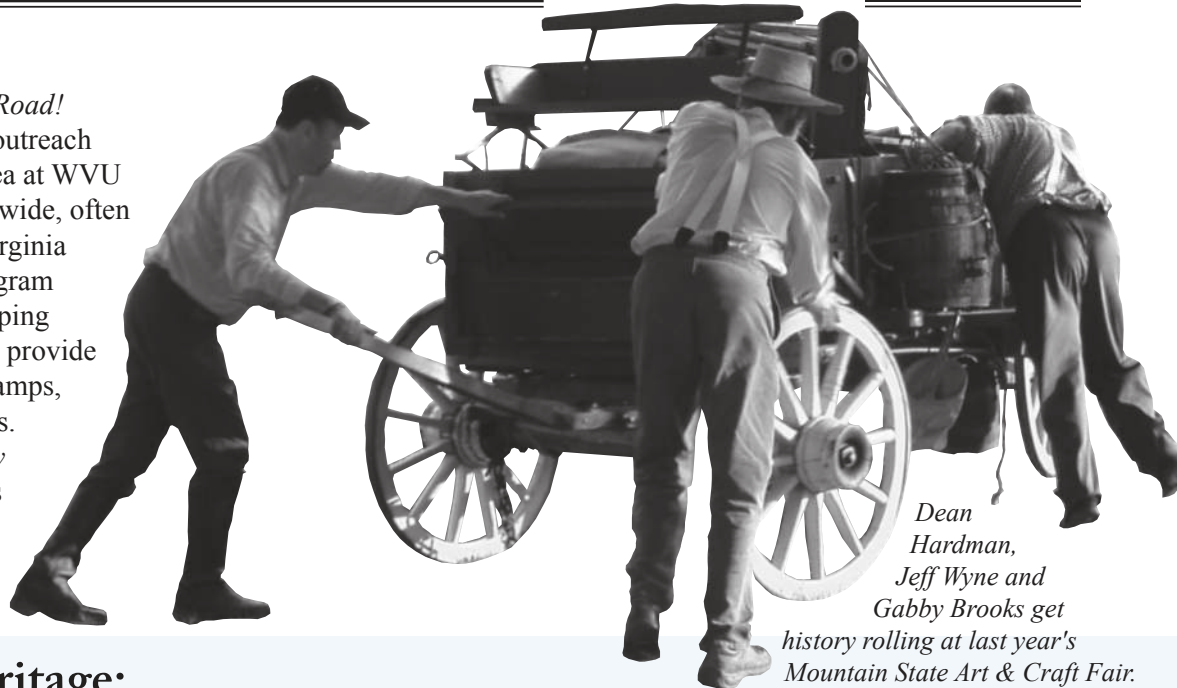


People & Mountains

A Publication of the West Virginia Humanities Council

History *Hitting the Road!* — an educational outreach program from the Historic Area at WVU Jackson’s Mill — travels statewide, often with support from the West Virginia Humanities Council. The program uses corn grinding, candle dipping and other heritage activities to provide hands-on history at schools, camps, fairs, festivals and other events.

Now in its fifth year, *History Hitting the Road!* has taken its covered wagon and historical artifacts to events in 37 West Virginia counties and to eight



Dean Hardman, Jeff Wyne and Gabby Brooks get history rolling at last year's Mountain State Art & Craft Fair.

Our hands-on heritage:

History Hits the Road!

other states. Bookings include the Vandalia Gathering in Charleston, the Mountain State Art & Craft Fair in Ripley, the State Fair of West Virginia, and the Brooks Hill Community Fair in Upshur County.

Vandalia, the Art & Craft Fair, and the State Fair are major stops on the fairs and festivals circuit. Chances are, you haven't heard of the Brooks Hill fair. The Jackson's Mill program makes a special effort to split its time between large and small events. Dean Hardman, the man in charge, finds the smaller events particularly rewarding.

"It gives you the opportunity to provide quality educational programs to areas that don't always have that sort of thing," Hardman says. "It makes your day when the kids are appreciative and responsive."

Jeff Wyne, Hardman's usual road partner, agrees.

"At smaller events, you may not see as many people, but you have more time to spend with each one. I find that rewarding."

