

Spring 2014

## WVRHC Newsletter, Spring 2014

West Virginia & Regional History Center

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### Recommended Citation

West Virginia & Regional History Center, "WVRHC Newsletter, Spring 2014" (2014). *West Virginia & Regional History Center Newsletters*. 6.

<https://researchrepository.wvu.edu/wvrhc-newsletters/6>

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# West Virginia and Regional History Center

## NEWSLETTER

Volume 29, No. 2

West Virginia University Libraries

Spring 2014

### ***Porte Crayon's Clock Now Marking Time at the WVRHC***

*The vote of this miserable county  
defeated me in the last election.*

C.J. Faulkner

According to David Hunter Strother (1816-1888), it was with these words that Confederate Charles J. Faulkner (1806-1884) ordered the destruction of homes and property in the picturesque town of Berkeley Springs, Morgan County, in February 1862.

Once friends and neighbors, Strother and Faulkner found themselves on opposing sides when civil war gripped the nation in 1861. Strother, then nationally known by his pen-name "Porte Crayon," attempted to remain neutral during the conflict. Only after Confederate recruiters tried to force him to enlist at gunpoint did he realize that neutrality in the conflict was impossible. He chose to offer his services to the Union.

Faulkner was renowned in his own right, an esteemed lawyer, statesman, and former ambassador to

France. Suspected of holding Southern sympathies, he was arrested at the war's outset and was held until gaining release through a prisoner exchange agreement. He went on to serve in the Confederate Army for the duration of the war.



Faulkner was engaged as a staff officer to Stonewall Jackson when the above incident occurred. The Berkeley Springs raid was part of the aftermath of a Confederate expedition through which Jackson hoped to eventually reclaim all of western Virginia. Harsh winter weather, mutiny within his ranks, and competing Confederate priorities forced him to abandon the plan before it had a chance to unfold.

Strother was attached to Union forces sent to reclaim the Eastern Panhandle after Jackson's retreat. He described his arrival in his hometown of Berkeley Springs in a diary entry of February 18, 1862:

*...At the head of my Cavalry I  
crossed the river and rode toward  
Berkeley. Burned houses, fences  
obliterated, barns & cottages pulled  
down & dead horses marked the*



West Virginia and Regional History Center  
NEWSLETTER. A publication of the West Virginia and  
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ISSN 1041-8695

*track over which Jackson's Army advanced and retired.  
Entering the town a few frightened women & children  
crept out to see the troops come in.... My own daughter  
came running out to meet me with a kiss of welcome.*

Strother was pleasantly surprised to find his own house intact despite "destruction and wanton waste" within. Along with household furnishings, a considerable quantity of artworks of his own creation were lost to posterity at the Confederates' hands.

Fortunately, the Strother family's home in Martinsburg was unmolested during Jackson's "Romney Expedition" as the campaign is known today. Artworks and artifacts that graced that residence survive to this day. Among the latter is a grandfather clock, carefully handed down through the generations. That clock is now happily reunited with the rich David Hunter Strother collections preserved at the WVRHC. The clock is a recent gift of David Hunter Strother, IV, of Bethesda, MD.

Oral tradition holds that the clock was made in Martinsburg during the first decade of the nineteenth century by a Swiss clockmaker then active in the city. While it is impossible to definitively authenticate such claims, there is evidence to support family legend. The clock bears close resemblance to other clocks with well-established provenance of manufacture in that time and place. Regarding its maker, among the literally dozens of clockmakers active in the Eastern Panhandle in the early nineteenth century were assorted members of the Woltz family whose progenitors had emigrated from Switzerland a generation earlier. John B. Woltz, silversmith and clockmaker active in Jefferson County by at least 1811, advertised his services repeatedly in the Martinsburg area in the ensuing years. Census returns indicate that he continued in his trade, based in Shep-

herdstown, for at least the next four decades.

Whoever its creator was, the clock has survived to the present in an excellent state of preservation. It continues in its useful purpose in the WVRHC's main reading room, just a few yards from a large painting executed by its former owner who first heard it tick nearly two centuries ago.

