston is one of the oldest continuous agencies in state government. The museum is extremely proud of the many artifacts collected since Governor William A. MacCorkle and Dr. John P. Hale opened the museum on Capitol Street 118 years ago.

Through the years the museum has exhibited many types of artifacts in a variety of environments but always in a space contained within the capitol building itself or in an adjacent building such as the Culture Center.

Today, the Museum is ready to provide opportunities for all to learn and experience in a revitalized museum showcasing state of the art technology, educational programs and artifacts that bring history to life.

The museum's immersed environment is

a visitor's dream for children, as well as adults and scholars.

A recent review by Bernard Fishman of the American Association of Museums reported "The West Virginia State Museum seemed excellent to this reviewer in virtually every respect. Almost everything that could be seen was of the highest quality, or was being transformed into something

of the highest quality, and represented enormous and even loving commitments of time, financial support, thoughtful consideration, thorough research, and high regard for the public."

We are very appreciative of those words from one of the leading professionals in the museum community.

We would like to know your thoughts on the museum and hope that you have the opportunity to visit in the very near future. Your West Virginia State Museum welcomes you.



Scott Brother's Drug Store inside the WV State Museum

The Culture Center Hours

Monday - Saturday

8:30 - 5:30

Sunday

Noon - 5:30

304-558-0220

West Virginia State Museum

Hours

Tuesday - Saturday

9:00 - 5:00

Sunday

Noon - 5:00

Closed Mondays

It's Kid Time . . .

Ever wonder what it would be like to open a time capsule from long ago? A time capsule is a great way to learn what was important to people long ago.

You can create your own time capsule to show people or even yourself years from now what was important to you.

What you will need:

1. A good watertight plastic container. It can be about the size of a shoebox - bigger or smaller depending on what you want to put in it.

2. Pictures, drawings or other things that you like that will let people know about you and the current time period including baseball cards, jewelry, toys, a hat or a book.

3. A letter to the people who will be opening the time capsule explaining why you made the capsule, why you put each of the items inside and what they mean to you.

4. Next find a good place to bury the time capsule. It should be a place where no one will bother it and where you will have access to

it later on. Ask an adult if there is a safe place to bury it in the yard. Set a date when you will open it, maybe 5, 10 or even 20 years in the future.

Make sure you make a good map and write down when you will retrieve your time capsule. A good place to put this information is a photo album so you will always keep it.

Good Luck!

West Virginia's State Symbols

West Virginia has adopted a number of state symbols, ranging from traditional songs to treasures of the natural world.

The state motto, *Montani Semper Liberi* (Latin for "Mountaineers are always free"), was suggested by Joseph H. Diss Debar, the artist who created the state's Great Seal. It was officially adopted as the state motto in Article II, Section 2-7 of the state constitution, signed in 1872.

The large stone in the center represents strength, and it bears the date West Virginia was admitted to the Union (June 20, 1863). Two men stand next to the stone – a farmer with his ax to represent agriculture and a miner holding a pick to represent industry. The two rifles in front of the stone symbolize that freedom and liberty were won and maintained by force of arms.

West Virginia Glass Factories in the State Museum

Since 1815, there have been about 450 factories which made glass in western Virginia and West Virginia. There also have been about 50 identified independent craftsmen who have made glass in larger companies and marked their ware with their name or initials. Generally, the West Virginia State Museum has accumulated glass objects based on items donated to us.

An examination of the collection and the records shows that previous curators have attempted to acquire glass from as many factories as possible. We did not know precisely how many factories existed until S. Dean Six published his list in 1993 and have since

attempted to expand our collection to include

as many factories and independent craftsmen as possible. At the present we have 174 in the collection. When the glass exhibition in the museum opened in 1996, we had 72 in the collection.

The current exhibits have 57 factories and independent craftsmen represented although some of the early and large factories are represented by more than one object. There are 188 pieces of West Virginia glass on exhibit not counting bottles and jars representing whiskey, wine, beer, milk and soda water bottlers.