"I love going to the so-called 'under-served' areas," says Marie Burleigh, public relations specialist at Jackson's Mill. "Urban audiences may not be able to identify more than two or three of the hides we use in the 'Skins & Skulls' program, but country people can often run through the entire collection with little or no difficulty."

The program started as an offshoot of school tours at Jackson's Mill. Distance, transportation costs, testing schedules and other considerations limit the number of schools that are able to travel to Jackson's Mill. *History Hitting the Road!* was created to take the Jackson's Mill experience to the schools.

Activities vary, depending on the length of the event, the space available, and the number and expertise of the staff involved. At some larger events the crew sets up a full blacksmith's forge. Woodworking, spinning, weaving, transportation, and beadwork are among the things that

Continued on page 3

West Virginia
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Sesquicentennial

West Virginia marks its 145th birthday on June 20, and a friend recently dropped by to remind us that we must soon begin thinking about the 150th.

The word to get used to is Sesquicentennial. It is pronounced just exactly as it looks, and you will be hearing it a lot in the next five years.

Like most West Virginians of a certain age, our friend recalls the Centennial celebration of 1963, and he hopes for something equally grand this time around. He says it's high time to start planning the Sesquicentennial, and he makes a good case.

The birth of West Virginia was inextricably bound up with other events of the Civil War era. For us, that era began with John Brown's 1859 raid on Harpers Ferry and accelerated with the commencement of general hostilities two years later. Our state's founders went seriously to work as soon as it became apparent that Virginia would abandon the Union, and landmark events toward the creation of West Virginia occurred regularly from 1861 through 1863.

That means that statehood's outlying events will be commemorated as early as 2009, with things really picking up by 2011. And we may anticipate a year of full-blown activities leading up to June 20, 2013.

In planning terms, that's just a blink away. Here at the Humanities Council we will have to plan any 2011 events within the next 15 months, in order to budget funds in the proper fiscal years. And we will have to have our full roster of Sesquicentennial events in hand within two or three years.

The friend who brought these matters to our attention recently retired as the head of a major West Virginia corporation. It is good to see business leaders of that caliber interested in the Sesquicentennial, for it will take the joint efforts of business, government and the nonprofit sector to ensure the glorious celebration the Mountain State deserves. A key event will be the appointment of an official commission, and adequate funds must be found.

It is a big job, but our 150th is a big deal. At the Humanities Council we see such anniversaries as priceless teaching opportunities – and frankly, we enjoy a good party.

We look forward to doing everything we can to make this one a big success.

– Ken Sullivan

People & Mountains is published quarterly by the West Virginia Humanities Council.

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We welcome reader letters, freelance manuscripts, and financial contributions. Please address all correspondence to West Virginia Humanities Council 1310 Kanawha Blvd., E. Charleston, WV 25301 or email sonis@wvhumanities.org.

The West Virginia Humanities Council, a state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities, serves West Virginia through grants and direct programs in the humanities.

Continued from page 1

supplement the two favorites, paper marbling and candle dipping.

Early in its development, *History Hitting the Road!* found an unexpected niche at fairs and festivals. “It works out well for everyone. The events arrange for us to be there, and we provide an educational component at no charge to the young people who participate,” Hardman explains.

Funding sources vary.

Hardman adds, “For some events we have sponsors. A good example is the Dogwood Festival in Mullens, where the First Community Bank has

sponsored us each year. Other events use minigrant funding from

the Humanities Council. This has helped us get to a number of places where we wouldn’t otherwise have been able to go.”

You never know where you’ll see the *History Hitting the Road!* wagon. The State Conservation Camp in Webster County, the C&O Canal and Rail Fest in Cumberland, Maryland, Buffalo Heritage Days in Putnam County, and Tomahawk Elementary School in Boone County are among the places Hardman’s crew has traveled.

The program’s success has created the problem of keeping up with growing demand. To cover both *History Hitting the Road!* bookings and regular hours at Jackson’s Mill, the small staff of the Historic Area have become experts at juggling schedules and somehow making it all work. Hardman occasionally borrows staff from other departments at Jackson’s Mill and within the WVU Extension Service, but not everyone takes to the work.