### **Wheeling Intelligencer Online Database Traces West Virginia's Founding**

The Civil War, the abolition of slavery, economic expansion and continuing industrial revolution all contributed to political, social, and economic transformations that fundamentally changed America in the mid-nineteenth century. These changes were nowhere more acutely felt than in West Virginia.

The newspaper universally deemed to be the most important journalistic chronicle of these tumultuous times in the Mountain State can now be accessed from the comfort of your own home! The initial title selected for inclusion in the West Virginia Digital Newspaper Project, the *Wheeling Intelligencer* (published under slightly varying titles) is now available via a fully searchable database on the National Digital Newspaper Project's *Chronicling America* website hosted by the Library of Congress. The database empowers researchers with the ability to instantly perform comprehensive searches that would otherwise require months if not years' worth of effort.

The *Wheeling Intelligencer* was selected by a panel of experts as the WVDNP's initial focus due to its key role in shepherding many of the changes that defined the era within its region, including especially the establishment of West Virginia as the nation's thirty-fifth state on June 20, 1863. The *Intelligencer's* rise to prominence was the result of a skillful balancing of commercial concerns, patronage, and political idealism. E.B. Swearingen and Oliver Taylor founded the newspaper in 1852 as a vehicle to rally support for Winfield Scott's Whig Party presidential campaign during the fall of that year.

After brief periods of subsequent ownership by several others, Archibald W. Campbell purchased the paper in 1856 in partnership with John F. McDermot. Aiming to establish "a liberal and independent journal" of broad political and topical appeal, Campbell endeavored to take full advantage of recent advancements





The first issue published after West Virginia officially entered the union, the June 22, 1863 edition of the Daily Intelligencer reported the very first steps of the fledgling state, noting celebrations and proceedings of the new state legislature two days earlier.



Newspaperman Archibald W. Campbell (1833-1899)

in newspaper publishing including improvements in printing technology and the availability of breaking news obtained by telegraph. These innovations, coupled with a sweeping seven-column format and a policy of representing diverse viewpoints, garnered not only a wide circulation but also improved advertising revenue.

The *Intelligencer's* stability and broad appeal convinced the nascent Republican Party that it was well-suited to advance the party's platform in northwestern Virginia. Prominent Republicans began offering financial assistance to the newspaper by 1858. Editor Campbell's political sympathies and policy of free speech provided a vehicle through which Republican ideas reached a regional population that was largely disillusioned with eastern Virginia's Southern Democratic leaders. Though Republicans were still a minority in northwestern Virginia, the *Intelligencer* became one of only a handful of Virginia newspapers that supported Abraham Lincoln in the 1860 Presidential election.

The *Intelligencer* benefited from the support

of the Lincoln administration in the months that followed the election. This symbiotic relationship continued throughout the war. The *Intelligencer* consistently advocated the establishment of a new, non-slave, state in western Virginia, though Campbell adhered to his policy of free speech, printing opposing views alongside his own. The *Intelligencer's* role in the statehood debate was, in fact, critical, as Lincoln's support for West Virginia's creation was in part a reward for the Union loyalty of the men behind the movement, including Campbell.

The only daily published in West Virginia in the early 1860s, the *Intelligencer's* circulation exceeded 3,000 during the Civil War. Though its national influence diminished thereafter, the firm foundation that Campbell had established assured the newspaper's long-term viability.

John Frew became part owner of the *Intelligencer* in 1866 and went on to guide the paper for the remainder of the century. In addition to boosting daily circulation, Frew increased readership and influence by



establishing weekly and semi-weekly editions. Campbell's emphasis on quality, objectivity and marketability continued under Frew's leadership. While he and his editors expressed strong political opinions, pursued political office, and benefited from political patronage, they did not abandon the paper's spirit of neutrality, nor compromise its commercial success to advance their personal ambitions and views.

The *Wheeling Intelligencer's* evolution during the mid and late nineteenth century provides much insight into newspaper publishing in America during this pivotal era in history. Its business model proved so enduring that the *Intelligencer* survives to this day as one of the nation's oldest continuously published newspapers.

