

Fall 2005

WVRHC Newsletter, Fall 2005

West Virginia & Regional History Center

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West Virginia and Regional History Collection

NEWSLETTER

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West Virginia University Libraries

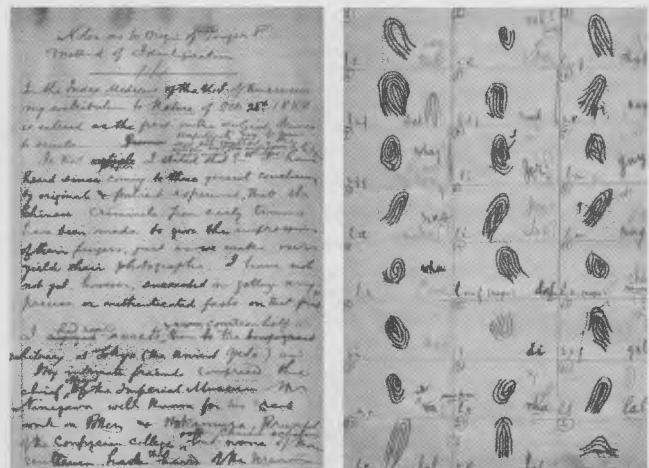
Fall 2005

Desperately Seeking Sherlock Holmes! The IAI Collection

On September 11, 2001, the importance of criminal identification to public safety became instantly apparent to every citizen in America. Events transpiring across the globe ever since have underscored this point time and again. Indeed, it is no longer difficult to imagine that the survival of civilization itself may one day rest in the hands of super sleuths charged with finding and apprehending those who would stop at nothing to tear it down.

If we could somehow transport the legendary dean of detectives from his 19th century flat at 221b Baker St. to the present, he would find himself to be seriously behind the learning curve. Modern criminal investigation has progressed by leaps and bounds over the past century, and especially over the last few decades. Fortunately, however, should Sherlock Holmes miraculously appear, an outstanding archival information resource exists which traces the evolution of this crucial field from its origins to the present. No, this marvelous collection is not at Scotland Yard. It's in the West Virginia University Libraries!

In March 2005, the West Virginia and Regional History Collection and Special Collections became home to the library of the world's oldest and largest criminal identification organization, the International Association for Identification. The IAI selected the WVU Libraries to house its priceless collection due to the University's pioneering program in the field of Forensic and Investigative Sciences education. The program began back in 1997 when WVU signed an agreement with the FBI to create the world's first forensic identification training center to help provide law enforcement with much-needed experts in the techniques of biometrics (scanning and analytical techniques to verify a person's identity) and fingerprint identification.



The Dr. Faulds' scrapbooks contain Faulds' "Notes on the Origin of Finger P. Method of Identification" as well as numerous sketches of fingerprint patterns.

Consisting of more than 100 linear feet of material, including archives and manuscripts, books, periodicals, and a wide assortment of ephemera, the IAI Collection is the most comprehensive forensics information resource in existence. The earliest materials in the collection date back to the late 19th century when the field of scientific criminal investigation was in its infancy. Among the most valuable items are a set of scrapbooks containing the correspondence and personal papers of a giant in the history of forensics, Dr. Henry Faulds (1843-1930).

A Scottish physician, Faulds discovered the uniqueness of human fingerprints while working as a missionary in a Tokyo hospital during the late 1870s. He reported his observations to the scientific community in an October 1880 article in the periodical *Nature*, noting that "bloody finger-marks or impressions on clay, glass" and other surfaces held great potential for the field of criminal investigation. The article included directions for not only revealing and examining prints at the crime scene but also for recording the fingerprints of suspects

