

A Publication of the West Virginia Humanities Council

## Road Work

### Council Projects Explore Two Great West Virginia Highways

**T**aken together, U.S. Routes 219 and 33 form a great “X” whose four arms embrace a large part of West Virginia. These roads follow historic routes established long before our state itself was created, incorporating sections of the antebellum turnpikes that once served Western Virginia. Crossing at Elkins, they traverse more than a dozen counties and pass through nearly as many county seat towns. Rambling from the headwaters of the Potomac to the banks of the Ohio, these rural thoroughfares connect sites associated with the frontier era, including the Fairfax Stone, as well as several Civil War battlefields and great natural landmarks including the incomparable Seneca Rocks.

Needless to say, much of our history and traditional culture may be found along these winding ways. That’s the idea behind Humanities Council grants recently awarded to organizations in Randolph and Pocahontas counties.

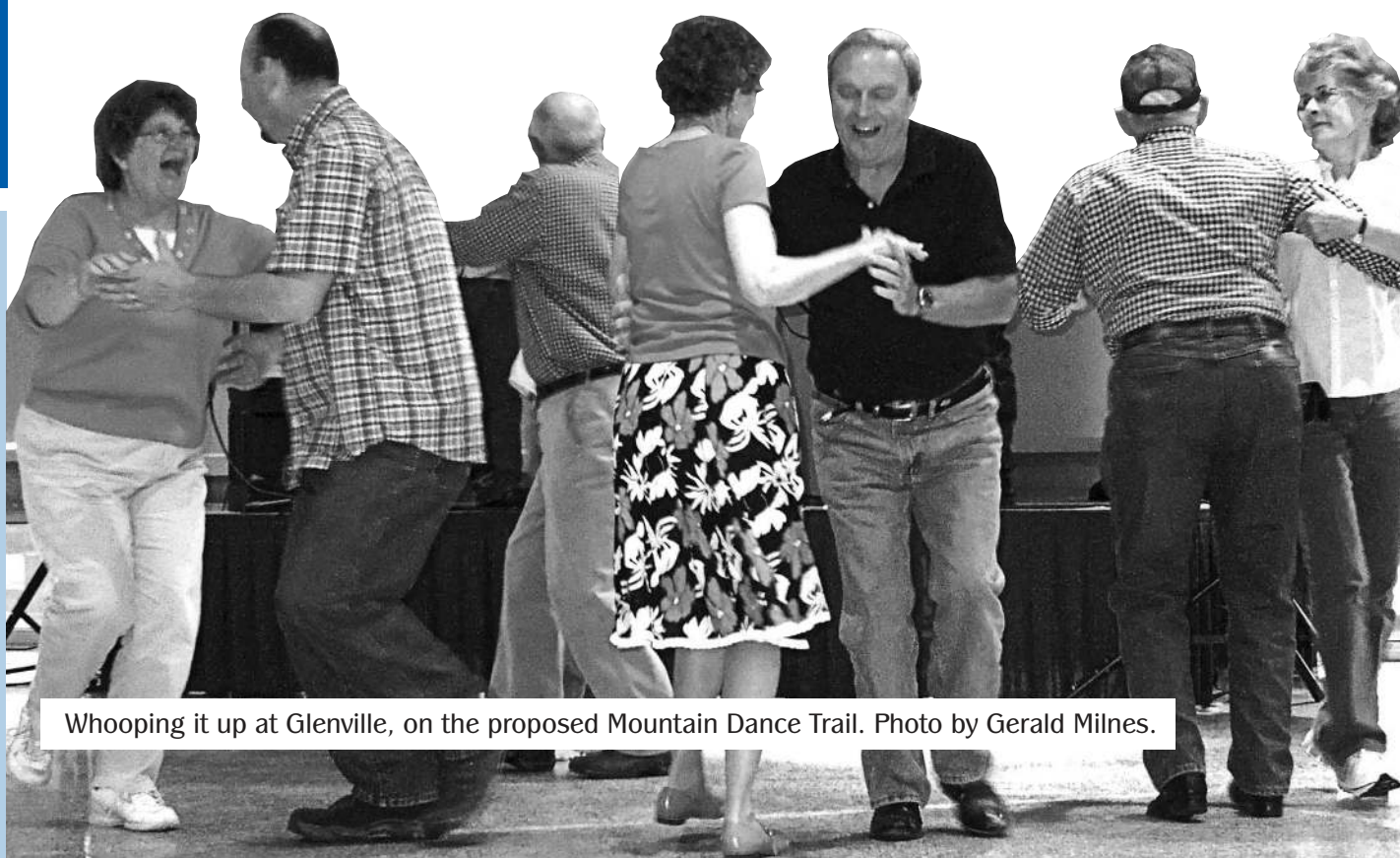
U.S. 219 will be the special focus of a humanities project sponsored by Pocahontas County Free Libraries of Marlinton. The “219