The *Chronicling America* website (<http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov>) provides access to more than 75,000 pages of the *Intelligencer* dating from the newspaper's founding in 1852 until 1904.

## Visiting Committee

### West Virginia University Libraries

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## Introducing Stewart Plein, Assistant Curator and Rare Books Librarian

A native of Abingdon, Virginia, Stewart Plein has led a life filled with books. Her love of the printed word has taken her from reader to researcher, collector to curator. Stewart was working as a bookseller in Morgantown when a burning desire to learn more about the history of the medium induced her to volunteer at the West Virginia and Regional History Center in 2004. Rewarded for her efforts with part-time employment at the WVRHC in 2007, she found her work so inspiring that she enrolled in the Master of Library Science at the University of South Carolina. The newly minted librarian graduated with flying colors in 2009. After a three year stint as Special Collections Librarian at the WVU College of Law Library, Ms. Plein joined the Center on January 1, 2014 following the retirement of her mentor, the WVRHC's legendary Rare Books librarian Harold M. Forbes. The apprentice has returned as the master!



Stewart Plein

## Selected Recent Acquisitions

**Atkins, Anna Shue. Papers. 1918-2013, 3 ft. 9 in., Gift in 2014. A&M 3984.**

Papers of Anna Shue Atkins (1918-2010), poet, writer, and schoolteacher who was born and spent her early life in Pocahontas County, West Virginia. Contains Atkins's poetry and autobiographical writings, as well as her genealogical research, legal documents, correspondence, newspaper clippings, and other material.

**Brown, Walter. Letter Regarding Trip to Morgantown, (West) Virginia. 1848, 2 pages, Acquired in 2014. A&M 4004.**



Letter from businessman Walter Brown to his business partner Benjamin Coates regarding Brown's trip to Morgantown, (West) Virginia, dated 13 June 1848. Brown describes his visit to Morgantown on business, including meetings with local businessmen, taking orders for cloth goods, and establishing business relationships. Morgantown businessmen mentioned include Mr. Dering, William Lazier, Mr. Chadwick, and Isaac Stiles, as well as Jonathan Haman of Fairmont.

**Civil War Bounty Tax. Collection Document. 1864-1866, 2 pages, Acquired in 2014. A&M 4005.**

Document recording taxes collected in Monongalia County, West Virginia as "bounty money", beginning 1 February 1864. The document records the names of collectors, the townships they worked in, and the amount collected. The reverse of the document also records money borrowed from banks and interest owed. "Bounty money" was a payment in cash given to soldiers after they volunteered for military service.

**Civilian Conservation Corps. Photographs of Camp Cranberry, Webster County. ca. 1933-1942, 1/4 in., Gift in 2014. A&M 3996.**

Digital copies of 48 black and white photographs of Camp Cranberry, a Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) camp located in Webster County, West Virginia. CCC Company 525 operated at Camp Cranberry from 1933 to 1942, building roads, planting trees, and working on other forestry-related tasks. Subjects of photographs include enrollees, buildings, work sites, and equipment. Partial identification (initials or last names) is recorded for some of the enrollees in the photographs. The scans were made from a scrapbook of photographs owned by Joyce Spencer, whose father was a member of the Camp Cranberry CCC company.

**Clay Club of Morgantown. Membership Letter to William S. Archer. 1844, 1 page, Acquired in 2014. A&M 4003.**

Letter from the Committee of Correspondence of the "Clay Club of Morgantown" to the Honorable William S. Archer of Washington, DC, dated 26 January 1844. The letter informs Archer that he had been elected an honorary member of the club. Letter was signed by Club members E. W. Tower, W. J. Willey, E. C. Wilson, Caleb Dorsey, and Francis Madera. "Clay Clubs" were a political organization supporting the campaign of Kentucky Senator Henry Clay for the United States presidency.



