

December marked the 225th anniversary of the ratification of the first ten amendments to the Constitution of the United States. These amendments were added to the Constitution in 1791 and are collectively known as the Bill of Rights.

To mark this important anniversary, the West Virginia Humanities Council partnered with the National Archives to distribute a special pop-up exhibit now on display at locations statewide. The exhibit, titled *The Bill of Rights and You*, was created by the Archives with the support of AT&T and others.

As a result of this partnership more than 40 West Virginia institutions received *The Bill of Rights and You* at no cost and are expected to display the exhibit through February or beyond. Exhibit venues include libraries, colleges, state parks, schools and state agencies. Each also received supporting educational materials from the National Archives, and may keep the exhibit permanently.

The Bill of Rights and You explores the origins of the first ten amendments, illustrates how each protects U.S. citizens, and looks at the sometimes controversial ways that Americans exercise the rights outlined in the amendments. Those rights include among others the freedom of speech, freedom of the press, freedom of religion, and the right of peaceful assembly.

Happy birthday, Bill of Rights!

The exhibit also examines the amendment process itself, noting that prior to the Constitution's Article V people rarely had the ability to adjust their governments by non-violent means. The Founders believed that the Constitution should be capable of change, and the first changes came very quickly due to their own failure to include a bill of rights in the body of the Constitution. This created difficulty with ratification in some states.

"The Bill of Rights represented the great compromise necessary to assure passage of the Constitution," points out historian Ken Sullivan, executive director of the Humanities Council. "Certain patriots, including Patrick Henry, Sam Adams, and others, bitterly opposed the Constitution as drafted, fearful of replacing one oppressive government with another. Adoption of these amendments guaranteeing the fundamental liberties of Americans is what it took to put the deal across."

When the First Congress convened in 1789 it acknowledged the need to give citizens what they wanted. Congressman (and future president) James Madison, who had been a principal author of the Constitution now took the lead in fixing it. In doing so, he and his associates drew upon other documents protective of individual liberty, including the Magna Carta and the Virginia Declaration of Rights. Congress ultimately sent 12 amendments to the states for approval. Ten were ratified on December 15, 1791.

These first ten amendments represent more than a third of all amendments that have been made to the Constitution. Article V is nearly the shortest in the Constitution, but the process outlined there requires much thoughtful deliberation: Amendments must be proposed by two-thirds of each house of Congress or by two-thirds of the states, and must be approved by three-fourths of the states. In more than two centuries, only 27 amendments have been successful.

The original Bill of Rights may be viewed at the National Archives in Washington. It is on daily display in the Rotunda for the Charters of Freedom, alongside the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution. *The Bill of Rights and You* may be viewed at locations throughout West Virginia. Visit www.wvhumanities.org for a site near you.

The Bill of Rights exhibit at a Kanawha County library.



Michael Keller



Grant Categories

The Humanities Council welcomes applications in the following grant categories.

Major Grants (\$20,000 maximum) support major humanities projects, symposiums, conferences, exhibits, lectures.

Due: *Feb. 1, Sept. 1

Minigrants (\$1,500 maximum) support small projects, single events, or planning and consultation. **Due:** *Feb. 1, April 1, June 1, Oct. 1

Fellowships (\$2,500) support research and writing projects by humanities faculty and independent scholars.

Due: *Feb. 1

Media Grants (\$20,000 maximum) support projects intended to produce audio or video products, websites, or a newspaper series.

Due: Sept. 1

Publication Grants (\$20,000 maximum) are available to nonprofit presses and academic presses, and support the production phase of a completed manuscript.

Due: Sept. 1

Teacher Institute Grants (\$25,000 maximum) are available to colleges and universities, RESAs, and the state Department of Education, and support summer seminars for secondary and elementary teachers. **Due:** Sept. 1

* Approaching Deadlines!

Fellowship and grant applications may be submitted online at www.wvhumanities.org. Contact grants administrator Erin Riebe with any questions at (304)346-8500 or riebe@wvhumanities.org.



The Humanities Council is again supporting an exhibit of the **West Virginia Railroad Museum**. Located in the historic Darden Mill in the Elkins rail yard, the museum was founded in 2003 to preserve the state's railroading history. The new exhibit, which is scheduled to run from April through October 2017, will spotlight West Virginia's logging railroads.

In addition to the history of the logging railroad, the new exhibit will explore the lumbering process and how the industry transformed the land, as well as the social, economic and political change brought about by the new rail lines and the logging business. It will feature the railroad workers and new technology, including the invention of geared locomotives which revolutionized mountain logging. For more information, visit wvrrailmuseum.com.



