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WVRHC Newsletter, Fall 2017

West Virginia & Regional History Center

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West Virginia and Regional History Center

NEWSLETTER

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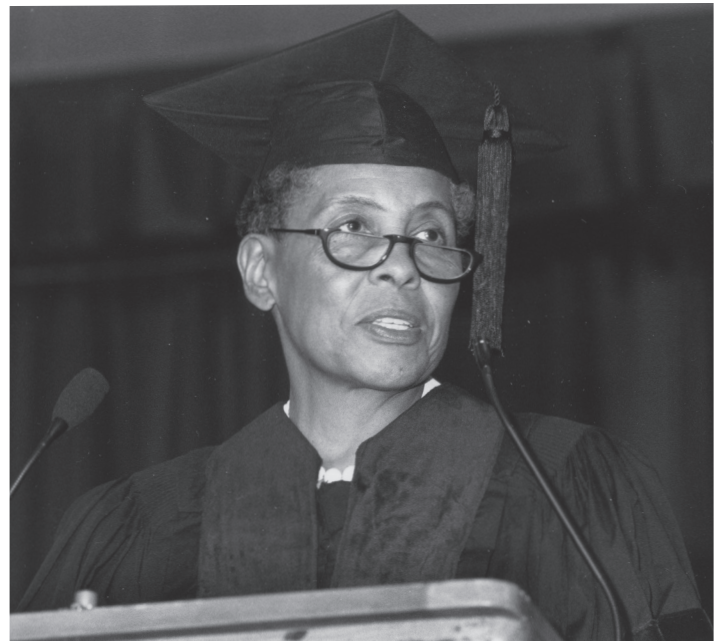
Ancella Bickley Papers Document the Life and Work of Pioneer Black Educator and Historian

The name Ancella Bickley is well known to anyone who has delved into the field of black history in the Mountain State over the past century. Teacher, administrator, author and historian, Dr. Bickley is widely recognized as a pioneer not only in elucidating the African American experience in West Virginia but also in living it! An extensive body of archives and manuscripts documenting this trailblazer's career is now open to research in the West Virginia and Regional History Center.

Bickley grew up in the 1930s and 1940s in Huntington which was then home to one of the largest African American communities in the state. It was also one of the best educated, thanks in no small part to Frederick Douglass Junior-Senior High School. Segregated but academically exceptional and nationally accredited, Douglas High was not just a school but a vibrant cultural center which served as an educational resource for the entire community.

Graduating in 1947, Bickley enrolled at West Virginia State College, one of 17 black land-grant colleges established in 1890 by the Second Morrill Act. Earning a bachelor's degree in English with high honors in 1950, she went on to earn a master's degree at Marshall University in Huntington where she had the distinction of being the institution's first full time black student.

Bickley taught at West Virginia State and assorted other schools for more than a decade before continuing her studies at West Virginia University during the early 1970s, receiving a doctorate in Education in 1974. She had recently returned to her alma mater, West Virginia



Ancella Bickley speaking at Marshall University commencement, 1990. Bickley was awarded an honorary Doctorate of Pedagogy from Marshall during this event.

State, and quickly became one of the institution's leading lights including serving several terms as Vice President and Provost.

Some of the many accolades she received in the ensuing years included the National Education Association's Carter G. Woodson Memorial Award, 1980; West Virginia Woman of the Year, 1984; and the West Virginia State College Alumnus of the Year, 1988. She was a Rockefeller Foundation Scholar at Marshall University in 1999.

Throughout her career Dr. Bickley's research focus rested on African American history, sociology, and education. Particularly notable is her book on the educator/activist Memphis Tennessee Garrison (1890-1988)

West Virginia and Regional History Center NEWSLETTER

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which was published by Ohio University Press in 2001. She was also a prolific writer of fiction including numerous short stories and plays.