Writers Project” takes its inspiration from a classic book, the 1941 *West Virginia: A Guide to the Mountain State*. Produced by the West Virginia Writers Project, a New Deal program of the federal Works Progress Administration, the *Guide* was part of a national series of WPA state guidebooks. It divided West Virginia into more than 20 driving tours, following U.S. 219 and other major highways of that day (coincidentally including U.S. 33, though that is not part of the Pocahontas Libraries project).

According to its proposal to the Humanities Council, the project’s goal is “to bring historical material from the Federal Writers Project to a modern audience and to promote heritage tourism by celebrating the history, culture, and natural wonders along U.S. 219.” Project staff will revisit sites from the original *Guide*, using photographs and interviews to depict changes that have taken place since 1941. The 219 Writers Project will produce a website to showcase its findings, and interviews have been featured on West Virginia Public Radio.

The other project is sponsored by the Augusta

*Continued on page 3*



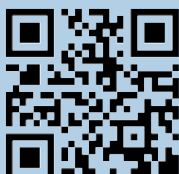
Whooping it up at Glenville, on the proposed Mountain Dance Trail. Photo by Gerald Milnes.

Spring  
2012

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What's New

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John Marshall  
Expedition



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is a nonprofit organization governed by its board of directors.

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Next Board Meeting  
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West Virginia  
Independence Hall  
Wheeling  
Open to the public

# Awards Won

When you're in the business of giving money away, it can be hard to judge your own success. And giving money away is mostly what we do here, through the grants the Humanities Council distributes statewide.

We get no complaints from the people receiving the grant dollars, as you may imagine, but we also don't usually get arms-length evaluations from disinterested parties with no stake in the good things they tell us.

It's a common problem of nonprofits in a for-profit economy. Ordinarily the market sets a value on things by the prices charged. When an organization routinely gives its product away, it's hard to know just what that product is really worth.

That's one of the reasons I value the awards that come our way — and there have been several lately:

Just this spring, *e-WV: The West Virginia Encyclopedia* won the regional e-Appalachia Award, and our stewardship of the 1836 MacFarland-Hubbard House won a preservation award from the Charleston Area Alliance. Before that, the *Kanawha Textbook War* radio documentary, a Council grant project, won a string of national prizes, including the prestigious Peabody and Murrow broadcast awards. And in 2011 *Textbook War* brought home the duPont-Columbia University Award, especially gratifying since Columbia is the mother church of journalism education.

Then it was back to the Big Apple when our partners at WVU Press took a design award at last year's New York Book Show for our new West Virginia Classics book series.

So when someone inserted a line about our "award-winning ways" in a recent report to the National Endowment for the Humanities, I didn't take it out. I figure the NEH, major grant makers themselves, will understand the value of such awards in benchmarking the work we do.

— Ken Sullivan

*People & Mountains is published three times a year by the West Virginia Humanities Council.*

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

*We welcome letters, comments, and financial contributions. Please address all correspondence to West Virginia Humanities Council, 1310 Kanawha Boulevard, East, Charleston, WV 25301 or [sonis@wvhumanities.org](mailto:sonis@wvhumanities.org).*

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[www.wvencyclopedia.org](http://www.wvencyclopedia.org)

A.C. Designs *Publication Design*

The Board of Directors welcomes three new members elected at the Council's recent meeting in Fairmont: **Kay Goodwin** of Charleston has served as Secretary of the Department of Education and the Arts since 2001 and is a former member of the Council's board of directors. **Wayne Rebich** of Grandview is the southern West Virginia representative for the Affiliated Construction Trades Foundation, a division of the West Virginia State Building and Construction Trades Council, AFL-CIO. **Dolores Yoke** of Clarksburg is an active civic volunteer who has served with the Harrison County United Way, Big Brothers/Big Sisters, the Clarksburg Art Center, the Scared Heart Children's Center, and the Community Foundation of North Central West Virginia. We thank departing board member Trip Shumate of Charleston for his years of service.

