WVRHC Newsletter, Fall 2015

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Nick Joe Rahall II Papers Elucidate the Life and Times of West Virginia’s Longest Serving Congressman

Researchers studying the history of policy and politics in our state and nation will soon have access to yet another treasure trove of research material at the West Virginia and Regional History Center. On October 3, 2015, at a dedication event on WVU’s Beckley campus, Congressman Nick Rahall announced his decision to entrust the papers spanning his 38-year career in the United States House of Representatives to the Regional History Center’s care. Documenting some of the most significant events of the past half century, the Rahall papers will join and complement those of Senator John D. Rockefeller IV which were donated to the Center in November 2014.

The Rahall Papers comprise more than 2,000 linear feet of material including speeches, press releases, policy statements, research files and reports, constituent correspondence, photographs, and countless other paper and born-digital documents generated during the many years Rahall served in Congress. The collection amply attests to the impact his service has had on the state, region and nation during his many years of service.

A Beckley native, Rahall, a Democrat, was elected to represent West Virginia’s 4th Congressional District in 1976. He went on to win reelection 17 times making him West Virginia’s longest serving Congressman.

Rahall’s longevity in the House of Representatives attests to the success of his efforts to serve the citizens who elected and repeatedly reelected him.

As chair of the House Natural Resources Committee and the top Democrat on the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Rahall championed many causes and efforts to improve the daily lives of his constituents. He introduced mine safety legislation, supported black lung benefits, and crusaded for improved benefits for veterans and Social Security recipients. He obtained millions of dollars for highway projects in the Mountain State including the King Coal Highway, the Coalfields Expressway and...
an upgrade for southwestern West Virginia's vital Route 10 artery.

While an advocate for the coal industry, Rahall was also concerned with protecting West Virginia's wild and wonderful environment. He successfully steered legislation that created the New River Gorge National River, and helped establish the Gauley River National Recreation Area which today comprise the largest system of federally protected rivers in the eastern United States. He also helped create national wilderness designations in the Monongahela National Forest.

At the dedication ceremony for the Rahall Collection, WVU President Gordon Gee paid tribute to Rahall's sustained contributions to his state. “Congressman Rahall served the State of West Virginia ably and faithfully for almost four decades,” Gee said. “The papers assembled from his distinguished career constitute an incredible resource for the study of public policy and the Congress itself. WVU is greatly honored to host his archives and we look forward to working with Mr. Rahall to serve the citizens of southern West Virginia for many years to come.”

The Nick Joe Rahall II Papers join major collections of papers of more than two dozen other political leaders at the West Virginia and Regional History Center, ranging from those of West Virginia's founding fathers, Waitman T. Willey and Francis H. Pierpont, to the present.

More than 2000 onsite visitors consult the Center's rich holdings each year in their quest to study and comprehend the history of our state and nation. The WVRHC welcomed visitors from 41 of West Virginia's 55 counties during 2014/2015, along with researchers from 39 states. Joining local history buffs, genealogists, journalists and filmmakers, were students and educators from 46 colleges and universities and 22 state and national museums, non-profit organizations and government agencies.
Congressional and Political Papers Collections in the West Virginia and Regional History Center

The following list, compiled by Assistant Curator Danielle Emerling, is limited to congressional and political papers collections of special significance. Additional documents, correspondence, photographs, publications and other materials relating West Virginia and American politics and political figures may be found in many other archives and manuscripts collections, as well as in other units of the WVRHC.

Arthur I. Boreman Collection
Approximately 18 linear feet, 1830-1895

Arthur Inghram Boreman (b. 1823) served as the first governor of West Virginia, 1863-1869. In 1869, he resigned to accept the nomination as United States senator, and he was elected as a Republican to the U.S. Senate, serving from 1869-1875. In 1875, he resumed his law practice in Parkersburg, WV, and was elected judge of the circuit court for the fifth judicial circuit of West Virginia in 1888. He served until his death in 1896 in Parkersburg, WV. The Arthur I. Boreman collection consists of materials relating to his judgeship and to the law firm of Boreman and Bullocks in Parkersburg, WV.