A popular public speaker, she revealed the untold stories of West Virginia black educators, organizers, and everyday people. The rich array of speeches in her papers include literary treatises, historical overviews, personal reminiscences, guidance for college students, and much more. She spoke openly about racism and the hidden nature of the black West Virginian's story in many of her works. She confronted her audiences, challenging them to face and openly discuss the history of slavery and its legacy. When asked on one occasion by a school teacher how she should have responded when a black student said he was embarrassed when the class discussed slavery, Dr. Bickley replied, "Try to comfort that child, but please don't stop. I do not feel that we blacks have anything to be ashamed about for being enslaved."



Ancella and Nelson Bickley in 1972.

Dr. Bickley's continued commitment to helping young African Americans is evident throughout her files. In various speeches to students at West Virginia State she encouraged them to become committed to their communities and provided specific examples of how participating in the electoral process impacts their lives. She also composed short plays regarding the importance of researching candidates and issues before voting.

The Bickley Collection holds a wealth of information about African American history in West Virginia particularly regarding education. Included is research on the desegregation of schools after *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas*, and its impact on the lives of blacks in the state. Transcripts of oral history interviews with black teachers comprise a significant part of the collection as well as documentation on the history of schools and colleges where they were employed.

Bickley's papers also include personal correspondence, photographs, and other records that document her career, including her years at West Virginia University during the late 1960s and early 1970s. In 1966, her husband Nelson Bickley was recruited to head the ROTC program at Potomac State College. When the administration could not find housing for a black family in Keyser, he was transferred to WVU's Morgantown campus. They found welcome shelter in the home of WVU Engineering professor Wilhelm Van Eck while he was away doing research in Africa. Their occupancy prompted their neighbors to write a petition protesting the black family's move into the neighborhood. Mrs. Bickley later wrote about the strain she felt during this time. "I had no idea whether our neighbors would be mean and violent, or where I would go for help if I needed it.... I was coming, unwanted, to a space in my own state, in my own country and I was frightened." Fortunately, the ROTC community rallied around the Bickley family and quieted her fears.



With Dr. Thomas Cole, President of West Virginia State College, during commencement ceremonies, 1986.



Bickley with Alice Walker, activist and Pulitzer Prize winning author, ca. 1983.

While pursuing her doctorate at WVU, Bickley joined the English faculty and taught the institution's first black literature class. Two of WVU's earliest black faculty members, both Ancella and Nelson were called upon by President James Harlow to facilitate communication and provide a moderating influence for African American students who were organizing on campus. The Bickleys left WVU to return their alma mater, West Virginia State College, in 1972.

In addition to personal papers, the Bickley Collection contains the drafts of manuscripts for many literary works written by Bickley and other authors; records of service to various local, state, and national organizations; family records and genealogies; background materials for research; research notes; and profiles of West Virginia communities.

Ancella Bickley continues to research, write, and speak about black history from her home in Florida to this day. Her archives, now safely preserved and open to research in the West Virginia and Regional History Center, will afford insights into the black experience in West Virginia for generations to come.

Kevin Fredette, WVRHC Coordinator of Public Services, Retires



Kevin Fredette

Visitors to the West Virginia and Regional History Center will find that a familiar face is absent when they next endeavor to pursue their research interests in the Center's main reading room. Coordinator of Public Services Kevin Fredette retired from the WVU Libraries on August 28, 2017. Fredette began his career in librarianship in 1984 and served in faculty

positions at the Indiana University School of Law and the University of California, Irvine. He came to WVU in 1995 when he became Head of the Government Documents and Microforms Department in the Wise Library. He later moved on to the WVU Law Library where he served as Head of Public Services. Kevin joined the staff of the West Virginia and Regional History Center in 2007 as the Coordinator of Public Services. During his tenure at the Center, Kevin managed reference and research services and participated in outreach and instruction. He also served as the bibliographer for the History department. Many researchers noted his expert and helpful assistance in finding answers to research questions. Kevin was always humble, very friendly, and had a great sense of humor. We congratulate him for his 33 year career in libraries and wish him all the best in retirement!