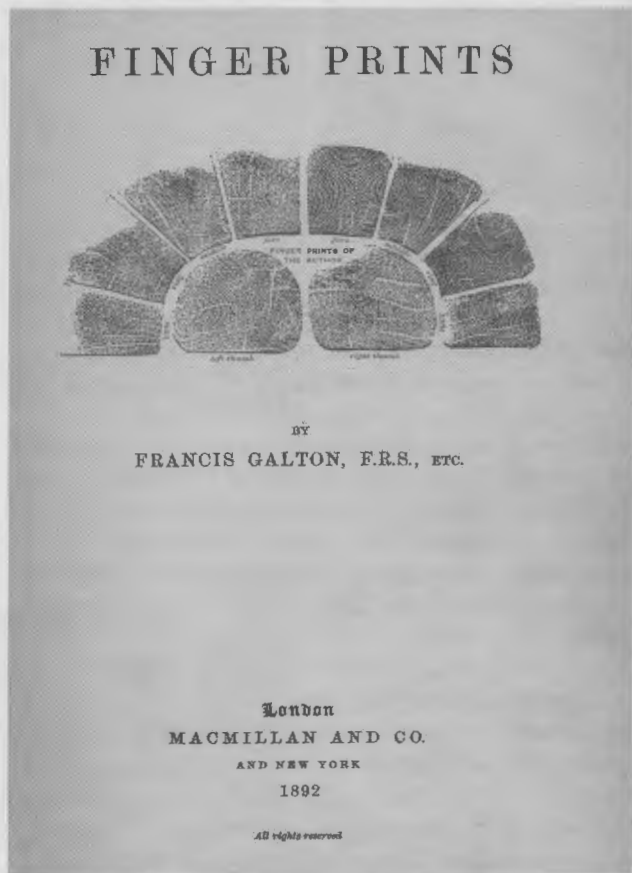
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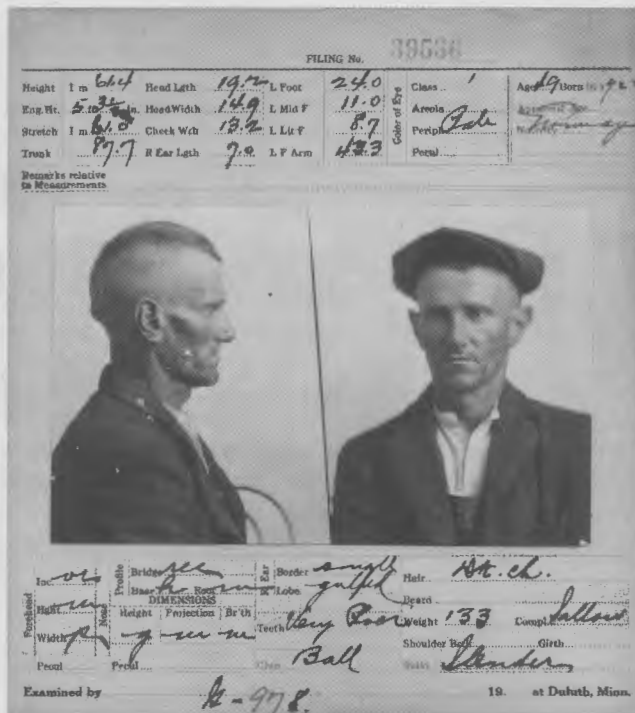
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and convicts on paper using printer's ink. Upon his return to England several years later, Dr. Faulds presented his discoveries to Scotland Yard but another decade and a half would elapse before they were put into general practice.

Included in the Henry Faulds scrapbooks are research notes, studies of fingerprint patterns and typology, and correspondence with various individuals and crime fighting organizations around the world on many subjects, dating from the late 1870s until shortly before the doctor's death in 1930. Correspondents include several notable names in the field of forensic science including Henry Deforest who played a key role in introducing fingerprinting in America and who invented a machine for reading fingerprints.



Title page of the first book on the subject of fingerprinting, Sir Francis Galton's Finger Prints (London: MacMillan and Co, 1892).



Bertillon criminal identification system card from the Police Department, Bureau of Identification, Duluth, Minnesota, ca. 1922.

Another group of documents of special note in the IAI Collection elucidates a different early method of criminal identification developed by a contemporary of Dr. Faulds. The head of the French Bureau of Identification, Alphonse Bertillon (1853-1913 or 1914) began recording anatomical and facial features of convicted criminals for identification purposes in the 1880s with the presumption that no two criminals could be virtually physically identical. Including skull and ear measurements, facial features and so on, Bertillon's method, known as "anthropometry" or "Bertillonage," enjoyed wide acceptance in Europe and America until two prisoners bearing the same name and identical physical traits were discovered in an American prison. After fingerprinting proved an easy method of distinguishing the two, Bertillon's method was gradually abandoned though the recording of simple visual aids to identification including eye and hair color continues to this day. Included in the IAI Collection are numerous examples of original Bertillon prison records on small cards from American penal institutions. The later cards contain not only anatomical measurements and observations but also small photographs that represent prototypes for the modern "mug shot."