John J. Cornwell Collection
Approximately 77 linear feet, 1896-1953

John Jacob Cornwell (b. 1867) served as the fifteenth governor of West Virginia from 1917-1921. Cornwell was also a newspaper publisher in Romney, WV, an orchardman, lawyer, and counsel for the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad. He died in 1953 in Cumberland, MD. The John J. Cornwell collection consists of personal and business correspondence (1896-1953); correspondence as governor (1916-1922); and materials related to the Baltimore and Ohio railroads and the Romney Orchard Company.

Henry Gassaway Davis Collection
Approximately 107 linear feet, 1865-1916

Henry Gassaway Davis (b. 1823) was a United States senator from West Virginia elected in 1871 and re-elected in 1877. He served from 1871-1883. He was elected to the West Virginia House of Delegates in 1865 and to the state Senate in 1868 and 1870. He was a vice-presidential candidate on the 1904 Democratic ticket. He represented the United States at the Pan American conferences of 1889 and 1901, and he served as chairman of the permanent Pan American Railway Committee from 1901-1916. He died in 1916 in Washington, DC. The Henry Gassaway Davis collection includes correspondence and other materials documenting his service in the West Virginia Legislature and the U.S. Senate.

Stephen B. Elkins Collection
Approximately 9 linear feet, 1841-1946

Stephen Benton Elkins (b. 1841) represented West Virginia in the United States Senate as a Republican from 1895-1911. Prior to his Senate service, Elkins served in the Union Army during the Civil War as a captain in the Kansas Militia. He practiced law in the Territory of New Mexico in 1864 and served as a member of the Territorial House of Representatives, 1864-1865. He was the district attorney for the Territory from 1866-1867, and the United States district attorney for the Territory from 1867-1870. Around 1890, he founded and moved to the city of Elkins, WV. President Benjamin Harrison appointed him Secretary of War, 1891-1893. He died during his third Senate term in 1911 in Washington, DC. The Stephen B. Elkins collection includes speeches, maps, reports, photographs and other materials related to his political, business, and family affairs.

Aretas B. Fleming Collection
Approximately 44 linear feet, 1784-1924

Aretas Brooks Fleming (b. 1839) was the eighth governor of West Virginia, serving from 1890-1893. Previously, he was an attorney in Marion County, WV, 1863-1867, and a member of the West Virginia House of Delegates, 1872-1875. He also served as a circuit judge from 1878-1888. He was closely associated with James O. Watson and the development of the coal and railroad industry in the Monongahela Valley. The Aretas B. Fleming collection
is made up largely of legal papers, correspondence, receipts, memos, bills, and sermons dated before and after his service as governor.

William E. Glasscock Collection
Approximately 13 linear feet, 1906-1925

William Ellsworth Glasscock (b. 1862) served as governor of West Virginia from 1909-1913. Prior to his election he served as superintendent of Monongalia County Schools and clerk of the county circuit court. In 1905, President Theodore Roosevelt appointed him to the position of collector of internal revenue for the District of West Virginia. Glasscock also served as chair of the state Republican committee. He died in 1925 in Morgantown, WV. The William E. Glasscock collection consists of correspondence, speeches, and other materials documenting political, social, and economic affairs before and during his service as governor. Also included are materials related to the presidential elections of 1904 and 1912, the Paint Creek and Cabin Creek coal strikes, and his role as collector of internal revenue.

Nathan Goff Jr. Collection
Approximately 20 linear feet, 1866-1899

Nathan Goff Jr. (b. 1843) represented West Virginia in the U.S. House of Representatives, 1883-1889, and the Senate, 1913-1919. He was a member of the West Virginia House of Delegates, 1867-1868 and served as the U.S. attorney for West Virginia, 1868-1881. In 1881, President Rutherford Hayes appointed him Secretary of the Navy. He was an unsuccessful candidate for governor of West Virginia in 1876 and 1888. He died in 1920 in Clarksburg, WV. The Nathan Goff Jr. collection includes correspondence, newspapers, pamphlets, and other materials dated primarily to his service as U.S. attorney for West Virginia.