“There’s a lot involved in traveling, setting up, and tearing down in all

sorts of locations and all sorts of weather, but the most important thing is being able to work with people. You can teach the skills, but you just can’t teach the passion it takes to deal with kids and with the public,” says Hardman.

Marie Burleigh credits the program’s success to Hardman’s own passion.

“Dean started *History Hitting the Road!* with practically nothing, and it has been great to watch it grow. The thing that has really made the difference is Dean’s commitment. He can talk to most anyone about

“The best part is when kids have that ah-ha moment, when they learn something they didn’t know.”

most anything, but he’s really in his element when he’s

working with young people. He loves the non-traditional style of teaching, and it shows.”

“The best part is when kids have that ah-ha moment,” says Hardman, “when they learn something they didn’t know. Being on the road and away from your family can get tiring, but it makes it all worthwhile when you meet a kid who soaks up everything we have to give.”

You Can See It Too! *History Hitting the Road! is supported in part through Humanities Council minigrants. The Council has funded more than a dozen appearances of the traveling program in recent years, most recently at the Youth Museum of Southern West Virginia and the Calhoun County Wood Festival. If you’re out and about this summer, you can see this representation of early Appalachian life at the Clay County Agriculture Youth Fair at Maysel on July 26, the Braxton County Fair at Flatwoods on August 2, or during regular operating hours at Jackson’s Mill near Weston.*

We thank Marie Burleigh and Dean Hardman for this report.



Hitting the Road for California

This summer, Wheeling’s Woodsdale Elementary School receives a special award from the American Library Association for its October 2006 presentation of *History Hitting the Road!* Woodsdale librarian Sandra Wiseman partnered with community historians, the PTA, and parents to bring the program to her school through a grant from the West Virginia Humanities Council.

The award, the 2008 Sara Jaffarian School Library Program Award for Exemplary Humanities Programming, will be presented in June at the ALA annual conference in Anaheim, California. It recognizes the Wheeling school with a plaque, a cash award of \$4,000, and inclusion of *History Hitting the Road!* in a national training session for model humanities programs. Woodsdale Elementary teachers built classroom activities around the program using reading, research, role playing, crafts, and music to help students understand life in the early 19th century. Susan Church demonstrates spinning, above.

Happy Birthday, West Virginia! Raise a toast on June 20, when our Mountain State turns 145 years old.

What's New in the Humanities

Poetry, Politics, and French Hygiene

In 2008, Humanities Council fellowship recipients will study subjects ranging from French hygiene to West Virginia poetry, prehistoric pottery, and African-American politics. These fellowships, unique in the Mountain State, are awarded annually. The \$2,500 grants, which go to both college faculty and independent scholars, support research and writing projects within a humanities discipline.

The 2008 fellows and their subjects are:

E. Fones-Wolf, Morgantown History, "Shirtsleeve Religion: Business and the Industrial Chaplain Movement"

Chris Green, Huntington English, "Completing the Social Life of Poetry: Appalachia, Race, and Radical Modernism"

Connie Park Rice, Morgantown History, "Illusions of the Soul: African-American Politics in West Virginia, 1860-1930"

Darla Spencer, Charleston Archaeology, "Analysis of Late Prehistoric Pottery in Southern West Virginia"

Daniel Weimer, Wheeling History, "Seeing Drugs: U.S. Narcotics Control in the Third World, 1969-76"

Steve Zdatny, Morgantown History, "Clean and Modern: Hygiene in 20th-Century France"

February 1, 2009, is the deadline for applying for 2009 fellowships. Contact Amy Saunders at (304)346-8500 or saunders@wvhumanities.org.

Prize-Winning Projects

We appreciate quality in our Humanities Council programs, and it is gratifying when others do too. Recently, we heard from two grant recipients about their award-winning work.

WVU journalism professor Joel Beeson directs the West Virginia Veterans History Project. The project resulted in a documentary film, funded by a Humanities Council media grant, titled *Fighting on Two Fronts: Untold Stories of African American Vets from WWII*. Last fall, Beeson received the Congressional Black Caucus Veterans Braintrust Award in Washington for the documentary and the project as a whole. *Fighting on Two Fronts* also won an Award of Excellence this year at the Broadcast Education Association's Festival of Media Arts in Las Vegas.