*Civilian Conservation Corps Camp Cranberry, Webster County, ca. 1935.*

**Davis, Sallie. Civil War Letter Regarding Union Troops in Fayette and Raleigh Counties. 1862, 1/4 in., Acquired in 2013. A&M 3971.**

Letter written by Sallie Davis, sister of Confederate soldier Charles Davis. The letter is dated 19 March 186[2] and addressed to a Mr. Anderson. The letter regards the presence of Union troops in the local area (Greenbrier and neighboring counties), their seizing of property, and a report regarding how many of Davis' neighbors and friends have moved away for fear of the Union soldiers.

**Elkins, Stephen Benton. Letter Copy Book. 1875-1878, 1 in., Acquired in 2014. A&M 3979.**

Letter copy book kept by Stephen Benton Elkins, a politician and businessman who would later become a prominent citizen of West Virginia. The book was kept from 23 October 1875 to 1 May 1878. It contains roughly 150 letters as well as a partial index of recipients. During the time this book was kept, Elkins resided in Santa Fe, New Mexico, practiced law, represented the territory in Congress, and acted as president of the Maxwell Land Grant Company. Letters concern political and business topics, including Elkins's involvement with the Santa Fe Ring, an illegal land speculation group.

**Hughes, Thomas. Genealogy and Family History. 1817-1918, 1 in., Gift in 2014. A&M 3977.**

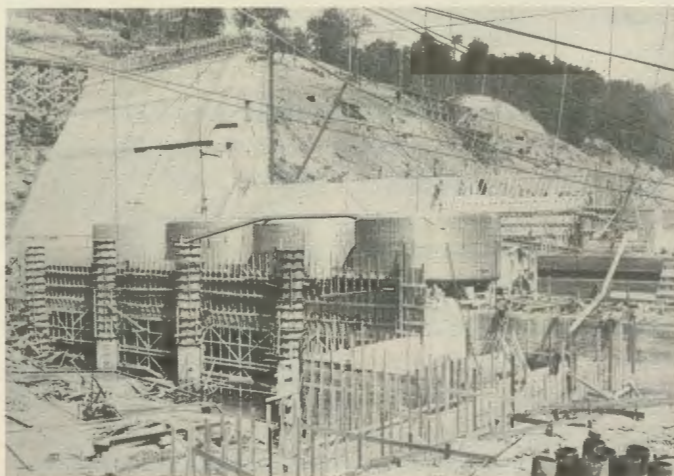
Material regarding Thomas Hughes (b. 1822) and the Hughes family of Greene County, Pennsylvania. Includes copies of two editions of Hughes's book "My Family Memoirs" (1st edition, 1880; 2nd edition, 1918), and wills and estates of various members of the Hughes family. There are also digital copies of the wills and es-



tates. All items within this collection are reproductions.

**Kiger, Vaughan L., Collector. Photographs of Construction of Cheat Lake Dam. 1912-1913, 10 items, Gift in 2014. A&M 3986.**

Original photographs of construction of Cheat Lake Dam in Monongalia County, West Virginia. Planning and development of the hydro-electric power plant began in 1910, but was stalled around the time of World War I. Construction resumed in 1925. The first water flowed over the dam on December 23, 1925, and it began its operation on May 31, 1926.



*Cheat Lake Hydro-Electric Dam Project, June 1913.*

**Lorence, Julius G., Soldier. Civil War Letter Regarding Stonewall Brigade in Jackson's Romney Campaign. 1862, 1/4 in., Acquired in 2013, A&M 3970.**

Letter written by Confederate soldier Julius G. Lorence (also spelled Lorenz and Lowrence), who served in the 27th Regiment Virginia Infantry, Company E, which was part of the "Stonewall Brigade". The letter is dated 12 January 186[2] and is addressed to Lorence's friend "Charley" and describes Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson's attack against Dam No. 5 of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal.