Howard M. Gore Collection
Approximately 20 linear feet, 1908-1947

Howard M. Gore (b. 1877) was the seventeenth governor of West Virginia, 1925-1929. During World War I, he was assistant food administrator for the state of West Virginia. He was a member of the State Board of Education and served as the U.S. assistant secretary of agriculture. President Calvin Coolidge named him Secretary of Agriculture in 1923. In 1925, Gore resigned to become governor. He died in 1947 in Clarksburg, WV. The bulk of the Howard M. Gore collection dates from his service as assistant food administrator. Also included are materials related to his governorship; his career in Washington with the Department of Agriculture; the Farm Bureau; the West Virginia Public Service Commission; the Weston and Union livestock sales companies; cattle production; and politics.

Henry D. Hatfield Collection
Approximately 8 linear feet, 1913-1958

Henry Drury Hatfield (b. 1875) served as governor of West Virginia, 1913-1917, and U.S. senator from West Virginia, 1929-1935. Previously, he was commissioner of health of Mingo County, WV, 1895-1900; surgeon for the Norfolk and Western Railway, 1895-1913; and surgeon and chief of West Virginia State Hospital No. 1 at Welsh, WV, 1899-1913. He was a major in the Medical Corps of the U.S. Army, 1917-1919. He died in 1962 in Huntington, WV. The Henry D. Hatfield collection includes speeches, legal and financial records, correspondence and other materials related to national Republican conventions, and West Virginia and national political issues.

Homer Adams Holt Papers
Approximately 2 linear feet, 1937-1944

Homer Adams Holt (b. 1898) served as West Virginia’s attorney general, 1932-1941, and the state’s twentieth governor, 1937-1941. After leaving office in 1941, he practiced law in Charleston, WV, until 1947. He then worked as general counsel for the Union Carbide company in New York City, and later became the company’s vice president and a director. He died in Charleston, WV, in 1976. The Homer Adams Holt papers consist of correspondence, state papers, and manuscripts of West Virginia: A Guide to the Mountain State (published 1941) by the Writers’ Program of the Work Projects Administration.

Rush Dew Holt Collection
Approximately 217 linear feet, 1820-2013

Rush Dew Holt (b. 1905) was a state legislator, U.S. senator, writer, and teacher from Lewis County, WV. He served in the West Virginia House of Delegates from 1931-1935 and represented West Virginia in the U.S. Senate from 1935-1941. He was elected as a Democrat in 1934, but because he was too young to take the seat, he did not begin service until June 21, 1935. He was an unsuccessful candi-
date for re-nomination in 1940 but was elected to the state House of Delegates in 1942, 1944, 1946, and 1948. He was an unsuccessful candidate for the gubernatorial nomination in 1944 and 1948. He changed his party affiliation to Republican in 1949 and ran unsuccessfully for Congress in 1950 and for governor in 1952. He was again elected to the State House of Delegates in 1954, and he served until his death in 1955 in Bethesda, MD. The Rush Dew Holt collection documents his political, teaching, and writing activities. Also included are personal papers of Holt’s father, Dr. M.S. Holt, and brother-in-law, Ralph K. Chase.

Helen F. Holt Collection
Approximately 10 linear feet, 1927-2013

Helen Froelich Holt (b. 1913) was a state legislator and Secretary of State in West Virginia. After the death of her husband, Rush Dew Holt, in 1955, Helen Holt was appointed to finish his term in the West Virginia House of Delegates. In 1957, Governor Cecil Underwood appointed her to fill a vacancy as Secretary of State, making Holt the first woman to hold statewide public office in West Virginia. She was later appointed West Virginia’s Assistant Commissioner for Public Institutions. In 1960, President Dwight Eisenhower appointed Holt to implement the Federal Housing Administration, and due to her success, she was reappointed by six succeeding presidents to positions in the Department of Housing and Urban Development. Holt died in July 2015 in Boca Raton, FL. The Helen Holt collection documents her work within the state legislature and the Federal Housing Administration.

Herman Guy Kump Papers
Approximately 36 linear feet, 1907-1957

Herman Guy Kump (b. 1877) was the nineteenth governor of West Virginia, 1933-1937. Previously, he practiced law in Elkins, WV, and began his political career as prosecuting attorney in Randolph County, WV, 1908-1916. During World War I, he served in the army, and in 1921, he was elected mayor of Elkins. In 1928, he was elected judge of the 20th judicial circuit. In 1937, he resumed his law practice in Elkins, where he lived until his death in 1962. The Herman Guy Kump papers consist of materials related to state and national elections and politics, Kump’s legal practice, and New Deal operations and agencies in the state.