And Carter T. Seaton of Huntington was honored by Berea College in Kentucky this spring for an article published in the school's literary journal, *Appalachian Heritage*. Seaton received the 2007 Denny C. Plattner Award for Outstanding Non-Fiction for "Those Who Came," written as a precursor to her book about the back-to-the-land movement in West Virginia. A Humanities Council fellowship supported her work on the upcoming book.



Naomi Gibson of Charles Town, of the WWII Women's Army Corps, took part in the Veterans History Project.



Richard Norton Smith.

McCreight Lecturer Named

Presidential scholar Richard Norton Smith will present "Lincoln at 200: The Measure of All Presidents" at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, October 30, as the annual Betsy K. McCreight Lecture in the Humanities. The lecture at the Cultural Center in Charleston kicks off Humanities Council programs observing the 200th anniversary of Lincoln's birth. It is free and open to the public.

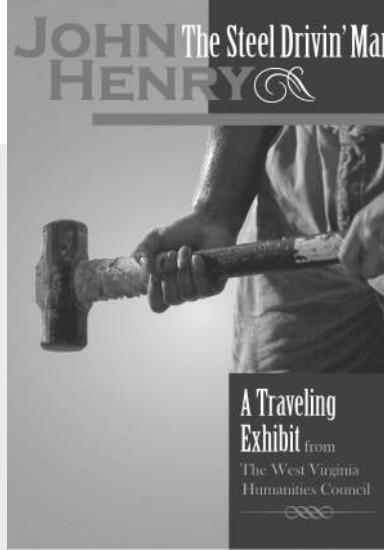
Smith was the founding executive director of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum in Springfield, Illinois, and has been director of four other presidential libraries. He is presidential historian for *ABC News* and also a familiar face to viewers of C-SPAN and *The News*

Hour with Jim Lehrer. A Pulitzer Prize finalist, Smith is currently at George Mason University as scholar in residence.

John Henry Comes Home

John Henry returns to familiar ground with the opening of the Humanities Council's latest traveling exhibit in Summers County this July. *John Henry: The Steel Drivin' Man* tells the story of the West Virginia folk hero, a hammer man who is believed to have raced a steam drill during construction of the C&O's Big Bend Tunnel in Summers County.

Designed by WVU Professor Eve Faulkes's graphic design students, the exhibit will open at Talcott's John Henry Days Festival, July 11-13, and later travel to Hinton's Railroad Days and other events statewide. Contact Mark Payne at payne@wvhumanities.org if you want to book the famous steel driver.



Briefs

Appalachian Studies Supported

The Humanities Council was a major sponsor of the 31st Annual Appalachian Studies Conference, held at Marshall University in March with a record attendance of 786 scholars and activists. The association, whose administrative office also is at Marshall, meets in a different Appalachian state each year. It publishes the *Journal of Appalachian Studies* and promotes scholarship, research, and creative expression among educators, students, scholars, and institutions interested in Appalachia.

Teachers to Travel

West Virginia teachers will study abroad again this summer with the support of Humanities Council teacher institute grants. In June, Bethany College hosts the *Japanese Culture Institute* in Japan, and in July West Virginia State University conducts the *Shakespeare Institute* in England. Bethany and West Virginia State each received \$25,000 grants. September 1 is the application deadline for 2009 teacher institute grants. Contact grants administrator Amy Saunders for more information.

Jean Edward Smith Honored

Biographer Jean Edward Smith, the John Marshall Professor of Political Science at Marshall University, was awarded the Francis Parkman Prize in New York this May for his book *FDR*. The annual prize, named for a distinguished 19th-century historian, is awarded by the Society of American Historians for the best nonfiction book on an American theme. Professor Smith is also the author of a Ulysses S. Grant biography and has spoken on Grant and Roosevelt at Humanities Council Little Lectures.