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Heritage Center at Davis & Elkins College in Elkins. It represents a first step toward establishing a Mountain Dance Trail across the middle of the Mountain State, falling roughly along the east-west route of U.S. 33. The project will emphasize community dances as a living tradition in a dozen locations along the proposed trail, which stretches from Pendleton County to Jackson County through the rural heart of West Virginia.

The roads scholars in charge of the two projects are Gibbs Kinderman of Pocahontas County and Gerald Milnes of Elkins. Both are veteran Humanities Council project directors. Milnes, one of West Virginia's top folklorists, has been working with dance project personnel to gather preliminary documentation of local dance venues.

These two grants are good examples of the range of support offered by the Humanities Council. The U.S. 219 project falls under our media grants category, with the main object to establish the website. The dance trail project was funded under a planning grant, falling into

our minigrants category. Successful planning grants often result in a later proposal for more extensive funding through the Council's major grants program.

While the two projects remain separate efforts, Milnes, Kinderman and others are now working together to explore the possible establishment of a Mountain Music Trail modeled after the popular Crooked Road heritage music trail in neighboring Virginia. Planners will meet this spring and summer in Lewisburg, Marlinton and Elkins, also under Humanities Council auspices. The idea in all these undertakings is to preserve and document the traditional culture and to give more people the chance to enjoy it.

In the meantime, Milnes, a square dance fiddler and himself a dancer, rejoices in the opportunities already available in West Virginia. "Community square dancing can be found somewhere in the heart of the state every weekend," he recently told the *Elkins Intermountain* newspaper. "No other state in the Appalachian region has a comparable tradition."



Marion Post Wolcott

"US 219, known in West Virginia as the Seneca Trail, closely follows the section of the Warriors Road that crossed the State. This was the route along which Indians traveled the wilderness from the St. Lawrence River to Georgia, long before the first white man made his way into what is now West Virginia; the formidable Seneca passed this way on their war expeditions against the Cherokee, their southern enemies. The route traversed a region known in the early history of Virginia as West Augusta, which in the dark days of the Revolution is said to have inspired George Washington to say, 'Leave me but a banner to plant upon the mountains of West Augusta, and I will gather around me the men who will lift our bleeding country from the dust and set her free.'"

—From the 1941 *West Virginia: A Guide to the Mountain State*

*The Tygarts Valley Co-op, on U.S. 219, from A Guide to the Mountain State.*

## Grant Categories

*The Humanities Council welcomes applications in the following grant categories:*

**Major Grants** (\$20,000 maximum) support humanities events: symposiums, conferences, exhibits, lectures.

**Due:** \*Sept. 1, Feb. 1

**Minigrants** (\$1,500 maximum) support small projects, single events, or planning/consultation.

**Due:** \*June 1, Aug. 1, Oct. 1, Dec. 1, Feb. 1

**Fellowships** (\$2,500) support research and writing projects for humanities faculty and independent scholars.

**Due:** Feb. 1

**Media Grants** (\$20,000 maximum) support the production of electronic or film materials, or a newspaper series.

**Due:** \*Sept. 1

**Publication Grants** (\$20,000 maximum) support the production phase of a completed manuscript by recognized nonprofit and academic presses.

**Due:** \*Sept. 1

**Teacher Institute Grants** (\$25,000 maximum) are available to colleges and universities and support summer seminars for secondary and elementary teachers.

**Due:** \*Sept. 1

**\* Approaching Deadlines!**

Visit [www.wvhumanities.org](http://www.wvhumanities.org) for applications and guidelines, or call (304)346-8500.