Harley Martin Kilgore Collection
Approximately 82 linear feet, 1933-1956

Harley Martin Kilgore (b. 1893) represented West Virginia as a Democrat in the United States Senate from 1941-1956. During the Eighty-Fourth Congress, he was chairman of the Committee on the Judiciary. Prior to his Senate service, Kilgore taught school in West Virginia and organized the first high school in Raleigh County. He practiced law in Beckley, WV, in 1916, and then served in the Infantry in World War I from 1917 to 1920 when he was discharged as a captain. He organized the West Virginia National Guard in 1921, retiring as a colonel in 1953. He also was judge of the criminal court of Raleigh County, 1933-1940. Kilgore died in 1956 in Bethesda, MD, and was interred in Arlington National Cemetery. The bulk of the Harley Martin Kilgore collection documents his service in the U.S. Senate.

Arch A. Moore Jr. Papers
Approximately 2,410 linear feet, 1969-1989

Arch Alfred Moore Jr. (b. 1923) served two consecutive terms as Governor of West Virginia from 1969-1977 and a third term from 1985-1989. He was an unsuccessful candidate for reelection for governor in 1988. Previously, he was elected as a Republican to five terms in the United States House of Representatives, serving from
January 3, 1957-January 3, 1969. He was not a candidate for reelection to the Ninety-first Congress in 1968. He died on January 7, 2015, in Charleston, WV. The Arch A. Moore Jr. papers document his service as governor of West Virginia and in the U.S. Congress.

**Ephraim F. Morgan Collection**  
*Approximately 12 linear feet, 1920-1938*

Ephraim Franklin Morgan (b. 1869) served as West Virginia's sixteenth governor, 1921-1925. His governorship coincided with part of the West Virginia Mine Wars (1912-1922). Previously, Morgan was a city solicitor in Fairmont, 1900-1901, and a judge of the Marion County Intermediate Court, 1907-1913. In 1915, Governor Henry Hatfield appointed Morgan to the Public Service Commission. After his gubernatorial service, Morgan worked in the private sector and the U.S. Department of Commerce. He died in 1950 in Bethesda, MD. The Ephraim Franklin Morgan papers relate primarily to his service as governor.

**Matthew Mansfield Neely Collection**  
*Approximately 12 linear feet, 1896-1924*

Matthew Mansfield Neely (b. 1874) was a U.S. congressman, senator, and governor of West Virginia. He practiced law in Fairmont, WV, and served as mayor of the city, 1908-1910. He was clerk of the state House of Delegates, 1911-1913. He was elected as a Democrat to the U.S. House of Representatives and served from 1913-1921. In 1922, he was elected as a Democrat in the U.S. Senate, 1923-1929. He was reelected in 1930 and served in the Senate until his resignation in 1941 after he was elected governor of West Virginia, 1941-1945. He was again elected to the Senate in 1948, and he served until his death in 1958 in Bethesda, MD. The Matthew M. Neely collection consists of speeches, correspondence, photographs, and other materials dating from the time of service in the U.S. Senate and as governor.

**Francis Harrison Pierpont Collection**  
*Approximately 10 linear feet, 1811-1952*

Francis Harrison Pierpont (b. 1814) was the founder of the state of West Virginia and served as the only governor of the Reorganized Government of Virginia, 1861-1864. He was a representative to the First and Second Wheeling Conventions in 1861, and in June of that year, he was unanimously elected governor of the Reorganized State of Virginia. He held that position until West Virginia entered the Union in 1863. He then headed a loyal Virginia government at Alexandria, and in 1865 acted as head of the civil government at Richmond under the direction of President Andrew Johnson. He returned to West Virginia in 1868 and served a term in the state House of Delegates. He helped to found the West Virginia Historical Society. He died in 1899 in Pittsburgh, PA. The Francis Harrison Pierpont collection includes correspondence, newspaper clippings, and other materials related primarily to West Virginia statehood and the Civil War.