Civil War Lecture Series. This summer the Rich Mountain Battlefield Foundation of Beverly kicks off its Civil War lecture series with events scheduled from June through September. The series is supported by a Humanities Council grant and begins on June 20, West Virginia's 145th birthday, when Dr. Forest Bowman presents "The 35th Star – the Creation of West Virginia" at the Old Brick Playhouse in Elkins. On July 19, Mr. and Mrs. Jason Bauserman will portray the Rev. and Mrs. Kline, a circuit-riding preacher and his wife, at the Beverly Presbyterian Church. Professor Joe Brent presents "The Whole Battlefield: From Heritage to Heritage Tourism" at a Randolph County Community Arts Center luncheon in Elkins on August 5, and the series concludes on September 19 at the Beverly Heritage Center with a lecture by Dr. John Koski titled "The Controversial Confederate Flag."

For more information visit www.historicbeverly.org or call (304)637-7424.

Daughters of the Confederacy monument at Beverly. Photo by Peter Baxter.

Monroe County Minigrant. A Humanities Council minigrant was put to good use at the Monroe County Historical Society in Union where WVU graduate student Lynn Stasick, Historical Society president Jill Fischer, Ron Ripley, and volunteer Bekah Karelis improved the society's collections area by adding shelves and storage materials. "It could not have happened without the help of the Humanities Council," Lynn Stasick reported. The conservation project was celebrated on June 7, Monroe County Farmer's Day.



Want Grants?
wyhumanities.org
or call (304)346-8500

Grant Guidelines

West Virginia Humanities Council grants categories:

Major Grants support humanities events: symposiums, conferences, exhibits, lectures. Maximum award: \$20,000. **Due:** Feb. 1, *Sept. 1

Minigrants have a budget of \$1,500 or less and support small projects, single events, or planning/consultation. **Due:** Feb. 1, April 1, June 1, *Aug. 1, Oct. 1, Dec. 1

Fellowships of \$2,500 support research and writing projects for humanities faculty and independent scholars. **Due:** Feb. 1

Media Grants support the production of electronic or film materials, or a newspaper series. Maximum award: \$20,000. **Due:** *Sept. 1

Publication Grants are available to nonprofit presses and recognized academic presses, and support *only* the production phase of a completed manuscript. Maximum award: \$20,000. **Due:** *Sept. 1

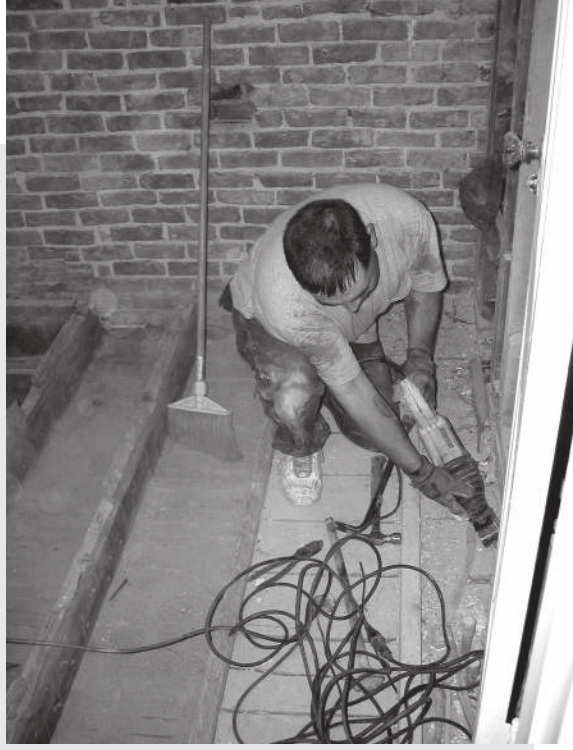
Teacher Institute Grants are available to colleges and universities and support summer seminars for secondary teachers. Maximum award: \$25,000. **Due:** *Sept. 1

*Approaching Deadlines!

Don't miss the once-a-year deadline for Media, Publication, and Teacher Institute grants.

For full guidelines and forms: call (304)346-8500, email saunders@wvhumanities.org, or download from our website www.wvhumanities.org.

