



WEST VIRGINIA HUMANITIES COUNCIL

Mine Wars novelist to speak in Charleston on July 31

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Charleston – For young W. Jeff Barnes growing up in Tazewell, Virginia, the history of violent struggles in West Virginia’s early twentieth century coalfields transcended state borders. Fueled by stories of the 1920 Matewan Massacre and the 1921 Battle of Blair Mountain, Barnes’s lifelong interest eventually inspired him to write his first novel, *Mingo*, which was released by Little Star Press in November 2021.

The author will deliver the final installment of the 2022 Little Lectures series for the West Virginia Humanities Council on Sunday, July 31 in Charleston. The lecture will take place at the Council’s historic MacFarland-Hubbard House (1310 Kanawha Blvd E) at 2:00pm, with a Q&A and refreshments to follow. Copies of the novel can be found in advance at local bookstores, and will be available for sale at the event (cash, check, or credit accepted as payment).

Now a lawyer practicing in Richmond, Barnes will visit Charleston on July 31 to deliver this month’s Little Lecture for the West Virginia Humanities Council. It will be the last lecture of the 2022 series, which was made possible with funds from the “A More Perfect Union” initiative from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Mingo follows two brothers, separated by the 1912-1913 Paint Creek Strike, who find each other on opposing sides of the Battle of Blair Mountain. The *Bluefield Daily Telegraph* has praised the novel as “a timeless trip through homespun heroism, heartbreak and resolution.” Barnes’s lecture, entitled “Two Sides to a Pancake: The United States of *Mingo*,” will draw upon his experience researching and writing the novel, and explore the use of fiction to illuminate two sides of ideological conflict.

Seats are \$10 each in advance or at the door. To reserve seats or request more information, please call 304-346-8500 or email Program Office Kyle Warmack at 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.

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