**Nick Joe Rahall II Papers**  
*Approximately 2,089 linear feet & 18 gigabytes, 1977-2015*

Nick Joe Rahall II (b.1949) represented West Virginia's Third District in the United States House of Representatives for nineteen terms. He was elected as a Democrat to the Ninety-fifth Congress and served from January 3, 1977-January 3, 2015. From 2007-2011, he was chair of the Committee on Natural Resources. From 1971-1974, he was a staff member in the United States Senate Office of the Majority Whip, and he was a delegate to both the 1972 and 1976 Democratic National Conventions. The bulk of the Congressman Nick Joe Rahall II papers document his 38-year career in the United States House of Representatives.

**John D. (Jay) Rockefeller IV Papers**  
*Approximately 2,100 linear feet & 2 terabytes, 1951-2015*

John Davison (Jay) Rockefeller IV (b. 1937) represented West Virginia in the United States Senate for five terms. He was elected as a Democrat to the Ninety-ninth Congress and served from January 15, 1985, to January 3, 2015. He was not a candidate for reelection in 2014. Rockefeller previously served in the West Virginia House of Delegates (1966-1968); as Secretary of State of West Virginia (1968-1972); president of West Virginia Wesleyan College (1973-1976); and Governor of West Virginia (1977-1985). From 1964-1966, he was a volunteer in the Volunteers In Service To America (VISTA) program in Emmons, West Virginia. The bulk of the
Senator John D. (Jay) Rockefeller IV papers document his 30-year career in the United States Senate with additional materials related to his earlier political career.

**Hulett C. Smith Papers**  
**Approximately 142 linear feet, 1964-1968**


**Harley O. Staggers Sr. Papers**  
**Approximately 60 linear feet, 1949-1980**

Harley Orrin Staggers Sr. (b. 1907) represented West Virginia’s Second District in the U.S. House of Representatives for 32 years. From 1937-1941, he was the sheriff of Mineral County, WV, and he was the State Road Commission of West Virginia right-of-way agent in 1941 and 1942. During World War II, he was lieutenant commander in the U.S. Naval Air Corps and served in the Atlantic and Pacific Theaters. He was elected as a Democrat to the Eighty-first Congress and to the following fifteen Congresses, 1949-1981. He was not a candidate for reelection in 1980. He died in 1991 in Cumberland, MD. The Congressman Harley O. Staggers Sr. papers document his service in the U.S. House of Representatives.

**West Virginia Governors Collection**  
**Approximately 27 linear feet, 1931-1964**

The West Virginia Governors collection consists of general correspondence and papers of Governors William G. Conley (1929-1933); Herman G. Kump (1933-1937); Homer A. Holt (1937-1941); Matthew M. Neely (1941-1945); Clarence W. Meadows (1945-1949); Okey L. Patteson (1949-1953); William C. Marland (1953-1957); Cecil H. Underwood (1957-1961); and William W. Barron (1961-1965).

**West Virginia Governor’s Office Press Releases Collection**  
**Approximately 6 linear feet, 1962-1969.**


**Albert Blakeslee White Papers**  
**Approximately 16 linear feet, 1888-1929**

Albert Blakeslee (A.B.) White (b. 1856) served as the eleventh governor of West Virginia. He was the owner and editor of the State Journal in Parkersburg, WV, 1881-1899. He also served as the president of the West Virginia Editorial Association and president of the national Editorial Association, 1888. In 1889 and 1897 he was appointed as an internal revenue agent in the state of West Virginia. He was elected as a Republican to the governorship in 1900 and served from 1901-1905. Following his term, he served as state tax commissioner and as an executive in the insurance, banking, and coal industries. He died in 1941 in Parkersburg, WV. The Albert Blakeslee White papers include materials related to business and political matters and official correspondence from his term as governor.

