

BY WAY OF INTRODUCTION

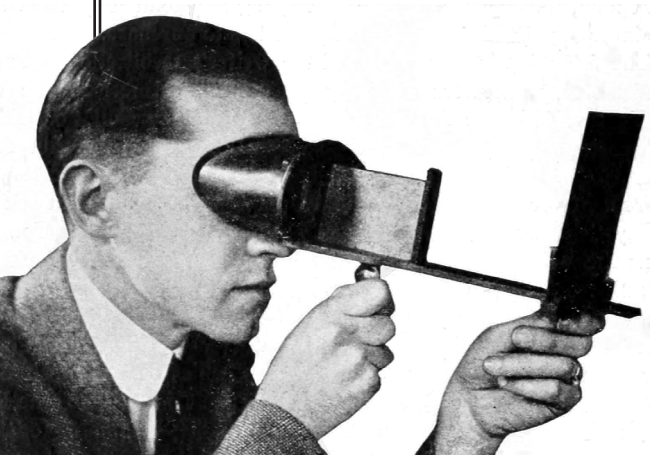
by **Kyle Warmack**
Program Officer

2021 seems to call for something new. Even though here at the Council we don't wait for a full trip around the sun to kick off new programs, or announce the latest round of grants, this year feels like a good time to show off the incredible range the humanities cover in West Virginia and beyond—the broader side, the more obscure side, even the lighter side.

The Broad Side, the Council's new bimonthly publication, will feature personal stories, book and podcast recommendations, short dispatches from around the state, and brief items for further exploration. These notes won't be tied to ongoing Council grants or programs. Instead, they'll provide our readers with interesting historical and contemporary notes, recommendations for reading or travel, and unique perspectives on the humanities from all around West Virginia.

The Broad Side aims to embrace a spirit of intellectual adventure, and invites you to join us in exploring the West Virginia roads—real and imaginary—that often go less traveled.

We kick off our inaugural issue with the autobiographical nautical experiences of Council Board member Ensign Dan McCarthy (later Vice Admiral McCarthy)—a story we don't often encounter in a landlocked state! We hope you enjoy this journey with us as, every other month, *The Broad Side* keeps us all on our tiptoes—eagerly peering into the many facets of life in this Mountain State of ours.



ADDING NEW DIMENSIONS TO AN OLD FAVORITE

The Council has launched its first podcast series, **MYSTERIOUS MOUNTAINS**, which explores the imaginary landscape of West Virginia through the lens of genre fiction and folklore.

Our first season of twelve episodes highlights the “Uncle Abner” mysteries by Harrison County-born author Melville Davison Post (1869-1930). Post's mystery tales were among the most popular detective stories in American literature for decades after their original publication in the 1910s. Each episode of this first season of **MYSTERIOUS MOUNTAINS** features a complete reading of an Uncle Abner story, followed by in-depth conversations with scholars from diverse disciplines inside and outside West Virginia on specific aspects of each story.

Prestigious Romani scholar Dr. Ian Hancock dives into the history of “Gypsy” stereotypes in literature and pop culture; Dr. Lynn Linder of West Virginia Wesleyan College illuminates the history of the detective fiction genre; Olivia Jones, curator of the Grave Creek Mound and Archaeological Complex in Moundsville, excavates what we know about the ancient mound-builder civilization; Dr. Suzanne Bray speaks with us from France about Uncle Abner as an Old Testament prophet—and many more!

Visit the Council website to listen, or search for **MYSTERIOUS MOUNTAINS** in your favorite podcast app.

THE BROAD SIDE

A WEST VIRGINIA BATTLESHIP SAILOR'S STORY

by **Dan McCarthy**
Board Member

I entered the Navy in June 1969, the month after I graduated from college with an engineering degree, while the nation was still embroiled in the Vietnam War. The Navy wanted me to be an engineer, but I insisted on becoming a Supply Corps Officer (the business leaders of the Navy) after having worked my way through college in the retail business in what was then the S.S. Kresge Company, which would later become the K-Mart Corporation.

After completing Officer Candidate School and commissioning as an Ensign that October—we were then referred to as “90-day wonders” as a result of our abbreviated training pipeline—it was off to Athens, Georgia for training as a Supply Corps officer, my first visit to the Deep South. Supply Corps Officers in the Navy typically spend two to three tours afloat, with the remainder of their careers on shore duty. In my case, I served on five ships: two tank landing ships, an amphibious helicopter carrier, a fleet ballistic missile submarine tender, and a battleship. The most memorable of the five was the battleship tour.