WVRHC Receives White House Crystal

First Lady Jaqueline Kennedy was dining at The Carlton Hotel in New York City when she took note of the hotel's simple but elegant line of crystal stemware. Inquiring about its origin, she learned that glassware was a product of the Morgantown Glass Company in Morgantown, West Virginia. Originally named "Wine Lover's Glassware," the pattern was rebranded as "The President's House" when Mrs. Kennedy selected it as the service for the White House's State Dining Room. After President Kennedy's tragic death, the owners of the Morgantown Glass Company, the Haydens, presented Mrs. Kennedy with a personal set. In a thank you letter



dated February 12, 1964, Mrs. Kennedy wrote, “We were so proud when we first came to The White House to find, made in America, something so beautiful it could not be matched anywhere – and, coming from our beloved West Virginia, which really did make it possible for my husband to be President... whenever I see them, I will think of those brief wonderful days, all the official dinners and brilliant toasts my husband made so well when, as President, he used them in the President’s House.” Due to its association with the Kennedys, the White House crystal pattern was much prized locally. WVU alumni Becky and Lester Hess of Wheeling were thrilled to receive a complete set as a honeymoon gift in 1966. The couple recently donated their heirloom to the Regional History Center.

Newspaper Donation Documents Key Moments in History



Steve Wolfe (right), his wife Darla, and WVU President Gordon Gee, display a copy of the *Chicago Daily Tribune* bearing the erroneous headline “Dewey Defeats Truman.” The newspaper is one of an extensive collection of historical newspapers recently donated to the West Virginia and Regional History Center by Mr. Wolfe. The collection includes more than 150 newspapers ranging from a 1666 issue of the *London Gazette* reporting on the Great Plague to the *Washington Post*’s 1991 banner headline trumpeting Gorbachev’s resignation and the end of the Soviet era. A large part of the collection is devoted to the Civil War, including many issues relating to West Virginia statehood and military activities within the state’s boundaries. Other prominent topics include politics, spaceflight, world affairs and disasters like the Great Fire of London in the late 1600s.

Selected Recent Acquisitions

Pearl S. Buck Correspondence and Typescripts. 1940-1983, 2 ½ in., Acquired in 2017. Addendum to A&M 727.

Fifteen typescripts with manuscript notes, including mostly articles for international papers (ca. 1945-1946); also includes about 18 full or partial typescript letters and two envelopes (1940-1983).

League of Women Voters, Morgantown-Monongalia Branch, Records. 1959-2014, 3 ft. 4 in., Gift in 2017. Addendum to A&M 2777.

Collection contains the records of the League of Women Voters, Morgantown-Monongalia branch. Includes proposals, correspondence, and minutes regarding environmental projects, annual meetings, and voting machine fraud.

John E. Stealey, Researcher, Microfilm of Dispatches from United States Ministers to Mexico. 1875-1906, 5 in., Gift in 2017. Addendum to 3195.

Microfilm copies in 17 reels of dispatches from United States ministers to Mexico for period 1879-1885; also includes microfilm copies in two reels of dispatches from the United States Consuls in Mexico, Mexico City, for period 1875-1906. These copies are from the US National Archives; they were acquired by Stealey for the research he conducted in order to write and edit “Porte Crayon’s Mexico: David Hunter Strother’s diaries in the early Porfirian era, 1879-1885”.

Lloyd Laymen Papers Regarding Firefighting. ca. 1918-1968, 11 ½ in., Gift in 2017. A&M 4228.

Papers of influential fire engineer Lloyd Layman (1898-1968). Includes correspondence, reports, clippings and articles, photographs, books by Layman, scrapbook, and other material.

Molly and Lillia Schilansky Papers. ca. 1925-1955, 2 ½ in., Acquired in 2017. A&M 4229.

Papers of Molly Schilansky, who ran a dress shop in Thomas, West Virginia, and her sister Lillia (“Lili”) Schilansky, who was a teacher in the Tucker County area for over sixty years. Includes teachers’ catalog and textbook samples sent to Lillia; a business ledger and financial records belonging to Molly; correspondence, mainly addressed to Molly; and advertisements.