**Waitman T. Willey Collection**  
**Approximately 9 linear feet, 1820-1917**

Waitman Thomas Willey (b. 1811) was a founder of the state of West Virginia, and he represented Virginia and the newly formed state of West Virginia in the U.S. Senate. He was appointed clerk of the Monongalia County Court in 1841 and later clerk of the circuit superior court, positions he held until 1852. He was a delegate to the Virginia constitutional convention in 1850 and 1851 and elected as a Unionist to represent Virginia in the U.S. Senate in March 1863. He was a delegate to the state constitutional conventions of West Virginia, and upon the state’s admission as a state of the Union, he was elected to the U.S. Senate where he served from August 1863-1871. Following his congressional service, he again served as Monongalia County Court clerk, 1882-1896. He died in 1900 in Morgantown, WV. The bulk of the Waitman T. Willey collection documents political, economic, and social matters dating from 1859-1869. Also included are materials related to the temperance movement in Virginia, the Civil War, and the statehood movement in West Virginia.
Selected Recent Accessions


Papers of the Brown, Parsons, and other West Virginia families and residents. Includes correspondence sent to J. Slidell Brown, a Democratic state senator from Elkins (1916-1935); announcements and programs for reunions of the Brown family of Preston County (1913-1930); a deed and copies of maps of land in Springfield Township, Pennsylvania (1846-1893, undated); financial documents, mainly tax receipts, of the Lilley family of Mercer County (1873-1910); correspondence sent to members of the Reckart family of Preston County (1910-1928); financial documents of W. G. Cambric of Harrison County (1895-1921); wedding announcements and other event invitations (ca. 1890-1920); holiday cards (ca. 1900); and other material.


Bound typescript report regarding public health conditions in Clarksburg, West Virginia, completed ca. 1940. Contents include a brief history of the city and an overview of current health and safety related infrastructure. Topics discussed include availability of clean water and current sewer conditions, the fire department, medical facilities for infant care, tuberculosis, and venereal diseases. Photographs and newspaper clippings have been pasted into the typescript. Subjects of photographs include scenes of Clarksburg; buildings discussed by typescript; and doctors, nurses, and patients.


One ledger documenting transactions of a general store in

Introducing Assistant Curator for Congressional and Political Papers Danielle Emerling

The West Virginia and Regional History Center is pleased to announce the appointment of a new Assistant Curator for Congressional and Political Papers at the Center, Danielle Emerling. Joining the staff just two days after West Virginia Day 2015, Danielle has assumed the consequential assignment of overseeing the Center’s wealth of congressional and political papers collections which date from before the state’s founding to the present.

Danielle has her hands full with the recent arrival of the voluminous papers of both Senator John D. (Jay) Rockefeller IV and the Congressman Nick Joe Rahall II.

Prior to joining the Regional History Center, Ms. Emerling was an archivist at the University of Delaware Library where she managed the senatorial papers of Joseph R. Biden Jr. and Edward E. (Ted) Kaufman.

Following closely on the heels of her appointment at the Center, in August 2015, Danielle was elected Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect of the Congressional Papers Roundtable (CPR) of the Society of American Archivists. She also serves as the co-chair of the Congressional Papers Roundtable’s Electronic Records Committee. Since 2014, she has served as treasurer of the Association of Centers for the Study of Congress and co-curator of the ACSC’s collaborative, multi-institutional digital exhibition, The Great Society Congress.

Danielle received her Master of Library Science degree with an Archives and Records Management Specialization and a Master of Arts in History from Indiana University Bloomington in December 2012.

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the town of Barrackville, Marion County, West Virginia. Includes index of names and transaction records. Goods sold include butter, coffee, eggs, flour, ham, sugar, tomatoes, vinegar, gloves, and soap, among many other items. The store was known as "Conaways Feed Store," and had been in the Conaway family until closing sometime in the 1980-1990s. It was located at the end of the covered bridge in Barrackville, West Virginia.


Typescript regarding the experiences of Robert Paul Evans of Littleton, West Virginia, while he was held prisoner by the Japanese. The typescript was written by Evans’s aunt and based on Evans’s description of his experiences and his testimony to the War Department. Evans held the rank of Technical Sergeant and served as a B-29 Radar Observer with the 500th Bomb Group, U.S. Army. He was forced to parachute from his plane during a bombing raid over Tokyo. The typescript describes Evans’s capture, his experiences in the camps, the release of prisoners at the end of the war, and Evans’s return home. The account of Evans’s experiences in the camps describes the lack of medical care; frequent beatings; his relationship with a Japanese Christian minister who was also a prisoner; the behavior of guards; especially poor treatment of prisoners who had been involved in bombing raids; and how prisoners and civilians would sneak food to Evans and other prisoners.


Annual reports of Moundsville Prison in electronic form, transcribed by researcher Harry Forrester. They include narrative information, budgetary data, convict statistics, names of employees and vendors, among other topics.