Bottles and containers, flat (window) glass, and table ware, the three branches of glass manufacturing, are all represented at our sites and the museum. In addition, the state is known to

have produced as much colored glass as clear. Although the heyday of glass manufacturing was in the 20th century, 19th century glass making is represented by 20 pieces of Hobbs Brockunier glass (1863-1886) and 15 pieces of Central Glass Company (1867-1891). Both operated in Wheeling.

The earliest piece of glass in the museum is a bottle from McCarty and Torreyson's Glass Works (1842-1856) in Wellsburg.

The earliest piece of glass in the museum is a bottle from McCarty and Torreyson's Glass Works (1843-1856 in Wellsburg).



McCarty and Torreyson Glass Flask

The Library in the State Museum

For those of you who have been in every nook and cranny of the West Virginia State Museum, you have probably taken advantage of the reading area in the North Connections Room. The library features work by West Virginia writers and subjects of regional interest. The literature is organized in the following categories: general, prehistory/frontier, civil war, military (other than civil war), children's literature, history and government, fiction and folklore, and industry. Comfortable seating makes this a great place to stop and take in a good book. The North Connections Room's glass wall is one of the two places in the museum that provide a view of the outdoors. If you just can't get enough – many of the volumes are available to check out in the Library Commission's reference library or may be purchased in the State Museum Shop. The library and shop are located on the first floor at each end of the Culture Center's Great Hall where you enter and exit the State Museum.

Trash or Treasure?

You see them all the time— by the roadside on trash day, in your attic, in your garage— broken items that used to be someone's treasured possession being sent to the landfill.

So, what do you do with the furniture that has fallen into disrepair or is now in pieces in boxes in the attic? Do you fix it or toss it? How do you decide if it's worth it?

The answer to that question is unique to each item you might find.

This bicycle dates from approximately 1869 and was made by a blacksmith from West Virginia. The bicycle was given to us in many pieces and many more were

missing.

There were several points of view on what to do with this particular artifact. Some said it was hopeless and it should be deaccessioned, while others felt it deserved a chance. Fortunately, it was decided to give it a chance to be restored and conserved.

This bike is made with a metal frame, wooden spokes, wooden hub, wooden felloes (wood rim of the tire) and a metal tire. Many of the spokes were missing as well as the front hub. There were two felloes for each tire but I only had one of each. Everything that was missing had to be reproduced as close to the original piece as

possible.

I was able to make new spokes and bend the metal pieces back into shape. Our curator, who also does lathe work, turned a new hub for me and I made the holes to accommodate the spokes. I turned to Amish carriage makers to make the new felloes since they were made out of hickory and had to be bent.

With the help of many people, we were able to preserve a very rare artifact that is now a centerpiece in the new State Museum.

By Mary McFarland
Museum Technician



*On the left is the bicycle as it was given to the museum.
On the right is the completed bicycle after restoration.*

The Museum Sites of Culture and History

The Museum Section and the Division of Culture and History would like to invite you to tour our wonderful museums throughout the state of West Virginia. The trip will take you to the northern panhandle, the scenic trail of Route 60, better known as the midland trail, and southern West Virginia.

We will first head to the northern panhandle where the birthplace of West Virginia and statehood meetings occurred, West Virginia Independence Hall in Wheeling. Originally constructed in 1858-59 as a federal post office, custom house and courthouse. Wheeling held the first statehood meetings in 1861-62. Its location on the Ohio River and its distance from Richmond made it an ideal sight for those early meetings.

The next stop on our tour is Camp Washington Carver located at Clifftop. This unique facility was created by an act

of the legislature on March 9, 1937 and became a “Negro 4-H Camp” for recreational and camping purposes. The Chestnut Lodge, an assembly and dining hall, is one of the largest such structures in



*Independence Hall, Wheeling,
West Virginia*

the world.

Though young in facility years, the Grave Creek Mound Archaeological Complex actually has one of the oldest artifacts, the Adena Burial Mound, dating around

250 A.D. The facility houses the Delf Norona Museum featuring exhibitions related to archaeology and a storage facility where related material is catalogued and re-

searched. The museum also features special exhibitions such as Marble King and Homer Laughlin China Company.