## Fellowships Awarded

Humanities Council Fellowships are awarded annually to college faculty and independent scholars for research and writing projects within the humanities. The \$2,500 grants are unique in the Mountain State. The next Fellowships application deadline is February 1, 2013. The 2012 Humanities Fellows and their subjects are:

**Sam Stack**, *Morgantown*,  
The Arthurdale Community School

**Viatcheslav Gratchev**,  
*Huntington*, Cervantes and Dostoevsky

**David Trowbridge**,  
*Huntington*, African-American Migration to the West

**Daniel Weimer**, *Wheeling*,  
The War on Plants:  
Controlling Drugs and Nature

**Rhonda Reymond**,  
*Morgantown*, Richard Morris Hunt's French Ecclesiastical Influences

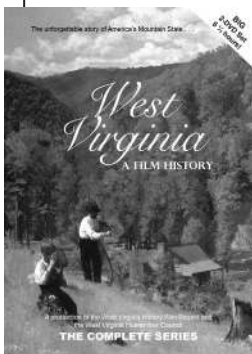
**Elizabeth Savage**, *Fairmont*,  
Lorine Niedecker's Poetry

**Leslie Anne Warden**,  
*Charleston*, Pottery and Economy in Old Kingdom Egypt

**Kate Kelsey Staples**,  
*Morgantown*, Women in the Early European Secondhand Trade

**Chris Green**, *Huntington*,  
Colonial and Antebellum Appalachian Literature

The 2012 Little Lecture Series continues with "Robert E. Lee in West Virginia" by historian Hunter Lesser on May 20 and concludes on June 24 with Denise Giardina discussing the 25th anniversary of her novel *Storming Heaven*. Both programs begin at 2:00 p.m. at the historic MacFarland-Hubbard House in Charleston. Please call (304)346-8500 if you are interested in attending.



**West Virginia Day and Father's Day are right around the corner**, and here are the perfect gifts: The two-DVD set of *West Virginia: A Film History* is priced at \$29.95. *The West Virginia Encyclopedia*, a regional bestseller, is the big book of West Virginia with more than 2,200 articles and hundreds of illustrations. It retails for \$44.95. You'll find both in bookstores, or at the West Virginia Humanities Council, (304)346-8500, [www.wvhumanities.org](http://www.wvhumanities.org).

## Battle of Harpers Ferry

A Humanities Council grant will support the Harpers Ferry Historical Association's fall program "Prelude to Freedom: The 1862 Battle of Harpers Ferry." The three-day symposium commemorates the battle's 150th anniversary, and takes place in Harpers Ferry September 13-15. There will be lectures, panel discussions, and a keynote address by the distinguished Civil War historian Drew Gilpin Faust, president of Harvard University.

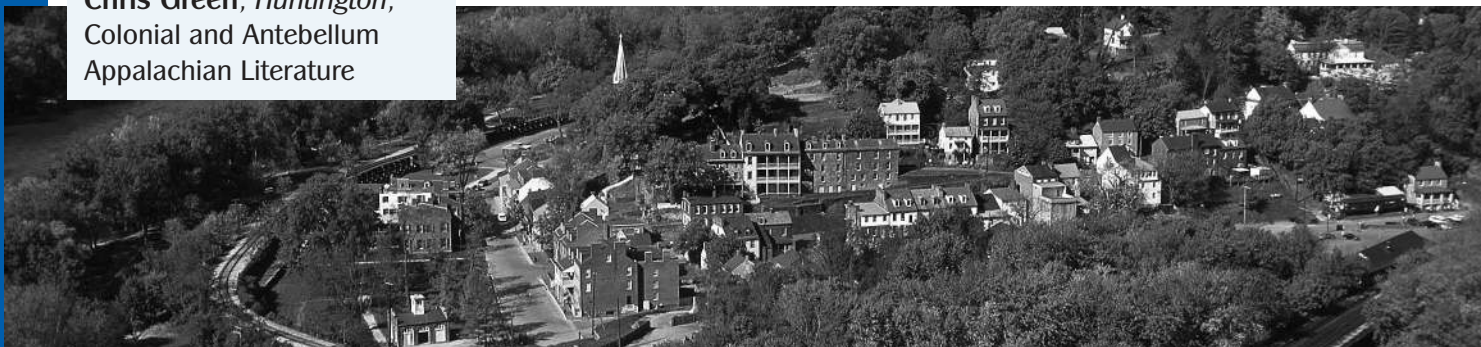
First-day events include a lecture by Ranger Todd Bolton of Harpers Ferry National Historical Park and a Battle of Maryland Heights Sesquicentennial hike. The evening program begins at 7:00 p.m. with a lecture by Scott Hartwig, supervising historian at Gettysburg National Battlefield Park.