Oral Romine Papers. ca. 1921-1941, 5 in., Gift in 2017. A&M 4232.

Papers of Oral Leonard Romine, consisting of public school documents from West Virginia (ca. 1921-1931) and a Civilian Conservation Corps autograph book (ca. late 1940-1941). School documents include certificates of faithful attendance in addition to diplomas and other certificates of graduation or completion of courses. The autograph book was used while Romine was a member of Company 2595 of the CCC at Camp F-20, Onego, West Virginia.

Paul Atkins, Journalism Professor, Papers. ca. 1860-2010, 17 ft. 3 ½ in., Gift in 2017. A&M 4239.

Professional and family papers of Paul Atkins, a journalism professor at West Virginia University who retired after 33 years of service. Also includes papers of his wife Mildred, who was an artist.

James Haught, Author, Publications and Photographs. ca. 1960-2016, 3 1/2 in., 137 digital files, Gift in 2017. A&M 4245.

Notebook of material regarding publications authored by James A. Haught, editor emeritus of The Charleston Gazette-Mail. Includes a listing of books and articles as well as photocopies of articles. Most of these writings regard religion, secularism, and science. There are also digital photographs documenting Haught's career dating from ca. 1950-2010.



Charleston Gazette-Mail Editor Emeritus James Haught, ca. 1975

Mountaineer Natalie Tennant Scrapbook. 1990-1991, 195 digital files, Acquired in 2017. A&M 4248.

Scrapbook documenting Natalie Tennant as the Mountaineer Mascot of West Virginia University. Includes clippings, photographs, and other material.

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Dorothy Jones Baughman Papers. 1789-1975, 7 ft. 11 in., Gift in 2017. A&M 4249.

Correspondence and genealogical information of Dorothy Jones Baughman gathered by her great niece Barbara Rasmussen. Dorothy Baughman was born in Doddridge County in October 1897, died in Morgantown in January 1979, and was buried in the Belington Fraternal Cemetery. These papers reflect the life of her family at the turn of the twentieth century in North Central West



Mountaineer Natalie Tennant with a future mascot, ca. 1900-1991.



Mob returns to Parsons from the former Tucker County seat of St. George with wagons full of county records taken by force from the old courthouse. The view is from the corner of Main Street and Second Street, looking northwest down Main Street toward Alum Hill in the distance, which slopes downward to the right. The building on the right under construction with scaffolding is still standing in 2017 and houses the McClain Printing Co.

Virginia. Correspondence between Dorothy and her father, her grandmother, and her husband forms the bulk of the collection. There are also Civil War letters, photographs, and ephemera such as dance cards, Valentines, photographs, and Christmas cards. Names that occur in the collection include Jones, Neely, Baughman, Devecmon, Sinnex, Randolph, Cook, and Shetler, among others.

Carol Young, Collector, Papers Regarding Politician E. Hansford McCourt and Other Material. ca. 1960-1990, 7 ½ in., Gift in 2017. A&M 4252.

Includes records regarding West Virginia politician E. Hansford McCourt, papers of journalist Joyce Jackson, and material regarding author Davis Grubb. The McCourt papers include correspondence, clippings, photographs, and other material regarding the Gross Margin Tax Bill, Senator Bernard Smith, and other topics; there is also a 1932 West Virginia Wesleyan commencement program. The Jackson papers include clippings of articles she wrote for local papers and a sound recording; there is also a copy of the text to "American Dream," a musical by Seseen Francis. The Grubb material is in a single folder and includes two clippings of book reviews, a brochure regarding a limited edition lithograph of Grubb, and an edited typescript of reminiscences of Davis Grubb, author unknown.

Photographs of Mob Moving Records to Courthouse in Parsons, Tucker County, WV. 1893, 2 digital files, Gift in 2017. A&M 4250.

Two scans of black and white photos depicting the mob that moved county court records from the St. George courthouse to the Parsons courthouse on August 2, 1893, as part of a dispute about the location of the county seat.