Lastly, we travel south to Logan where Museum in the Park is nestled in Chief Logan State Park. Along with the museum the 4,400 acre park houses a conference center, wildlife center, campground and outdoor amphitheater. The museum features historic, contemporary and local exhibits of interest.

We hope this little introduction to the museums of the Division of Culture and History entices you to visit. You are always welcome throughout the state at these wonderful agency sites.

WEST VIRGINIA TRIVIA

1. Who was the first governor of West Virginia?
2. What was the last county formed in West Virginia?
3. The first Capitol Building of West Virginia was located in what city?

West Virginia State Museum Discovery Programs for Students

Young Explorers: Our Student Fun Pack is a great way to introduce young people to the West Virginia State Museum. Filled with interesting information and suggested activities, this program fosters discovery and observation.



The Adventure Kit: The Adventure Kit consists of materials for gathering information. This program is a natural for post visit projects in the classroom. Adventure questions, a themed museum map and a journal are included.

Young Writers: Big Picture questions and a journal are provided for this program. The topics stimulate post-visit research, group discussion and literary work.

Media Stories: Teachers may choose between video and still image formats for their students. Media questions focus on artifacts and historic information throughout West Virginia's history. Students are given flash drives to download and keep their work.

Team Challenge - Classroom Jeopardy: Teams search for pre-loaded questions. At the designated time, everyone gathers in the Education Center for a fast-paced game of Classroom Jeopardy.



Outreach Programs and Video Conferencing: We are extending our programs beyond the State Museum. Outreach topics include Immigration and Settlement to Civil War. Video Conferencing programs will focus on the The Frontier, The Civil War, civil rights and our cultural heritage. To check the status of these offerings go to the website:

www.wvculture.org/museum/education/EDUindex.html or e-mail:
wvmuseumed@wv.gov

The West Virginia Culture Center!

On July 11, 1976, the Science and Culture Center opened its doors to the public to showcase the new State Museum, State Archives and Library Commission. The 22,000 square foot museum on the lower level was state of the art with audios for each exhibit and slide presentations covering such historic topics as statehood, transportation and industry.

The new facility added space to all components of preservation of collections including museum artifacts, research materials and documents. The State

Archives opened a state of the art genealogy research component as well as specialized storage units for special collections and the reference library. Over the next 30 plus years,



Quilts on display in the Great Hall

Commissioners of the Department of Culture and History, (the administrative agency formed a year later, in 1977) have provided leader-

ship in archives, arts, history, preservation and museums sections. This unique model has provided a variety of services to constituents. This West Virginia

Division of Culture and

History model became so successful that states throughout the country molded related departments in this format.

The Culture Center and the sections it houses are looking brightly to pres-

ervation and educational programs that will make West Virginia a leader in the twenty-first century.

On opening day, thousands of visitors toured the majestic new building with its marble columns and dodecahedron chandeliers that welcomed visitors into the entrance known as the Great Hall.

West Virginia Journeys Program

The West Virginia Journeys program was created to provide patrons who visit the museum repeatedly throughout the year new and enriching opportunities to discover, explore, and learn exciting facts and stories about West Virginia. Anyone completing the registration form can participate in this free program. There are three different age groups – 10 and under,

11 to 18, and adult. The 2012 program runs from June 20, 2012 through May 30, 2013.

How Does it Work?

Eleven challenges have been created this year. Each visit to the museum provides you a new opportunity to complete a challenge and receive a new stamp. At the end of the year, on June 20, 2013, West Virginia Day,

those who have completed the most challenges will be recognized for their participation. Registration is required.

Questions and comments can be directed to:

The West Virginia State Museum
(304) 558-0220, ext. 111

West Virginia Day Celebration



WEST VIRGINIA STATE MUSEUM

Since 1894



Photographs of the June 20, 2012 Sesquicentennial kick-off celebrations at the Culture Center, Charleston, and Independence Hall, Wheeling.

Museum Education & Social Media

Join us as we launch our new social networks! Track the programs and events at the West Virginia State Museum. Share your thoughts, ask questions and alert your friends.