**McGill, Joseph. Diary of a Mine Surveyor and Engineer. 1854-1987, 3/4 in., Gift in 2014. A&M 3992.**

Copy of a transcription of the diary of Joseph McGill (1807-1874), an engineer and surveyor who emigrated from England to the United States. During the period covered by the diary (1854-1856), McGill was working for the "Coal River and Kanawha Mining and Manufacturing Company Coal Mines" at its property along the Big Coal River, Brier Creek Section, Boone County,

(West) Virginia. The diary records McGill's daily work activities, including tasks, locations, and travel, as well as work performed by and wages paid to his workmen. The diary was transcribed by Joseph Patrick McGill (a descendant of Joseph McGill), who also added an introduction to the diary containing biographical, genealogical, and other information. The original transcription of this diary is located at Marshall University.

**McLelland, W.M. Letter by Editor of Monongalian Newspaper. 1833, 3 pages, Acquired in 2014. A&M 4002.**

Letter from W. M. McLelland, the editor of the *Monongalian* newspaper of Morgantown, (West) Virginia to F. P. Blair of Washington, D.C. The letter is dated 13 December 1833. McLelland writes that his printing presses were taken away from him; however, he retained the subscription list and title. McLelland expresses his desire to start a new newspaper, titled the *Monongalia Farmer*. He also writes about his rival newspaper, which was opposed to President Andrew Jackson's veto of the Bank of the United States (part of the "Bank War" of 1832-1841).

**Moore, Amy, Student. Scrapbook Regarding Student Days at West Virginia University. 1913-1927, 3 1/2 in., Acquired in 2014. A&M 3997.**

Scrapbook kept by Amy K. Moore (1898-1972), a student at West Virginia University. Contains newspaper clippings (regarding World War I, sporting events, advertisements), correspondence (including invitations and postcards), programs (for WVU events, dances, theater and musical performances, particularly at the Strand Theater), dance cards, pressed flowers, candy wrappers, regulations pertaining to women students, report cards, pictures of silent films stars, and other material. Moore was a member of the Chi Omega fraternity; many of the items in the scrapbook regard Greek life events at WVU.

**Norton, J. Wise. Maps from 1790s County Surveys. 1880s, 2013, 4 items, Gift in 2014. A&M 4007.**

Three maps compiled from surveys of records in the Virginia Land Office by J. Wise Norton, examiner of land titles, Wheeling, West Virginia. Though created in the 1880s, the maps depict the counties as they were in the mid 1790s. The maps are "Copy of J. Wise Norton's Map of Adjoining Surveys. Surveyed 1795-1796 in Lee County, Virginia" (ca. 1880s); "Copy of J. Wise Norton's Map of Connected Surveys. Surveyed AD 1795-1796 as in Kanawha County, Virginia" (1880s); and "Map of



Connected Surveys made in the years 1794 and 1795 in Russell and Wythe Counties, Virginia" (1887). Also includes a CD (2013) which contains digital images of the three maps, as well as images of another of Norton's maps, "Map of Connected Surveys. Surveyed AD. 1795-1796 as in Kanawha County, Virginia" (1883).

**Plein, Stewart, Collector. Postcard Album, ca. 1905-1915, undated, 2 1/2 in., Gift in 2014. A&M 3989**

Postcard album, ca. 1905-1915, containing 48 postcards and measuring 7 in. x 9 in. The album has a decorative cover and pages with slits to hold postcards. Most of the postcards regard holidays such as Christmas, New Year's, and Easter. Some of the postcards have messages and stamps, others are blank.

**Shill, Harold B., Librarian. Personal and Legislative Papers Regarding Library and Information Policy. ca. 1981-1994, 16 ft., Gift in 2013. A&M 3896.**

Papers regarding the career of Harold B. Shill, including documentation of his legislative activities in connection with libraries and information policy. There are American Library Association (ALA) committee files, records on electronic dissemination of information, and National Technical Information Service (NTIS) material, among many others. Harold Shill joined the faculty of the School of Public Affairs, Penn State, Harrisburg, in fall 2005, following a distinguished career in academic librarianship, including service as director of the Capital College Libraries from 1991-2005, and leadership positions at the West Virginia University Libraries from 1975-1991.