TLC: Stewardship sometimes looks a lot like tough love, as in this photo of the recent bathroom replacement job at the 1836 MacFarland-Hubbard House. It is all part of taking care of our historic headquarters, and the work never fails to yield clues about the past. This time we discovered what had once been an exterior wall (at rear, behind Johnathan Mokas) where we expected an interior partition. We were able to date the bathroom, perhaps the house's first, to the early 20th century. Its construction incorporated beautiful knob-and-tube electrical wiring and – the source of our trouble – thoroughly embedded antique plumbing.

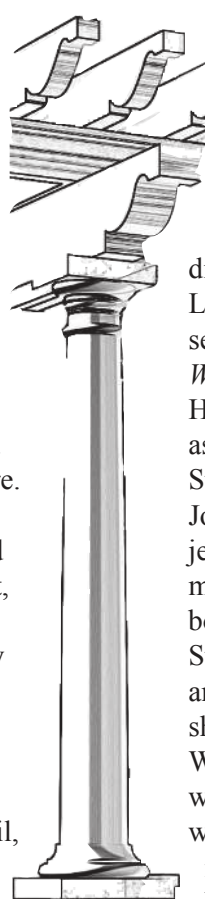


The little house symbol by some of the names on the adjoining Humanities Council donors list denotes gifts in support of the MacFarland-Hubbard House. At a time like this, they are much appreciated!

Pergola Fundraising Continues

Overflow crowds for this spring's Little Lectures reminded us once again of the need to provide more program space at the historic MacFarland-Hubbard House. Our solution is to move the action outdoors, to an expanded patio sheltered by a classic pergola structure.

Funds continue to be sought toward the estimated \$150,000 cost of the project, with a \$2,500 grant from the Greater Kanawha Valley Foundation among recent contributions. You may help by sending your tax-deductible gift to the West Virginia Humanities Council, 1310 Kanawha Blvd., E., Charleston, WV 25301.



New Board Members Elected

Two new board members, Karl C. Lilly, III and Joan Corson Stamp, were elected to the Humanities Council board of directors at the March meeting. Karl Lilly, a native of Wyoming County, served on the advisory board of the *West Virginia Encyclopedia* project. He worked at UPI before becoming assistant clerk to the West Virginia State Senate for more than 30 years. Joan Stamp of Wheeling owns a jewelry design business and is a member of the WVU Foundation board of directors. A trustee of the Stifel College Scholarship Fund and the George E. Stifel Prize Fund, she previously was president of the Wheeling Symphony Society. We welcome our newest members, who join 23 others on the board in overseeing the work of the Humanities Council.

All Full Up! The Humanities Council's July bus trip to Shepherdstown is filled. Thanks to our friends who snapped up the 53 seats in record time.

Thank You, New and Renewing Members and Donors!

This list represents new and renewed memberships and other donations received February 1, 2008, through April 30, 2008.
A complete list of members and donors is published each year in the Humanities Council's annual report.

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Pendleton County Mills



The Fort Seybert Heritage Educational Association recently received a major grant from the West Virginia Humanities Council to develop a one-hour documentary on the history, architecture and function of mills in Pendleton County. This project began with a 2007 minigrant for preliminary research.

The stories that go along with the mills are part of this important heritage. Some people still remember how the mills worked and their role in community economic and social life. Families would stay all day, milling local news and gossip as they ground their grain. "It has been a pleasure interviewing people who tell stories passed down to them, who have memories of going to the mill or having families visit their mill," project director Sandra Pope writes. Unfortunately, many Pendleton County mills have fallen victim to time and nature. Three major floods during the last century, the worst in 1985, destroyed some mills and others have been torn down. Some have been disassembled and rebuilt in other locations or converted to residences or bed and breakfast retreats.

The documentary titled *The Mills of Pendleton County* features water-powered gristmills and sawmills. Nearly 40 Pendleton County mills have been documented through the work of the Fort Seybert Association, and more are being found. Gerald Milnes, a well-known folklorist, author, and filmmaker, is the documentary's producer. A September release is anticipated.

Mills have occupied the site of McCoy's Mill since the 1700's, with the current structure dating to 1845. It stands on the South Branch, at the mouth of Thorn Creek, near Franklin. Photo by Doug Chadwick, courtesy Goldenseal.

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