Not all of the IAI Collection is as immediately gripping and obviously priceless as the above items. In fact, much of the bulk of the collection seems rather mundane. There are myriad clipped and photocopied articles from newspapers, detective magazines and other popular reading matter on all manner of crime-related

subjects. Brochures from manufacturers and vendors of law enforcement and identification equipment abound as do news releases on scientific breakthroughs and developing techniques. There are hundreds if not thousands of law enforcement and forensics association newsletters and bulletins, as well as countless reports, published and unpublished, detailed and superficial, on topics ranging from DNA analysis to cigarette butt and shoeprint identification. While many of these items do not seem especially valuable when considered individually, as a group they comprise a broad collected resource on the subject of criminal identification that would take a lifetime to assemble.

In truth, the IAI Collection could never be recreated due both to the unique and ephemeral nature of its contents. According to WVU's Forensic and Investigative Sciences program director Cliff Bishop, the collection represents a "treasure trove" to his students, especially the notebooks of Dr. Faulds which chronicle the foundations of his field. "Think of being able to see all the notes Charles Darwin made before writing *On the Origin of Species*," said Bishop, a biologist by training. "That's what we're looking at here."

Interestingly, the connection between Faulds and Darwin is not limited to merely being contemporary pioneers. Dr. Faulds wrote to the famous evolutionist from Tokyo shortly after discovering the uniqueness of human skin patterns hoping to embark on a collaboration. The aging Darwin declined the offer but passed Faulds' letter on to his scientist nephew, Sir Francis Galton (1822-1911). Galton found the issue so compelling that he went on to pen more than a dozen articles and books on the subject of fingerprinting over the next decade (these publications are well represented in the IAI Collection). This body of work so eclipsed Fauld's own that it was Galton who was soon hailed as the "father of fingerprinting."

For several decades, a battle of words and letters raged between Faulds and Galton, and an even earlier Englishman named Sir William Herschel (1833-1918) who had employed hand and finger marks as a means of identification in India as early as 1858. While it was eventually conceded that Dr. Faulds was the first to specifically advocate the forensic use of fingerprints, the controversy over the relative importance of these three men, and several others, to the development of fingerprinting exists to this day. If scholars should ever seek to definitively unravel this tangled mystery, it is very likely that they will turn to the world's leading information resource on the subject, the International Association of Identification Collection in the WVU Libraries!

West Virginia History OnView Regional History Collection's New Digital Photograph Database Offers "Something for Everyone"

From rugged coalfields and barren hillsides stripped of timber to WVU's elegant Woodburn Circle surrounded by farmland and thoroughfares lined by Model-Ts, a glimpse into the past of the Mountain State is now only a few clicks of the keyboard away.

West Virginia History OnView, a new digital photograph database launched by the WVU Libraries during WVU's Mountaineer Week celebration in early November, provides online access to more than 5,000 of the finest historical photographs housed in the West Virginia and Regional History Collection. The database is expected to eventually swell to more than 25,000 images.

"The West Virginia Collection has the finest collection of historical photographs relating to West Virginia in existence," WVRHC Curator John Cuthbert said. "We are now making the best of them available for viewing by anyone with Internet access."



Bringing in a gusher near Harrisville, Ritchie County, ca. 1880.



Interior of the New England mine, Marion County, ca. 1910.

The popular collection is used regularly by students and faculty at WVU and other institutions, researchers, historians, and members of the media. Pictures found often end up in term papers, classroom presentations, newspaper and magazine articles, and documentary films. Finding that one sought-after photograph has traditionally required a hefty investment of time, thought, and patience, however. The creation of the new online database is destined to alleviate much of the common frustrations.

First, Internet access brings convenience. Rather than making a trip to Morgantown, a researcher can simply browse the user-friendly database from the comforts of home or office. Gone also are the time limitations that stump people pressed to complete their work within the limited operational hours of the WVRHC.