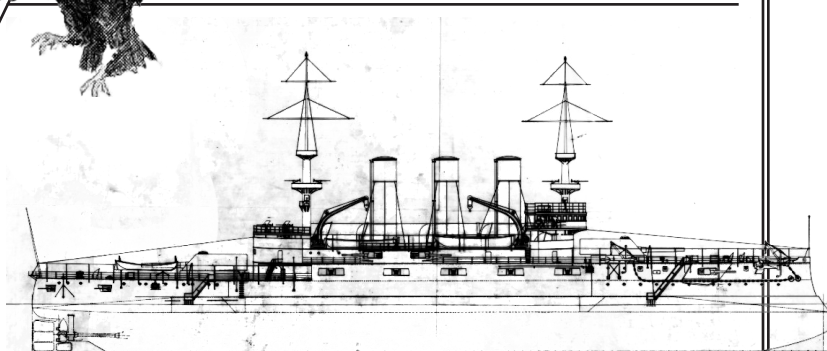
It was June of 1985 when I reported onboard USS MISSOURI (BB-63). I was only the third crewmember to report aboard as her reactivation reached the point where assembly of the crew could begin. She was in drydock in Long Beach Naval Shipyard, being resurrected as part of President Reagan's 600-ship Navy initiative to rebuild our naval strength during what turned out to be the waning days of the Cold War.

Bringing back to life a ship that had been inactive since February 1955 was quite an undertaking. Just moving from deck to deck on the ship's nineteen levels was a chore in itself, since most of the connectors between decks were vertical ladders that had to be climbed. It was like opening a museum, as we moved from compartment to compartment on the various decks unsealing sections of the ship that had laid untouched for thirty years.

I remember finding calculating machines that had not been used since the Fifties; walking into a storeroom that appeared to have been abandoned mid-project, a measuring stick still laying on the deck with notes on it written by the sailor who must have been the last one to leave the storeroom when it was “buttoned up”; and finding pictures of President Harry Truman's many visits. (Truman was from Missouri; the ship was affectionately known as “Truman's ship.”)

With reactivation completed, and her armament, defense systems, detection systems and crew habitability updated, MISSOURI was recommissioned on May 10, 1986 in San Francisco Harbor with over 10,000 guests in attendance. Four months later she departed on a four-month “shakedown cruise” that was to define my time on board.

FROM THE **WEST VIRGINIA HUMANITIES COUNCIL**
STATE AFFILIATE OF THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES



A sketch of the original battleship MISSOURI (BB-11) of the 1907 Great White Fleet. Courtesy of Naval History and Heritage Command.

As the ship's Supply Officer, my department of 225 crew members (about fifteen percent of the crew) was responsible for an array of services including food service, stores, pay, contracting, laundry and retail services in support of the crew and the ship's operations. During the shakedown cruise, the food service teams were the focus of attention.

The cruise itself was the first circumnavigation of the globe by a battleship since Theodore Roosevelt's “Great White Fleet” eighty years before—a fleet which included the first battleship named USS MISSOURI (BB-11). We made eleven diplomatic stops during that cruise. Among other things, we functioned as the U.S. representative to the 75th Anniversary celebration of the Royal Australian Navy in Sydney Harbor and commemorating the 40th anniversary of the return of the remains of the Turkish Ambassador to the United States in Istanbul, Turkey.

Each stop was marked by several formal receptions and special meals held on board, and usually hosted by the appropriate U.S. ambassador in the country we were visiting. While each stop had its memorable highlights, one that sticks in my mind was a stop in Naples, Italy. We had a standard program we used for these formal receptions that began in the Wardroom (the officer's dining area) and on the ceremonial “surrender deck”—where the formal surrender had been signed in Tokyo Bay to end the War in the Pacific in 1945. We would escort the guests to the forecandle (the upper deck in the bow of the ship) where our onboard Marine Corps Security Detachment would perform a special ceremony. Things didn't go quite like that in Naples.

Normally, the guests would readily move in queue, but in Italy, the guests refused to leave until all the food had been consumed—devouring even the decorative breads we used as displays on the tables. Perhaps the root cause was the American wines we were permitted to bring with us for the formal reception.

I left MISSOURI in June of 1986 with more memories than I can adequately describe in a short article. She was decommissioned on March 31, 1992, after having served in the Gulf War. Today she rests in Pearl Harbor, adjacent to the USS ARIZONA Memorial. Together they form fitting bookends of the Pacific War, and mark the conclusion of the battleship era and a long line of proud ships, including USS WEST VIRGINIA (BB-48).

While my MISSOURI journey ended in 1987, my Navy career was far from over—I retired from the Navy in 2007 with the rank of Vice Admiral. Though a native of Farmington, Michigan, I moved to West Virginia in 2012 to oversee the opening of the Summit Bechtel Reserve near New River Gorge for the Boy Scouts of America—and have called the Mountain State home ever since. As a naval officer, being landlocked is a strange feeling, but I've learned that the relationships you build as a service member are not broken as a result of geographical location. What has impressed me most here is the recognition and obvious appreciation of veterans and their service in this state. Having lived through the late Sixties and early Seventies in military service, I have seen the extremes of our country's treatment of its veterans. I'm proud to be in West Virginia and to support the veterans of this state.