Everett F. Moore Papers. 1920-1964, 3 ft. 4 1/2 in., Gift in 2017. A&M 4253.

Papers of Everett F. Moore, a lawyer who practiced in Marshall County and the surrounding area. Everett Moore was the uncle of Governor Arch Moore; they practiced law together. This collection mainly includes papers regarding legal cases and Moore's law practice as well maps of coal fields and other mineral resources.

John A. Thorn World War I Papers. 1917-1919, 170 digital files, Acquired in 2017. A&M 4254.

Letters, photographs, clippings, and other material related to the World War I service of West Virginian John A. Thorn in the 462nd Aero Squadron, Air Service, 3rd Army. John Thorn grew up in Princeton, West Virginia.

Dick Ralston, Collector, Lewis County Historical Material. 1870-1970, 4 ft. 10 1/4 in., Gift in 2016. A7M 4259.

Collection of Lewis County local history material collected by Dick Ralston of Buckhannon. Includes genealogy and history, and photographs of the Ralston family. Also includes Gray and Sons maps of Wheeling, Morgantown, Clarksburg, and Fairmont.

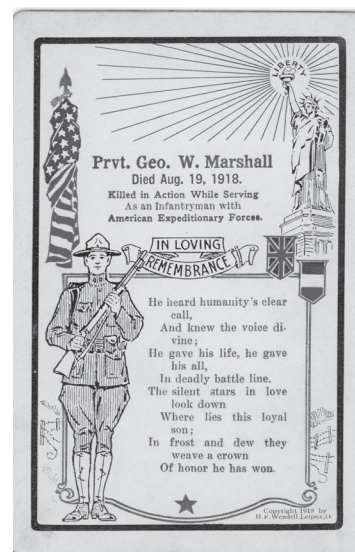
Neil Heflin Papers. 1910-1965, 1 ft. 8 1/2 in., Acquired in 2017. A&M 4260.

Papers of Neil Heflin and his daughter, Lois Heflin. Includes family papers, West Virginia University student records and publications (the Heflins were WVU students), and materials regarding West Virginia history and tourism. Neil Heflin attended West Virginia University in the early 20th century and remained in West Virginia throughout his life, living in both Clarksburg and Fairmont.

George W. and Frederick W. Marshall, WWI Letters and Other Material. 1917-1937, 10 1/2 in., Gift in 2017. A&M 4262.

Papers of PFC George W. Marshall (1895-August 17, 1918) and PFC Fred W. Marshall (1897-July 29, 1918) of Greene County, Pennsylvania. The two brothers were killed in World War I a few weeks apart. Fred served in Company K of the 110th Infantry, George served in Company C, 313th Machine Gun Battalion. Includes mostly letters that they sent home, 1917-1918.

Most of the letters are from the brothers' time in training at Camp Hancock, Ga., Petersburg, Va., and Pittsburgh, Pa. The majority of the letters were written by Fred Marshall. One folder contains letters sent home from the front lines in France. There are also documents from the War department following their deaths, two panoramic photos, and some printed material.



Memorial postcard for George W. Marshall, 1918.

Malcolm Davis, Artist, Papers. 1970-2012, 10 ft. 3 in., Gift in 2016. A&M 4263.

Papers of Malcolm Davis, noted potter and ceramic artist. The collection includes slides of his work, some correspondence, shino glaze recipe cards, sketchbooks, photographs, and research books regarding ceramics. Davis was known for his shino pottery with a distinctive glaze, and much of the collection relates to that work.



Porcelain Shino Vase by Potter Malcom Davis, 2005.

Marshall County Farm Account Books and Soil Conservation Agreements. 1935-1937, 2 ft. 6 in., Gift in 2017. A&M 4269.

Account books of farms, including the United States Department of Agriculture Soil Conservation Cooperative Agreements for those farms, dated 1935-1937. The farms are located in the towns of Moundsville, Cameron, McMechen, and other Marshall County locations. The USDA's soil conversation efforts were mandated by several federal laws passed in 1935 and 1936 in response both to the dangers erosion posed to American agriculture and to the financial hardships faced by farmers during the Great Depression.