The greatest advantage, however, is surely the enhanced search capability. Broad subject headings and the absence of a cross-indexing system for the physical photograph collection has confounded countless users in the past. A researcher looking for a photo of a specific Morgantown business or school, for example, might have to wade through the entire Morgantown group of several hundred photos. If the desired photograph was a shot of a steamboat on the Monongahela River passing under the Westover bridge, the photo might not even be housed in the Morgantown section but filed instead under steamboats, rivers, or bridges.

The new database, which incorporates detailed cataloging and descriptive information for each image, will enable users to perform instantaneous searches on any word or combination of words. The person hunting for that steamboat photo could find it through at least three subject heading paths: steamboats, rivers, or bridges, as well as through other avenues such as the



Glass Blower and Mold Boy, Grafton, ca. 1935. Photograph by Lewis Hine. National Archives.

name of the boat, its owner, or any other identifying feature included.

“Researchers are going to find that they have tremendously enhanced power to locate the specific photographs they need,” Cuthbert said. “It’s going to completely revolutionize photos research at the West Virginia Collection.”

While the WVRHC has traditionally served academics, historians, and writers, Cuthbert anticipates a rush of citizens interested in their own heritage taking advantage of the new database. And he expects them to be pleased with what they find. The database is only one-fifth of the way complete, but it already contains photos from all 55 counties.

“It won’t matter where they are in West Virginia, there is going to be something on our site that’s going to resonate with everybody personally,” Cuthbert said.



Logging operation on Cherry River, Nicholas County, 1902.

"A Heavy and Afflicting Loss"
Mourning the Death of George Washington

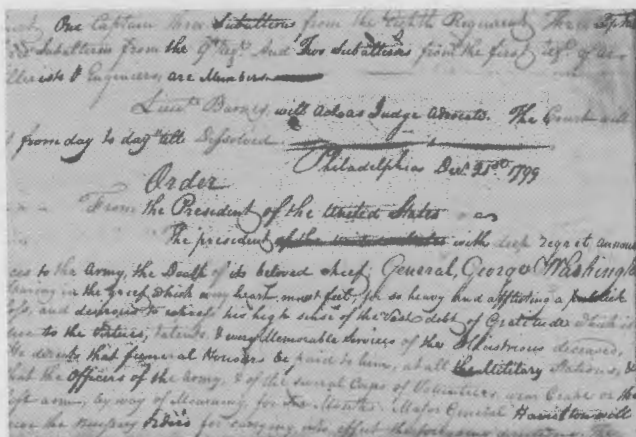
Among the many notable acquisitions received to date in 2005 is a collection of materials pertaining to the history and genealogy of the Eastern Panhandle. Included is an Order Book of the 8th Regiment United States Army, Harpers Ferry, dating back to the turn of the 19th century. The order book records activities of the unit from December 30, 1799 to May 1, 1800. In addition to regimental orders, the volume contains instructions for military conduct, appearance, and marching techniques as well as court martial proceedings for abuses ranging from tardiness or absence from military duties to disorderly conduct. Of special interest are orders for observing the passing of the Army's most illustrious commander, General George Washington.

Washington died of a throat infection on December 14, 1799. Official announcement of his death was released to the United States Army by Commander in Chief President John Adams one week later. The 8th Regiment Order Book indicates that this word reached Harpers Ferry approximately three weeks later. The following passage was recorded on January 9, 1800.

Philadelphia Dec. 21st. 1799

*Order
From the President of the United States*

The president with deep regret, announces to the Army, the death of its beloved chief, General George Washington. Sharing in the grief that every heart must feel, for so heavy and afflicting a public loss, and desirous to express his sense of the high debt of Gratitude which is due to the Virtues, talents and ever Memorable Services of the Illustrious deceased, He



Order Book of the 8th Regiment, January 9, 1800 (detail).

directs that funeral Honours be paid to him, at the military stations, & that the Officers of the Army, and of the several corps of Volunteers, wear Crape on the left arm, by way of mourning for Six Months.

Issued by U.S. Army Adjutant General William North, the order went on to specify the "funeral Honours" that were to "be paid at the Several Stations of the Army."

