



**Humanities Council Little Lecture:
"Purify the Ballot Box:" Elections and Unrest in West Virginia
during the Civil War and Reconstruction Eras**

*For Immediate Release
April 14, 2022*

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Charleston, WV — What were Federal troops doing in West Virginia four years *after* the end of the Civil War?

That question and more is answered by former state historian and state archivist Joe Geiger, Jr. in the West Virginia Humanities Council's second Little Lecture of 2022, "***Purify the Ballot Box:" Elections and Unrest in West Virginia during the Civil War and Reconstruction Eras.***" The lecture will be presented at the historic MacFarland-Hubbard House in Charleston on Sunday, April 24, at 2:00pm.

Geiger will review the elections leading to secession, civil war, and the creation of West Virginia. In the war's aftermath, violence marked state and local elections as Union leaders used test oaths and registration boards to prevent former Confederates from voting, practicing law, serving as jurors, and more.

Currently a part-time curator/librarian in the Special Collections Department of Marshall University Libraries, Joe Geiger is also the former director of the West Virginia State Archives and was an adjunct instructor for twenty years in the history departments at Marshall University and West Virginia State University. He is the author of several articles and three books, including *Holding the Line: Confederate Defense of the Staunton-Parkersburg Turnpike, 1861-1862* and *Disorder on the Border: Civil Warfare in Cabell and Wayne Counties, West Virginia, 1856-1870*.

Since 2001 the Humanities Council has presented the annual Little Lecture Series at its historic MacFarland-Hubbard House headquarters in Charleston. The Little Lecture series is one of the many

ways the West Virginia Humanities Council shares its historic property with the community. The series is presented once each month through July in the parlor of the Council's Charleston headquarters in the historic MacFarland-Hubbard House at 1310 Kanawha Boulevard, East.

Admission to the lecture is \$10 and includes refreshments after the program. You may RSVP by calling 304-346-8500. An RSVP is strongly recommended, as seating is limited.

This year's Little Lecture series is made possible in part by the *A More Perfect Union* funding initiative from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

For more information visit www.wvhumanities.org or contact Program Officer Kyle Warmack at 304-346-8500 or warmack@wvhumanities.org.

The West Virginia Humanities Council, an independent nonpartisan nonprofit, is the state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities. The Council is supported by the NEH, the State of West Virginia, and contributions from the private sector. The purposes of the West Virginia Humanities Council are educational, and its mission is to support a vigorous program in the humanities statewide in West Virginia.