**Smith, Isaac B., Farmer and Music Teacher. Newspaper Clippings and Other Material. 1885-1984, 5 in., Gift in 2013. A&M 3975.**

Newspaper clippings, photographs, sheet music, and other material regarding Isaac B. Smith, a farmer and music teacher from Gilmer County. Smith (1876-1984) lived to be 107 years old.

**Stone, Stewart Spencer, Compiler. Stone Family Papers. 1913-1998, undated, 5 in. Gift in 2014. A&M 3998.**

Papers regarding the genealogy and family history of the Stone Family of Vienna, Wood County, West Virginia. Includes family trees, narratives, newspaper clippings, correspondence, photographs, deeds, maps, and publica-

tions. The genealogy and family history material regards the Stone Family and allied families including the Barnes, Farnsworth, Hammett (or Hammet), Spencer, Tracewell (or Trachel), and Warne families. Includes an oil portrait of Augustus I. Stone.

**Stonewall Jackson Statue. Prospectus for Fund Raising. 1863, 1 page, Acquired in 2014. A&M 3985**

Prospectus for raising funds to create a sculpture of Stonewall Jackson by a committee from Great Britain (England). Includes description of project and its finances, and a listing of committee members. The treasurer of the committee was A.M. Beresford-Hope, a wealthy member of Mid-Victorian British Society who was a supporter of the Confederacy.

**Trebly, Benjamin. Deed for Sale of Land in Preston County, West Virginia. 1812-1813, 1 item, Acquired in 2014. A&M 4001.**

Deed for the sale of land owned by Benjamin Trebly to John Trebly for 300 dollars. The land is described as being located in Monongalia County (now Preston County), along the bank of Big Sandy Creek. The document is described as both a deed (on the outside) and an indenture (in the main text).

**Virginia 10th Cavalry, Company G. Record and Roll. 1864, 1/4 in., Gift in 2014. A&M 3981.**

Transcript of the record and roll of Company G of the Confederate Virginia 10th Cavalry. The company record was kept by Sergeant H. W. Loather of Harrison County. Information recorded includes names and ranks of soldiers, payments made to soldiers and for supplies, miles traveled, and places the company stayed. Several related letters are also transcribed. The transcript was made by Clifford Myers, State Historian and Archivist, in 1932; this collection contains a photocopy of Myers' typed transcript.

**West Virginia University. Extension Service. Photographs. 1922-1941, undated, 2 1/2 in., Transfer in 2013. A&M 3973.**

Photographs of the West Virginia University Extension Service, including black and white photographs of the MacDonald family of Berkeley County and "odds and ends". Subjects of MacDonald family photographs include group portraits, agricultural work, and household tasks. Subjects of "odds and ends" photographs include





Porte Crayon's clock,  
see story, page 1.

camp, agricultural work, individual and group portraits, landscapes, and house exteriors and interiors. There are also labels without associated photographs. The majority of photographs are not identified. Also includes original containers of photographs (which were originally commercial packaging for Kodak sensitized paper).

**Yeend, Frances, Opera Singer. Photographs. 1938-1966, 5 in., Acquired in 2013. A&M 3972.**

Approximately 300 publicity photographs featuring American opera star Frances Yeend (1913-2008), a soprano. Included are photographs of Yeend costumed for roles in operas such as *Pagliacci*, *Turandot*, *Elektra*, *Carmen*, *The Marriage of Figaro*, *Tales of Hoffman*, *La Traviata*, *Faust*, *Aida*, *La Boheme*, *Amelia Goes to the Ball*, *Tosca*, *Requiem*, and *The Four Ruffians*, among others. The collection also includes photographs taken for newspaper and magazine articles including photos of Yeend with the other members of the Bel Canto Trio, including Mario Lanza and George London. There is also a chronological listing of her performances and other professional activities for 1943 to 1966. There are original prints and digital scans in the collection; pho-

to copies of digitized material are foldered within the collection.



Opera diva Frances Yeend poses on the set with Benjamin Britten (far left) and Leonard Bernstein (third from left). Yeend served on the WVU Music faculty from 1966-1978.