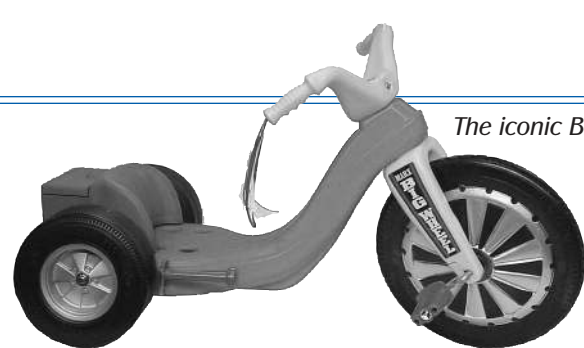
On Friday, participants can visit an archeological discovery tent at the Armory Grounds, take part in a walk to Bolivar Heights with Ranger Bolton, tour Camp Hill and John Brown's Fort in Arsenal Square, take in living history programs and musical presentations, and hear an evening program of cavalry vignettes in Lower Town.

On Saturday, the programming continues with a panel discussion with Hartwig; William Blair, director of the Civil War Era Center at Penn State University; James Bryant II of Shenandoah University; and education specialist Kathleen Ernst. Panelists will address the battle from a military perspective and discuss its effect on the town's civilian population.

The keynote speaker delivers her address on Saturday night at the Storer College Chapel at 7:00 p.m. For more information visit [www.harpersferryhistory.org](http://www.harpersferryhistory.org).

*Harpers Ferry today, by David Fattaleh.*





The iconic Big Wheel was made by Marx Toy Company in Marshall County.

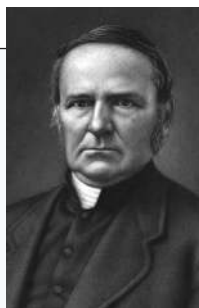
## Toys Exhibit

The Museums of Oglebay Institute presents its *Toys from Wheeling Childhood*

exhibit with an opening presentation by guest curator Tim Luke on June 23. Mr. Luke has worked for Christie's Auction, HG TV and PBS, and is now with TreasureQuest Appraisals. The exhibit, supported by a Humanities Council grant, examines toy collecting, the antique toy market, the history of toys, and the impact of toys on American culture. For more information visit [www.oionline.com](http://www.oionline.com).

## Voices from the Storm

The Humanities Council recently awarded a grant to the Historic Shepherdstown Commission for *Voices from the Storm: A Museum Exhibit on Civil War Shepherdstown*. The permanent exhibit opened May 5 at the Entler Hotel, home of the Historic Shepherdstown Museum. It tells the story of Shepherdstown's citizens during the Civil War. Five actual residents are portrayed—an older woman, a slave, a Confederate soldier, a young woman, and a Union sympathizer—through photographs, text, and period artifacts. Charles Wesley Andrews (above) was the rector of Trinity Episcopal Church in Shepherdstown during the war. A Northerner by birth, he opposed secession, writing that, "It is a monstrous delusion and monstrous wrong." Visit [www.historicshepherdstown.com](http://www.historicshepherdstown.com).



Kerry Kemp/Charleston Gazette

**Digging Thornhill:** The Friends of Mountwood Park will host an Archaeological Field School at Thornhill estate in Volcano, Wood County. Thornhill was the home of oil baron W. C. Stiles, Jr. The dig, July 23-August 3, is supported by a Humanities Council grant and is open to the public. Participants will join Hocking College

archaeologists and students to uncover life at Thornhill. Interpretive signs now identify some of the building sites previously unearthed, and include the mansion ruins, wine cellar, fruit and vegetable cellar, barn, large cistern, the caretaker's residence, and stone steps from Volcano Road. Contact Mike Naylor at (304)485-5365 or [mikecarol1@suddenlink.net](mailto:mikecarol1@suddenlink.net).

## We get mail!

Dear friends,

I recently received several books donated by your agency. Thank you for your generosity and kindness. Your gift will keep children reading and foster a love of books that will last a lifetime.