George Washington's funeral took place at Mount Vernon on December 18, 1799, but mock funeral services and elaborate funeral processions were held in churches and communities throughout the nation. Washington was such a beloved and respected figure that most American citizens wanted to actively participate in mourning his passing.

New and Renewing Members
West Virginia and Regional History
Association

Allen County Public Library Fort Wayne, IN

Beane, Phillip Durham, NC

Borkowski, Stephen Provincetown, MA

Burnell, James Fairmont, WV

Collins, Linda Morgantown, WV

DAR Library Washington, DC

DeHart, Donald Franklin, TX

Hall, Van Pittsburgh, PA

Kaunike, Linda Colville, WA

Little, Barbara Orange, VA

Martin, Harold Lebanon, OH

Reavis, Dorothy Daniels, WV

Reynolds, Celie Washington, PA

Schrader, Charles Morgantown, WV

Teets, Brenda Lou Harrisonburg, VA

Toney, Virginia Houston, TX

Selected Recent Acquisitions

Circus Posters. Broad sides, 1970-1995, 2 ft., Purchase, 2005. A&M 3489.

Sixteen circus posters and two rodeo posters announcing events in West Virginia for the period ca. 1970-1995; most are for the Charleston Civic Center, but a few are for the Lewisburg Fairgrounds. Circuses include Clyde Beatty and Cole Bros., Hoxie Bros., Mills Bros., and Ringling Bros. and Barnum and Bailey. Posters are 14 in. x 22 in. (except for a 11 in. x 14 in. rodeo poster) and multi-colored.

Heironimus, Mary E., Collector. Papers, 1799-1931. 3 in. Gift, 2005. A&M 3484.

A collection of documents and papers, many pertaining to the Eastern Panhandle and the Washington Family. Included are: 1) Order book of the 8th U.S. Regiment stationed at Harper's Ferry, Virginia (12 1/2 in. x 7 3/4 in.; 68 leaves) for period 30 Dec. 1799 to 1 May 1800, containing detailed record of unit activities, including reference to observances made upon news of the death of George Washington. 2) Receipt for purchase of slave in Abingdon, Virginia, February 1864. 3) Typescript regarding Harewood, residence of George Washington's brother, Samuel Washington, no date; program for dedication of the Washington Monument, 1885; pamphlet about and illustration of the Washington Manor House in England, 1922. 4) Correspondence regarding genealogy of the Washington family, 1931; typescript regarding genealogy of the Washington family, 1891. 5) Copies of Washington family genealogies, 1931, 1891. 6) Typescript of Forrest family genealogy, including original and preservation copy. 7) Miscellaneous genealogy notes. 8) Oversize items: one copy of the New York Times of February 23, 1862 with headline article regarding ceremonies observing Washington's birthday; deed for plot in Oak Grove Cemetery for Thomas Rogers, Monongalia County, West Virginia, 1884.

Holt Family Collection. Papers, 1940-2005, 4 ft.. Gift, 2005. ADD A&M 1701.

Records documenting the professional and personal activities of Mrs. Helen Holt and her son Rush D. Holt, Jr.; also includes some records regarding her daughter Helen Jane Holt. Includes correspondence, clippings, newsletters, programs, pamphlets, and photographs regarding the engagement and wedding of Rush Dew Holt and Helen Froelich, birth and christening of daughter Helen Jane Holt, Secretary of State (WV) and Federal Housing Administration activities of Helen Holt, speech notes of Helen Holt, Greenbrier College (Lewisburg, WV), Stephens College (Columbia, MO), and travel ephemera related to trains, planes, buses, and lodging (1940s-1960s), among other records.

Kilgore, Harley Martin, United States Senator. Papers, 1941-1956, 2 in., Gift, 2005. ADD A&M 3335.

Photographs, press releases, and news clippings regarding Harley M. Kilgore, U.S. Senator from West Virginia, 1941-1956. Photographs document Kilgore's Senatorial career, and include pictures with Harry S. Truman and Dwight D. Eisenhower; press releases and news clippings include mostly biographies and obituaries from 1956.

Ley, Robison, and Blosser Family. Papers, 1890-1965, 2 in., Purchase, 2005. ADD A&M 3328.