Papers of Theodore L. Gardiner, a clergyman for the Seventh-Day Baptist church and former President of Salem College (now Salem International University). The papers, including diaries and other material, range from 1867 until 1928, the bulk of which date from 1870-1910. Prominent topics include the relationships and daily activities of Gardiner, the Seventh-Day Baptist church, and his time as President of Salem College, among other subjects. The collection also includes the personal and financial records of Gardiner from ca. 1870-1928.


Oral histories, transcripts and photographs regarding folk culture in West Virginia compiled by a Parkersburg High School teacher, Kenneth G. Gilbert. The interviews were conducted with assistance from students as part of the curriculum. The age of the interviewees averaged from 60 years and up, so the interviews document the folk culture of West Virginia from around the period 1920-1940. The geographic coverage includes the entire state. Subjects include food, the timber industry in the Canaan Valley, and Ohio River culture, among others. Much of the information regards folkways, and crafts including making boats, caskets, dolls, etc. This information formed the basis for two publications, Mountain Trace Book 1 and Mountain Trace Book 2.


Material regarding the battleship USS West Virginia (commissioned 1923, decommissioned 1947), including photographs, memoranda, "orders of the day," radio messages, press summaries, menus ("bill of fare"), programs for holiday and recreational events, wing fabric from a USS West Virginia plane, and newspapers with articles regarding the ship. Material mainly regards the day-to-day operations of the ship and its crew, as well as special events such as holidays, sports competitions, and film showings. Material within this collection dates from before the entry of the United States into World War II.
Harrison County Court Records. Pay Abstract for Scouts to Defend Harrison County. 1798, 2 leaves, Transfer in 2015. A&M 4105.

Pay abstract for scouts ordered into service by General Benjamin Biggs in 1795 to defend Harrison County, presumably during the Northwest Indian War. The document includes a testimonial by Lieutenant Colonel William Lowther dating from 1797 verifying the service of the scouts. The document includes a note by a copyist indicating that the text was copied in 1798. There is also a 1798 document regarding recovery of money from John Prunty that was earned by scout Bird Lockhart for his services in 1795.


Papers of West Virginia University English professor John Johnston, including class material, research papers, and manuscripts. He taught a variety of courses, including modern British literature, and was a colleague of WVU English professor Ruel Foster.

Lorentz Family. Correspondence. 1848-1857, 8 items, Purchase in 2015. A&M 4103.

Correspondence between members of the Lorentz family of Buckhannon, Upshur County, (West) Virginia. Includes eight letters from scattered dates between 1848 and 1857. Most of the letters were written by Mifflin Lorentz to his wife Fannie (Whitey) Lorentz; these letters include two love letters written before their marriage (1848) and four letters written while Mifflin was travelling on business (1848-1857). These four letters remark upon business, difficulties he had traveling, and homesickness, among other topics. There is also a copy of a letter written by Jacob Lorentz, who was Mifflin’s father, to his son Jasper Lorentz (1856) regarding religion and family matters; and a letter to Mifflin from his friend H.W. Williams (1857) regarding religion and mutual acquaintances.

Monongalia County. Plat for Land on Cheat River. 1794, 1 item, Purchase in 2015. A&M 4099.

Plat for land located in Monongalia County dated 7 July 1794. The plat shows four pieces of land consisting of 7000 acres located on the waters of the Cheat River below the Dunker Bottom[s] settlements. The plat also indicates the owners of each piece and dates when the land was surveyed. Also contains a description of the land written by Clement Biddle. The document was mailed to Colonel William Deakins, on evidence of sealing wax and the address of Georgetown Potowmack [sic], Maryland (located on reverse of document). Other names mentioned by the document include [?] Clairbourn, Francis Deakins, John Evans, Samuel Hanway, William Haymond, John Lefevre, and Bartholomew Terrapon.