West Virginia State Museum App: WVSM Free download available on Apple and Android devices. Access the most current updates for program announcements, West Virginia quizzes, and on-site activity. 2013 is the year of the West Virginia Sesquicentennial (150th birthday). Celebrate with us all year!

Facebook page: West Virginia State Museum Education tracks the most recent activity at the state museum. We have great stories and images to share. Talk to us; we love to chat.

Our Twitter page is: @wvmuseumed Share and follow museum updates.

E-mail us at : wvmuseumed@wv.gov An oldie but a goodie - we answer all e-mails

Website: <http://www.wvculture.org/museum/education/EDUindex.html>

The site provides in-depth information, direct link to the group reservation request line, and additional material for teachers and students.

Enjoy customizing your interaction with the West Virginian State Museum. We are looking forward to your visit.

State Museum Shop

In need of a quick gift and want to show state pride? From Fiesta Dinnerware to hand-painted glass Christmas ornaments, the West Virginia State Museum Gift Shop has what you are looking for. A satellite of Tamarack, it holds arts and crafts created by West Virginia artisans.

Although it may be a smaller area, there is still a cornucopia of items to browse through. Here, shoppers can find almost any West Virginia-made product they are looking for. It is the best place to pick up a

favorite book written by a West Virginian, about West Virginia or both. Beautiful hand-blown glass ranging from paperweights to fruit bowls are available as well as handmade oven mitts and wooden trinkets.

There also are locally made salsas, delicious sweets and candies, jarred vegetables, and homemade jams found at the shop in all different varieties. Beautiful one of a kind jewelry is for sale; some made from glass, some from coins and others made from recycled materials like bicycle tires.



Fiestaware by Homer Laughlin China Company in Newell, West Virginia.

If it is children that need a gift, there are great t-shirts with The Fleas, Alexander and Emmiline, on the front and battery-powered replica miner hats. Stop by the West Virginia State Museum Gift Shop located in The Culture Center Tuesday through Saturday 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. or Sunday 12:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m. The Shop is closed on Mondays.

WEST VIRGINIA STATE MUSEUM

Since 1894

WV Capitol Building

On June 20, 2012, the state of West Virginia celebrated its 149th birthday and began a yearlong kick-off for the Sesquicentennial. We also honored the 80th anniversary of the State Capitol building. This beautiful architectural masterpiece designed by Cass Gilbert is a style of Italian Renaissance that leading architects say would be at home anywhere in the world. Visitors from across the globe have marveled and often stated that it is one of the most magnificent capitol buildings in the country.

The capitol was built in three phases. The west wing was built between January 1924 and March 1925 for a cost of \$1,218,171.32; the east wing from July 26 to December 1927 at a cost of \$1,361,425 and the rotunda, dome and the main unit for \$4,482,623.21 with construction occurring from March 1930 to February 1932.

It is important to note that the people of West Virginia, during the hard times in the Depression era, wanted to see a structure that could make all West Virginians proud. When ground was broken for the final sec-

tion, the New York Stock Exchange had just recently collapsed but even though there were hard times the completion of the capitol continued on schedule. For the most part, the state did not cut corners and followed the direction of the architect. Gilbert was very hands-on and designed the two houses of the Legislature with beautiful archways, marble columns, carved at the top with a series of symbols that represent the heritage of West Virginia and each foyer ceiling embellished



West Virginia State Capitol Building

with panels containing leaf arrangements that represent West Virginia hardwoods. The dome, which was originally gilded as it is today, stands at 292 feet tall, which is 4-½ feet taller than the na-

tion's capitol. The spectacular dome sparkles and reflects on the Kanawha River in Charleston.

Story Continued on page 13

For Capitol Tours, call
304-558-4839

Artifact Spotlight

George Washington began his surveying career at the age of sixteen, due mostly to the opportunities provided to him by Lord Thomas Fairfax. Appointed by Lord Fairfax in spring of 1748 to survey his lands in the Shenandoah Valley as an assistant to James Genn, the Prince William Company surveyor, George Washington quickly fell in love with the land, calling it "the cream of the country." In 1750, Washington bought his first tract of land in present

day West Virginia, the Bullskin Plantation in Jefferson County.

