



PRESS RELEASE

***For Immediate Release
June 10, 2015***

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West Virginia Frontier Forts is Topic for Final Little Lecture of 2015

Charleston, WV — Archeologist Stephen McBride will give the final Little Lecture for the 2015 West Virginia Humanities Council series at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, June 28, at Humanities Council headquarters in Charleston. Dr. McBride will present “Archeology of West Virginia’s Frontier Forts.” His talk will cover recent archeological excavations of 18th-century frontier forts in present West Virginia and how they have allowed for a better understanding of the frontier defense system, as well as the historical context in which it developed. He will discuss findings discovered from digs at Point Pleasant, in the Greenbrier Valley, and at other Mountain State sites in Mineral and Hampshire counties.

McBride, who says he “partly grew up in Greenbrier County,” is an historical archeologist with a special interest in 18th-century frontier settlement and the Civil War. He holds a degree in anthropology from Beloit College and master’s and doctorate degrees in anthropology from Michigan State University. McBride serves as Director of Interpretation and Archaeology at Camp Nelson Civil War Heritage Park in Jessamine County, Kentucky, and is manager of McBride Preservation Services, LLC. Along with his wife Dr. Kim McBride, a White Sulphur Springs native, he has directed excavations on many 18th and 19th century sites in West Virginia, Kentucky, and Virginia. The McBrides have also published *Frontier Defense: Colonizing Contested Areas in the Greenbrier Valley of West Virginia* and *Frontier Forts in West Virginia: Historical and Archaeological Explorations*.

Stephen McBride’s research in West Virginia includes archeology and preservation planning at Civil War, Revolutionary War, and French and Indian War sites. He has helped locate many sites, a first step to their preservation. With recent funding from a Humanities Council grant, the McBrides studied the broader frontier defense system of several neighborhoods in Greenbrier County, and placed the forts within a context of community defense. This work included excavations, public outreach with community groups and schools, and publication of a booklet distributed widely to libraries and civic groups.

Little Lectures are presented on Sunday afternoons at 2:00 p.m. in the historic MacFarland-Hubbard House, located at 1310 Kanawha Boulevard, East, in Charleston. For more information or to confirm that seats remain available, please call the West Virginia Humanities Council at 304-346-8500 before noon on Friday, June 26.