Digital image files of glass plate negatives of a Harrison County photographer Bruce Washburn who lived in Good Hope on Midway Road, Harrison County. Some images are identified, most are not. Identified locations include Jane Lew in Lewis County; and West Milford and Lost Creek in Harrison County. There are many images documenting the timber industry (perhaps in Webster County), including a sawmill; and fewer images documenting oil and gas activity, and agricultural work. There are also photographs showing a baseball team, one room school, train depot, and the Webster Springs Hotel, among other types of pictures. This...
collection was found in the 1980s in the wall of a house in Good Hope, West Virginia that had been owned by Bruce Washburn. Robert E. Nichols acquired them, identified some of them, preserved them, and gave them to his son Ken Nichols. Robert Nichols grew up in West Milford, and raised a family in Bridgeport.


An album containing photographs of the town of Nitro, West Virginia. There are 45 leaves with about 100 black and white photographs mounted to the pages with adhesive. Some of the photographs have been identified. Subjects of photographs include views of the town, interiors and exteriors of homes, and events such as a parade, masquerade, and picnic. Photographs often include men in military uniform. The town of Nitro, West Virginia was created during World War I, in 1917, to produce gunpowder for the war effort. The photograph album dates from after the war, when the town was transitioning from a public to a private enterprise.


Scrapbook and correspondence of Joseph "Bill" W. Parker of Fairmont, West Virginia, who served in World War II and attained the rank of captain. The scrapbook is a pre-made book titled "G.I've Been Around" and published by C. S. Hammond & Co. The cover of the book has been personalized with Parker’s name. Parker filled out spaces in the book with his dates of service, locations, advancement and citations, and personal chronology. He also pasted photographs of himself and his wife into the book. The book also contains a chronology of the war, maps of regions of the world, and photographs of important events and locations during the war. The correspondence consists of three letters written by Parker while he was serving in Europe. One of the letters is addressed to his wife Alice (Mrs. Joseph W. Parker) in Fairmont, West Virginia, dated 18 Oct 1943, and regards his safe arrival in England. The other two letters are to his mother-in-law Ora M. Edgell in Fairmont, West Virginia, dated 20 Dec [?] and 2 Feb 1945; the letters thank Edgell for sending care packages and express Parker’s homesickness for America.


Records documenting the activity of Henry Rauch as a member of the Reclamation Board of Review (1978-1984; 1990-1993) and of the Surface Mine Board (1994-2015) in the state of West Virginia. These boards represent a judicial function whereby citizens or mining companies may appeal decisions related to mining permits made by the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection. The majority of the files regard coal mining, including 1. cases where a company doesn’t get a permit and appeals, and 2. cases where a company gets a permit, and there is a citizens’ complaint or appeal. These files document mountain top removal mining from the beginning (except during the time he was not on the board). Henry Rauch was a professor of geology at West Virginia University from 1970-2015. His area of expertise was hydrology.


Typescript titled "Historical Record of the Activities of the Fairmont, West Virginia Chapter of the American National Red Cross in World War II, September 1939 - December 1945". Typescript documents the activities of the Fairmont Red Cross before and during World War II, including nurse
recruiting, war funds, first aid, disaster preparedness, and home service, among other topics.


Research papers compiled by William B. Spitzer of Berkeley Springs, West Virginia regarding the service and death of his brother Technical Sergeant Kingsley Spitzer, crew member of the B-17 Flying Fortress "Situation Normal", during World War II. Includes photographs, correspondence, clippings, books, and other material.


Memory book kept by Rachel H. Thomas of Martins Ferry, Ohio, a student at Marshall College. Mainly contains messages from Thomas's friends and family written directly on the pages of the book. The book also contains items that are pasted in or loose, including photographs, news clippings, and ephemera. Most of the contents of the memory book date from 1931-1939; some of the loose items were added at a later date. The memory book is bound in leather and stamped with a Roycroft logo, indicating it was made by a member of the Roycroft community of crafters and artists, which was founded by Elbert Hubbard and associated with the Arts and Crafts movement.

**West Virginia University. Faculty Senate. Minutes and Annexes. 1944-2014, 26 ft. 3 in., Transfer in 2015. A&M 5199.**

Administrative records of the Faculty Senate of West Virginia University. Includes minutes and annexes of both the Executive Committee of the Senate, and of the Faculty Senate itself, in both paper and electronic form. Paper records extend from 1966-2004 for the Executive Committee, and from 1944-2004 for the Faculty Senate. Electronic records extend from 1966-2014 for the Executive Committee, and from 1944-2014 for the Faculty Senate.