Washington eventually owned nearly 35,000 acres in the Kanawha Valley.



Washington's telescope he used to survey the land in the Shenendoah Valley.

WV Capitol Building *continued*

During the construction of the capitol there were skeptics who felt that the building was too large and the offices would never be filled. Today, as we view the beautiful capitol complex and the work of many who were visionaries and dedicated to a plan that would make all West Virginians proud we celebrate the West Virginia State Capitol that has helped guide the lives of its state residents since its dedication on June 20, 1932.

Token Coin Program and Upcoming Token Coin Events

In commemoration of West Virginia's sesquicentennial the Museum section will be producing token coins for visitors of the Culture Center over the next year. The commemorative coins will have the state motto on one side and a state symbol on the other. Check out the schedule below for the event dates.

April 27, 2013

- Presentation of the Sesquicentennial Quilt; quilt workshop in the Great Hall
- Program on Symbols of WV – State Flag, Songs, Color
- Token – Golden Delicious Apple - State Fruit

**New token series
begins in July!**

**Find more
information in the
Summer 2013
issue.**



Museum showpath

**For information about the
Token program or any of other
programs please contact
Museum Guest Services at
304-558-0220 Ext. 111**

Calendar of Events

Culture Center

304-558-0220

www.wvculture.org

5th Annual A. James Manchin Memorial Marble Tournament, April 6, 2013

Symbols of West Virginia, April 27, 2013

West Virginia Juried Quilt Exhibition, May 24- September 4, 2013

Vandalia Gathering, May 24 & 25 2013 - **Musicians will be center stage for the 2013 Vandalia Gathering at the State Capitol Complex when the annual festival takes place on Friday, May 24, and Saturday, May 25. This year's festival will focus on the music competitions, concerts and awards. In June, the Vandalia Gathering will be featured as a part of West Virginia's 150th birthday celebration, hosted by the West Virginia Sesquicentennial Commission.**

West Virginia Sesquicentennial Celebration, June 20-22, 2013

West Virginia Independence Hall

304-238-1300

A New Star in the Union: Abraham Lincoln and West Virginia Statehood, April 20, 2013- 2:00PM

Free public lecture by Sir Neil Cossons, former Chair of English Heritage, on the importance of presevation and conservation, May 9, 2013

"The Revolution That Forged a State" - a presentation by scholar Ronald L. Lewis, June 6, 2013
7:00pm

"The Political Genius of Abraham Lincoln: Emancipation and West Virginia Statehood," a presentation by scholar Forest "Jack" Bowman, June 13, 2013

150 Years: West Virginia Sesquicentennial Celebration!, June 20, 2013

Grave Creek Mound

304-843-4128

"Plant a Sunflower" at Discovery Table, April 16-June 16, 2013

Recent Excavations at the Armory at Harpers Ferry National Park, April 25, 2013

4th Annual Sowing of the Seeds, May 19, 2013

Early American Prehistory in the Middle Atlantic Area - Lecture and Film Series, May 30, 2013

Museum in the Park

304-792-7125

30th annual Sue Browning Wildflower Hike, April 20, 2013

State of West Virginia
Earl Ray Tomlin, Governor

Education and the Arts
Kay Goodwin, Cabinet Secretary
Martha McKee, Deputy Cabinet Secretary

Division of Culture and History - Museum Section
Randall Reid-Smith, Commissioner
Caryn Gresham, Deputy Commissioner
Charles Morris, Director of Museums
Holli Vanater, Museum Operations Manager
Nancy Herholdt, Museum Education Manager
Jim Mitchell, Museum Curator
Betty Gay, Exhibition Coordinator
Darren Husband, Traveling Exhibition Designer
Pat Arnold, Systems Specialist
Chris Reed, Museum Education Specialist
Rachel Moses, Museum Education Specialist
Matt Boggess, Cultural Program Specialist
Mary McFarland, Museum Technician
Steven Holsclaw, Guest Services
Elizabeth Yeager, Guest Services
Andrea Nelson, Guest Services
Adam Jones, Guest Services
Tim Walton, Guest Services





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

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Charleston, WV 25301

West Virginia State Museum



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