Robison family photo album and Blosser family papers. The Robison photo album (ca. 1890-1910) contains 13 cabinet cards, 1 postcard photograph identified as "Elenore Robinson," and 1



Senator Harley Kilgore (right) poses with Harry Truman (center), ca. 1943.

negative. (This album was acquired in connection with Blosser papers, so the subjects in the album are likely related to the Ley-Robison-Blosser families of the Cheat River area, and perhaps other Cheat families.) The Blosser papers include a cardboard advertising stand for headache tablets (n.d.), business licenses (1926), drivers license documents (1930-1937), Blosser Marina (on Cheat Lake) stationary (ca. 1945-1965), WVU fraternity pin (1952), program for Woman's Christian Temperance Union (1915), wallet card from Sabraton Volunteer Fire Department (n.d.), and advertising ephemera from Morgantown businesses (3 items, 1920s-1930s), among other items.

Metropolitan Theatre. Records, 1916-1987, 2 ft. 6 in., Gift, 2005. ADD A&M 3254.

Records of the Metropolitan Theatre, Morgantown. Includes administrative, operational, and financial records such as film distribution contracts, advertising records, and vendor contracts, ca. 1948-1987; there are also minutes for the Board of Directors for 1929-1943 and miscellaneous blueprints. Twelve folders of vintage material includes: 1) one ledger of performers, including

vaudeville acts, for the Grand Theater, Morgantown, 9/1916-9/1920 and 10/1920-2/1921; 2) two ledgers of performers kept by employee Mose Gottleib for an unknown theater (probably Grand or Strand) for 3/1918-4/1922 and 8/1924-10/1925; 3) handbill advertisement for Mary Pickford Film (1919) and photo postcard of a female vaudeville performer (ca. 1910); 4) Constitution and By-Laws of the Morgantown Local 578 of the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees and Moving Picture Projectionists, 1924; 5) World War II War Bond pamphlet, applications, and newsletters, 1943-1944; 6) clip art for Labor Day and Citizenship Day showings, n.d.; a handbill for the film, *Lawrence of Arabia*, 1962; a clipping announcing the 25th anniversary of the Metropolitan, 1949; architectural plans for a Morgantown Amusement Company office building, 1948; a theater seating chart, no date; a Fall Out Shelter License, 1962.



The Limestone German Band, Wetzel County, ca. 1890.

There are programs (1917-1930) for the 7) Metropolitan Theatre (2 items), 8) Strand Theatre (3 items), 9) Swisher Theatre (13 items), and 10) miscellaneous theatres (4 items). There are also 11) news clippings relating to Mose Gottleib, longtime Met employee, 1949; and 12) "Wide World War Book" Edition of the Morgantown Dominion News, 1942.

Mills, Clara. Scrapbook, 1923-1926, 1 ft. 1 in., Purchase, 2005. A&M 3497.

Scrapbook created by Morgantown resident Clara Mills (25 leaves with attached material, 10 in. x 13 in. x 1.5 in., "Morgantown High School" on cover). Clara Mills attended Morgantown High School from 1919 to 1923; the scrapbook begins with autographs, inscriptions, and calling cards from (apparently) classmates at the time of her graduation (1923); there is also a commencement announcement and program (1923). Following this are dance cards, greeting cards, and announcements; special items include a Harold Lloyd advertising card in the form of a playing card from the Strand Theatre in Morgantown (undated), and a Pennsylvania road map from 1925. There are 52 sepia-toned photographs (3 in. x 5 in.) of people, presumably friends and/or relatives of Clara Mills; one group of photographs is taken in a

rural setting; a second group records a family vacation in the vicinity of Buffalo, New York, including photographs at a lake-side park in the community of Crescent Park on Lake Erie (just west of Fort Erie, Ontario and Buffalo), as well as pictures of Niagara Falls, and the boats "City of Buffalo" and "Detroit."

Motion Pictures. 16 mm Film, 1930-1939, 1 item, Gift, 2005.

One reel of 16mm film of Morgantown, West Virginia in the 1930s (nine minutes long in four segments) including: 1) outdoor social event involving people observing or leading horses; there are parked cars and a horse-drawn cart; 2) West Virginia University (WVU) School of Mines Extension Service activities including a class regarding ventilating mine maps, testing a centrifugal fan, and grading homework and preparing lessons (including use of a typewriter); 3) parade with marching band and giant animal and people floats; there are parked cars and people observing the parade; 4) men eating under a tent in front of WVU's Armory building.