The 2017 **Little Lectures** will take place on March 26, April 30, May 21, and June 25. The Sunday afternoon programs, which feature talks by experts on a variety of topics, begin at 2:00 p.m. at Humanities Council headquarters in Charleston's historic MacFarland-Hubbard House with a reception following. Topics and speakers will be announced in February. Visit www.wvhumanities.org.

History Alive! recently selected new characters: Gabriel Arthur, portrayed by Doug Wood of Hurricane, and Nellie Bly, portrayed by JoAnn Peterson of Kingwood. Arthur is believed to have been the first white American to see the Kanawha Valley, in 1674. Nellie Bly (left), the pen name of Elizabeth Jane Cochrane, was a well-known journalist in the late 1800s.



The popular program brings historic figures to life through first-person portrayals. Presentations are available for \$150 to nonprofit and for-profit organizations throughout West Virginia including schools, libraries, museums, historical societies, civic groups, festivals, businesses, and anyone with an interest in history.

Other **History Alive!** characters include Julia Child, Benjamin Franklin, Stonewall Jackson, Cherokee leader Ostenaco, Minnie Pearl, Eleanor Roosevelt, Theodore Roosevelt, Sacagawea, Harriet Tubman, and Mark Twain. Visit www.wvhumanities.org or contact Mark Payne at (304)346-8500 or payne@wvhumanities.org.

Join the **West Virginia Historical Society** by sending \$10 annual dues (\$25 for contributing members) to P.O. Box 5220, Charleston, WV 25361-0220.



Zoe van Buren

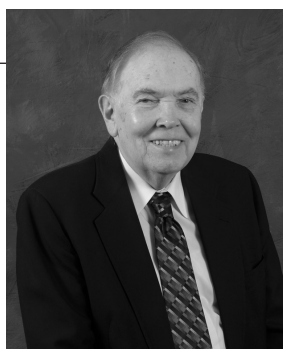
Jim Costa sizes himself up against an oak cooling board from his collection.

The **West Virginia Folklife Program** will present old-time musician and collector Jim Costa of Summers County on January 25 at the historic MacFarland-Hubbard House in Charleston. The concert, which takes place at 5:30 p.m., will include Costa's performance, discussion of his work, and a reception.

An accomplished musician and storyteller, Costa is also an expert on regional farm tools and objects of rural life from the 18th and 19th centuries. Last summer, the folklife program arranged for University of North Carolina folklorist Zoe van Buren to spend two months with him, conducting oral histories and documenting his extensive collection. As part of the concert, she will lead a Q&A with Costa about his life, music, and material culture collection. There is no charge but reservations are advised. Call (304)346-8500 or email hilliard@wvhumanities.org.

Worth its salt: WVU Press has republished *The Antebellum Kanawha Salt Business and Western Markets* with a new preface by author John E. Stealey, Distinguished Professor Emeritus, Shepherd University. This is the standard work on an important Western Virginia industry. Dr. Stealey is especially interested in management practices, with this and further research of his indicating that regional salt operators pioneered monopoly arrangements later common in some segments of the American economy. Order online at wvupress.com or visit a bookstore.

We bid farewell to Humanities Council president emeritus James W. Rowley, who died December 14 at age 91. Dr. Rowley had a distinguished career in higher education, holding every position from chancellor and college president downward. We will miss his friendship and never-ending support.



Michael Keller

—We get mail!—

Chip Shaffer, troop leader of Boy Scout Troop 289 in Madison, wrote to us about a recent History Alive performance:

Last night was a huge success! I didn't count, but am guessing we had 50-60 people in attendance. Doug Wood performed in character (as Cherokee leader Ostenaco) and then answered questions for an hour and 15 minutes. The crowd was made up mostly of youth ranging from 6 to 18 years old, but many adults came out also. With that many children and short attention spans, I was a little concerned about behavior, but Doug held the crowd in the palm of his hand. They were absolutely captivated from beginning to end. At least a dozen people came up to me afterward and asked when we could do this again.

Program Committee Election

Please help choose citizen members for the Humanities Council program committee. Your vote gives the public a voice in our grants and program decisions. Vote for no more than four:

___ **Dorothy Bibbee**, Wood County, who retired as an English professor after 30 years at WVU-Parkersburg, is vice-president of the Wood County Historical Society.

___ **Rebekah Karelis**, Ohio County, is project manager at the Wheeling Heritage Area Corporation, president of the West Virginia Association of Museums, and a Wheeling Historic Landmarks Commissioner.

___ **Deborah Piscitelli**, Jefferson County, who recently retired after 36 years as executive director of the Harpers Ferry Historical Association, is a member of the Jefferson County Historical Society.