Debbie Cannada, West Side Elementary School, Charleston

*The Humanities Council recently distributed children's books to school librarians.*

## Briefs

Humanities Council President Raymond W. Smock of Martinsburg received the 2012 Roger R. Trask Award of the Society for History in the Federal Government. The award is presented to those whose careers and achievements reflect a commitment to the importance of federal history. Smock is the former official historian of the U.S. House of Representatives and now directs the Robert C. Byrd Center for Legislative Studies at Shepherd University.

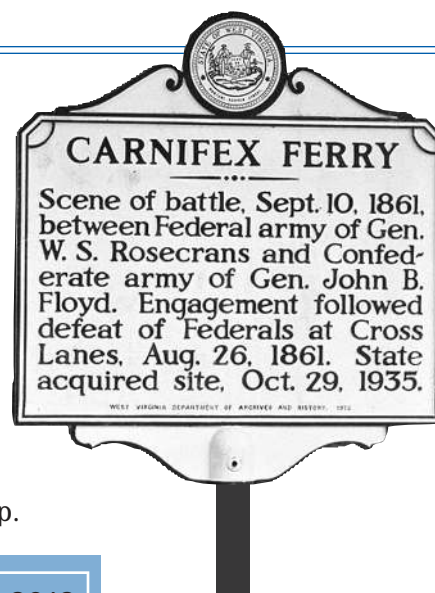
We welcome new members to the Humanities Council Program Committee: Pat Dillon, an education consultant from Mingo County, and Amy Nicholas of Calhoun County, a middle school teacher and civic volunteer. The Program Committee oversees program activities and recommends grants for approval by the board of directors. We thank departing member Harold Forbes of Morgantown for his years of service.

*e-WV: The West Virginia Encyclopedia* received the e-Appalachia Award during the 35th Annual Appalachian Studies Conference in March. The award is given "in recognition of an outstanding website that provides insight on Appalachia and its people, or provides a vital community service to Appalachians." The Appalachian Studies Association has supported writing, research, and teaching related to the Appalachian region since 1977.

The Beckley Area Foundation has awarded \$1,000 to the Council's *History Alive* program for five presentations at Raleigh County schools. *History Alive* brings historical figures to life by knowledgeable presenters who interact with their audiences both in and out of character.



**The Humanities Council 2012 Civil War Sesquicentennial bus tour** departs Charleston Tuesday morning, September 11, for Carnifex Ferry Battlefield, followed by lunch in Lewisburg and more sightseeing before we travel to the site of the Battle of Droop Mountain in Pocahontas County. Dinner will be served at the historic Graceland mansion in Elkins. We'll overnight there and leave Wednesday morning, September 12, for Philippi, and later a battlefield lunch at Rich Mountain, before traveling on to historic Beverly. On the way home we will take dinner at Sutton's popular Café Cimino. The bus trip is priced at \$320 per person, double occupancy, and \$345 per person for single rooms. Contact Michelle Walker at [walker@wvhumanities.org](mailto:walker@wvhumanities.org) or (304)346-8500 to sign up.



## Donations and Pledges November 1, 2011 — March 31, 2012

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With Memorial Day upon us, we gratefully acknowledge those who encourage memorial gifts to the Humanities Council. A brief mention at the end of a loved one's obituary often results in significant and much-appreciated contributions. We are honored that you consider our work a fitting tribute to the memory of a special person. Thank you.

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## John Marshall Expedition

In 1812 John Marshall led a 227-mile expedition over the Allegheny Mountains to seek a canal route between Richmond and the Ohio River. The trip was all the more remarkable because Marshall was Chief Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court at the time.