Helen McGinnis, Conservationist, Papers Regarding Wilderness Preservation in West Virginia. 1971-1977, 15 in., Gift in 2017. A&M 4270.

Papers of conservationist Helen McGinnis regarding wilderness preservation, especially the Dolly Sods wilderness in West Virginia.

Glass Plate Negatives of Franklin, West Virginia in Pendleton County. 1900-1920, 5 in., Acquired in 2017. A&M 4272.

Glass plate negatives of images of subjects in the town and region of Franklin, West Virginia. Subjects include the South Branch of the Potomac River, dam (perhaps on the South Branch), Bickford Hoffman Grain, interior of a residence, horse drawn carriages (and perhaps the Bowman house), and the Bowman McClure store.

Millard Lampell, Author, Papers and Screenplays. 1943-1983, 4 ft. 2 1/2 in., Transfer in 2015. A&M 4278.

Collection of Millard Lampell's personal papers, research notes, photographs, and screenplays. Lampell, a graduate of WVU, wrote numerous pieces for magazines, theater, and television. He was also a founding member of the Appalachian folk band The Almanac Singers with Lee Hays, Pete Seeger, and Woody Guthrie. The photographs and autobiography included in the collection relate to this group. Screenplays include "Hard Travelin'," "The Wall," "Rich Man, Poor Man," and "Dynamite Creek," among others. Both drafts and finished shooting copies are included.



The Almanac Singers, ca. 1940. Left to right, Woody Guthrie, Millard Lampell, Bess Lomax Hawes, Pete Seeger, Arthur Stern, Sis Cunningham.



Educator, author, historian, Dr. Ancella Bickley, ca. 1970.

Milton R. Yarger, Inventor, Papers. 1934-1962, 2 ½ in., Acquired in 2017. A&M 4278.

Papers of inventor Milton R. Yarger, who lived and worked in Morgantown, West Virginia. Includes copies of Yarger's patents, correspondence, photographs, and documentation of his work (including plans, sketches, development costs), among other material.

Photographs of the Harper Family of Pendleton County. ca. 1860-1900, 1 ft. 3 in., Gift in 2017. A&M 4281.

Photographs of the Harper Family of Pendleton County, including many card-mounted images as well as the Leila Harper Mauzy tintype album. There is also a small amount of genealogical and manuscript material.

West Virginia University Flag and Slides. 1984, 1 ¾ in., Gift in 2017. A&M 5223.

One large WVU flag, 39 slides, and a certificate. The flag was taken into space by astronaut and West Virginian Jon McBride from October 5-13, 1984, aboard the Space Shuttle Challenger on NASA flight STS-41-G. That particular flight was the first shuttle mission to carry a crew of seven, including the first crew with two women (Sally Ride and Kathryn Sullivan), the first Australian-born person to journey into space (Paul Scully-Power), and the first Canadian astronaut in space (Marc Garneau). Slides

include candid photos of the astronauts in space, images of the earth from above, and more. Also included is a "certificate of spaceflight" for the flag which identifies the flight and its crew.

West Virginia University, School of Pharmacy Records. 1936-1999, 2 ft. 8 1/2 in., Transfer in 2017. A&M 5224.

Administrative records of the WVU School of Pharmacy and records related to the creation of the Medical Center.

West Virginia University Bands, Audiovisual Material. 1950-2007, 20 ft., Transfer in 2017. A&M 5227.

Motion picture and audio recordings documenting bands at West Virginia University, including both concert and marching bands.

West Virginia University, Office of Greek Life, Records. 1950-2010, 8 ft. 7 1/2 in., Transfer in 2017. A&M 5228.

This collection contains the administrative records of the Office of Greek Life of West Virginia University. This office organizes and coordinates the policies and activities of fraternities and sororities at West Virginia University. The collection includes correspondence, reports, grade statistics, membership lists, plaques, and other material.