___ **Cassandra Pritts**, Mineral County, teaches history at Potomac State College of WVU where she was 2015 professor of the year. She serves on the board of the Mineral County Historical Society and as caretaker for the Barrick Historic Cemetery.

___ **Emilee Seese**, Ritchie County, directs the Ritchie County Public Library system. She is president of the Ritchie County Chamber of Commerce and past president of the West Virginia Library Association.

___ **Eric Waggoner**, Upshur County, teaches American literature and cultural studies at West Virginia Wesleyan College, where he chairs the English Department and is Director of General Education. He is a program committee incumbent and eligible for re-election.

___ **Beverly Whelton**, Ohio County, teaches philosophy at Wheeling Jesuit University and online for Gonzaga University and Jesuit Commons, which provides college courses for young people in refugee camps.

Return your ballot by mail to the West Virginia Humanities Council or email your choices to payne@wvhumanities.org by March 1, 2017.

West Virginia Humanities Council
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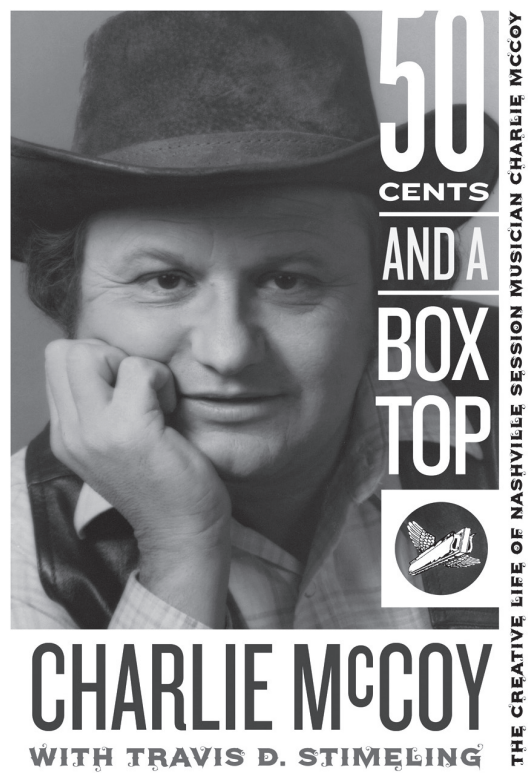
Documenting the Nashville Sound

Travis Stimeling credits a 2014 Humanities Council fellowship for getting him started on a project to document recording and production practices from country music's "Nashville Sound" era. An Upshur County native, Stimeling is assistant professor of music history at West Virginia University and director of the WVU Bluegrass Band. Now he has received a \$50,400 fellowship from the National Endowment for the Humanities to continue his study.

The Nashville Sound, prevalent from the mid-1950s to the early 1970s, fostered some of country music's most iconic recordings. Patsy Cline's *Walkin' After Midnight*, Tammy Wynette's *Stand by Your Man*, and Bobby Helms's *Jingle Bell Rock* are examples. While the period has been the subject of several music industry histories and many scholarly articles, the stories of Nashville Sound session musicians have not been told. These are the essential people behind the stars, talented freelancers hired to play on recording sessions and usually not credited. With his NEH fellowship, Stimeling will explore the daily activities of the studio musicians, producers, engineers, and recording artists.

Stimeling will also examine historic images for such practical matters as the location of musicians within the studio and microphone selection and placement. Through interviews and oral histories, he will seek details of specific recording sessions as well as general production practices. Documents of the American Federation of Musicians in Nashville offer an understanding of the economics of session work, while an analysis of key neighborhoods in Nashville will provide insight on the impact of geography. Stimeling will listen to numerous Nashville Sound records to learn the mechanics of how the music was made, analyzing which instruments were used and how certain sounds were created.

Stimeling's work will recognize musicians such as guitarist Harold Bradley, who may be heard with the likes of Roy Orbison, Loretta Lynn and Elvis Presley, and West Virginia's own Charlie McCoy, who played in more than 10,000 sessions with artists such as Bob Dylan and George Jones. McCoy is the topic of Stimeling's forthcoming book (right) by West Virginia University Press, *Fifty Cents and a Box Top: The Creative Life of Nashville Session Musician Charlie McCoy*, which resulted in part from his 2014 Humanities Council fellowship.



People & Mountains is published three times a year by the West Virginia Humanities Council. We welcome letters, comments, and financial contributions. Address correspondence to 1310 Kanawha Boulevard, E., Charleston, WV 25301 or sonis@wvhumanities.org.