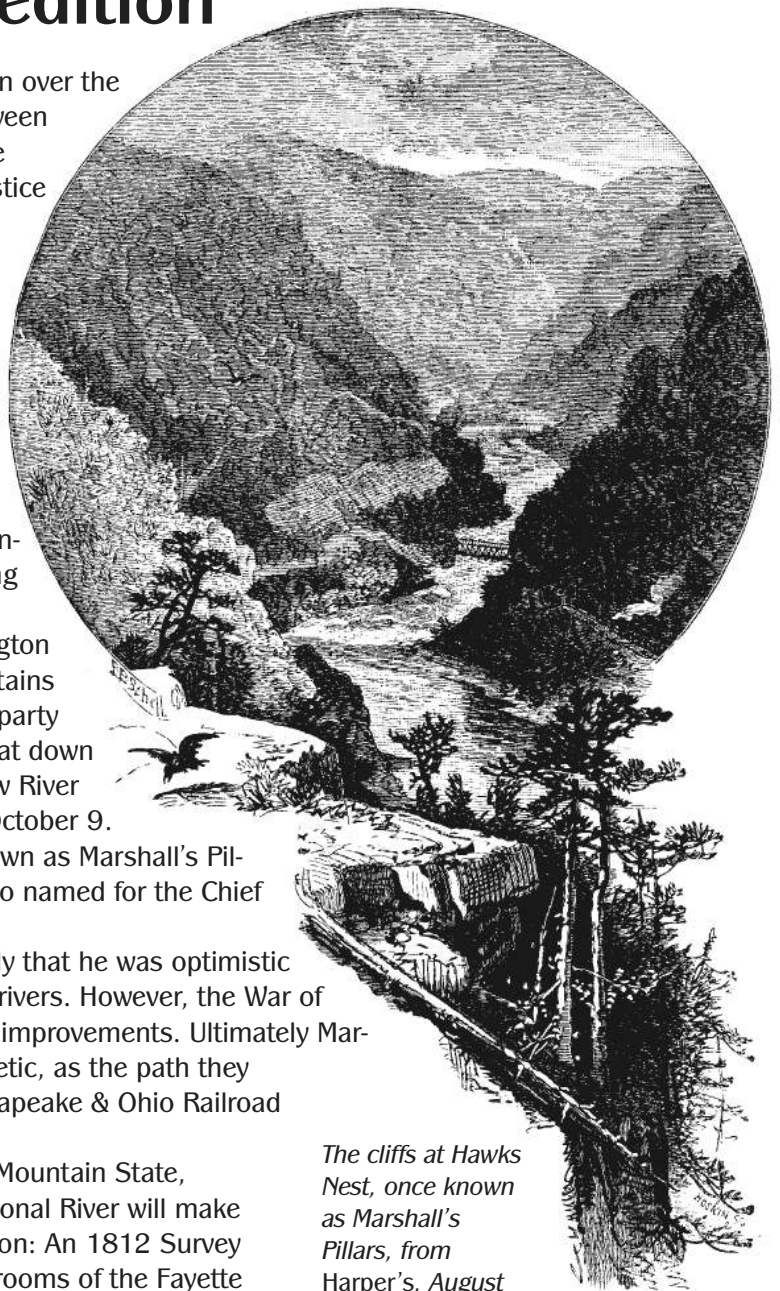
The Humanities Council is celebrating the bi-centennial of the pioneering survey with lectures in Fayette and Summers counties, both of which are on Marshall's route.

Early in 1812, the General Assembly of Virginia appointed a commission to determine the feasibility of a commercial water route between Richmond and the Ohio River.

On September 1, Marshall and Rockbridge County surveyor Andrew Alexander left Lynchburg along with other dignitaries. They traveled by batteau, poling up the James and Jackson rivers to Covington before hauling the boat by wagon over the mountains to Caldwell, near Lewisburg. The 20-man survey party floated, dragged, and lined the heavy wooden boat down the Greenbrier and New, finally rattling out of New River Gorge to end their journey at Kanawha Falls on October 9. For many years the cliffs at Hawks Nest were known as Marshall's Pillars in honor of the trip. Marshall University is also named for the Chief Justice.

John Marshall reported to the General Assembly that he was optimistic about the potential for a trade route along these rivers. However, the War of 1812 took precedence over the need for internal improvements. Ultimately Marshall's report and Alexander's map proved prophetic, as the path they followed provided much of the route for the Chesapeake & Ohio Railroad and Interstate 64.

In honor of this important exploration into the Mountain State, Ranger Frank Sellers of the New River Gorge National River will make two presentations of "The John Marshall Expedition: An 1812 Survey through the Virginias." He will speak in the courtrooms of the Fayette and Summers county courthouses, on June 26 in Fayetteville and on September 28 in Hinton. Both programs begin at 7:00 p.m. and are free and open to the public.



*The cliffs at Hawks Nest, once known as Marshall's Pillars, from Harper's, August 1878.*