Moyers, Benjamin Franklin, Physician. Records, 1891-1953, 2 ft. 8 in., Purchase, 2005. A&M 3490.

Records of Hardy County physician Dr. Benjamin Franklin Moyers. Includes 26 day books chronologically documenting over 86,000 visits (including over 3000 births) over period 1898-1953; each visit is documented by date, name of patient, brief description of treatment, and fee. (There is a day book of his predecessor, Dr. G.S. Gochenour, for 1891-1895.) There are also six accounting journals indexed by name of patient recording billings and payments. Nine notebooks of class notes date from Dr. Moyers' student days at Baltimore Medical School for the period ca. 1895-1897.

Finally, there is about one inch of miscellaneous Moyers family papers (including copies, not originals, of documents up to 1887) of indentures (1756-1850), deeds (1887-1924), tax receipts (1899-1902), etc.; oversize items include a plat for Samuel Moyers (1888), a West Virginia Physician's Certification for Dr. Moyers (1897), and an insurance policy (1905). A news clipping from the Moorefield Examiner (7-27-1949) provides biographical details regarding Dr. Moyers.

North, William D. Papers, 1808-1886, 1 in., Purchase, 2005. A&M 3498.

Records of the North family of Berkeley and Jefferson Counties, West Virginia, including mostly the papers of William D. North. Includes land survey for Hugh Davison (1808), financial records of William D. North (1842-1856), miscellaneous papers of William D. North (1831-1886), land records of the North and Gill families (1815, 1848, 1849), Gill estate sale record (1841), deed between Elizabeth Ward and Nancy Holmes of Berkeley County (1857), and division of land between James Burwell and

Walter Burwell (n.d.). Includes tuition fee records by William D. North for "District No. 17" in Jefferson County, including a listing of students (1851).

Wetzel County Photographs. Prints, 1895-1950, 21 items, Gift, 2005.

Twenty-one photographic images of subjects related to New Martinsville, West Virginia. Includes floods, Paden Park Pavilion, Craig's Chapel Church, Gorby Brothers Grocery Store, The Limestone German Band, Gorby Orchard, John Gorby's home, Aviator Melba Gorby, river-boat pilot Evelyn Elaine Cook, packet boat "Liberty," Gorby reunion, Doolin School student body.

Sanders, John Family. Papers, 1823-1922, 1 in., Gift, 2005. A&M 3487.

Records regarding the Sanders family. Includes: a history of the John Sanders family of West Virginia by Paula Curran (78 pp.); history of Cassville School, Sub-District No. 10, 1921-1922. Five photos: 1) Morgantown Teacher's Institute, 1909; 2) Group portrait, 50th wedding anniversary of James and Sara Sanders (includes list of names); 3) Portrait of Luther Ford Sanders (1861-1929); 4) Portrait of Sarah Ann Sanders Hackney (1837-1902); 5) Luther Ford Sanders with his class (probably in the Cass District). Also includes copies of records regarding disposition

of John Sanders' property in Delaware at the end of his life, 1823-1824.

Sayre Family. Genealogy and History. Records, 1992-2002, 6 ft. 7 in., Gift, 2005. A&M 3485.

Genealogical research records regarding the Sayre family of West Virginia. Includes correspondence, family histories, genealogy charts, pamphlets, and photographs.

Seneca Glass. Records, 1891-1983, 24 ft. 4 in., Gift, 2005. ADD A&M 2964.

Records of Seneca Glass company of Morgantown, West Virginia; includes financial records, product records, catalogs, payroll records, factory equipment records, blueprints and drawings, miscellaneous business records (such as correspondence, contracts, financial statements, invoices, etc.), product photographs, and catalogs of other companies producing tableware.

West Virginia Library Association. Records, 1985-2001, 4 ft. 8 in., Gift, 2005. ADD A&M 715.

Administrative records, including correspondence, committee files, and newsletters.

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Fingerprints from the scrapbook of Dr. Henry Faulds. See story, p. 1.