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DOCUMENTING
HUNTINGTON'S
BLACK HISTORY

THE
BROAD
SIDE



by Kelli Johnson, Board Member

Rayshard Brooks. Daniel Prude. George Floyd. Breonna Taylor. Stephon Clark. Atatianna Jefferson. Botham Jean. Philando Castille. Janisha Fonville. Tamir Rice. Michael Brown.

In 2013, the hashtag #BlackLivesMatter started appearing on social media. Since that time, there has been a resurgence of attention to the stories of Black and brown people in the United States. And the COVID-19 pandemic has further stripped back the layers of racism and disparity in our country. Black and brown people are demanding that their history be preserved and taught.

In Appalachia, academic books like Cicero Fain's *Black Huntington* and Karida Brown's *Gone Home: Race and Roots through Appalachia*, and projects like the *Black in Appalachia* website and podcast, call attention to the fact that we are not a monochromatic region. In recent years, several such projects and initiatives have been undertaken in Huntington. Here are a few.

Founding of an ASALH chapter in Huntington: A group of people dedicated to the preservation of Black history in Huntington started a chapter of the organization founded by the Father of Black History, Carter G. Woodson. Huntington was Woodson's home for many years. <https://asalh.org/effort-to-preserve-local-african-american-history-is-worthwhile/>

The Carter G. Woodson Lyceum: The Lyceum has been in existence for several years under the leadership of Professor Burnis Morris of Marshall University working to preserve the legacy of Dr. Woodson through various projects, notably the annual Teachers Institute where experts assist local k-12 teachers seeking to infuse Black History into their curriculum. <https://www.marshall.edu/woodsonlyceum/>

The Carter G. Woodson Foundation: This organization has received federal, state and local funding to preserve the Huntington residence of Memphis Tennessee Garrison, a West Virginia educator and national NAACP officer, and create a cultural heritage site in the Fairfield neighborhood. David Harris is the current President of the Foundation. <https://www.facebook.com/CarterGWoodsonMemorialFoundation/>

Huntington, WV Black History Facebook page: This page was started several years ago by Huntington native James Bryan Courts to celebrate the people of Huntington. <https://www.facebook.com/Huntington-WV-Black-History-552679858573406>

Black History in Huntington Digital Repository: I began collecting oral histories with a grant from the WVHC in 2018. I added to the collection by writing articles and collecting ephemera related to Black History in Huntington and making it all freely available to all through Marshall University's online repository. https://mds.marshall.edu/african_american/

EVENTS FEBRUARY- MARCH 2021

Always check with the venue or hosting organization of an event before attending, especially in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, as schedules may change without the knowledge of the Council. For more information, you can also visit the calendar on our website, www.wvhumanities.org.

Feb 2 The Great Migration - presentation by Maggie Brown. Presented by Augusta Heritage Center. Virtual, 7pm	Feb 23 "The Crossing: Irish and Appalachian Musical Connections" - presentation by Tim O'Brien. Presented by Augusta Heritage Center. Virtual, 7pm	Mar 28 Saving the Blair Mountain Battlefield - Little Lecture by Chuck Keeney. Virtual or MacFarland-Hubbard House, Charleston 2pm
Feb 3 "Pushout" documentary - film screening and discussion. Register at CATF.org. Virtual, 6:30pm	Mar 9 "Women in Old-Time Music" - presentation by Alice Gerrard. Presented by Augusta Heritage Center. Virtual, 7pm	Mar 30 A Visit with Master Artist Elizabeth LaPrelle - Presented by Augusta Heritage Center. Virtual, 7pm
Feb 9 A Visit with Master Artist Joey Saye - Presented by Augusta Heritage Center. Virtual, 7pm	Mar 16 A Visit with Master Artist Lonnie Norwood - Presented by Augusta Heritage Center. Virtual, 7pm	<div>All events presented by Augusta Heritage Center can be streamed live on the listed date at fb.com/augustaheritagecenter/live</div> <div>For more information on those events, visit augustaartsandculture.org/events</div>
Feb 10 Harriet Tubman - History Alive! Hosted by Marion County Public Library. Virtual, 6:30pm	Mar 23 "Art and Social Justice in Beckley, WV" - presentation by Doris Fields. Presented by Augusta Heritage Center. Virtual, 7pm	
Feb 17 Bessie Smith - History Alive! Hosted by Bridge Valley Community & Technical College. Virtual, 12:15pm		

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WEST VIRGINIA HUMANITIES COUNCIL

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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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