

40
YEARS

People & Mountains

Spring
2014

1
Partnering
For History

4
What's New

8
Taking the
Humanities
to Washington

A Publication of the West Virginia Humanities Council

History is not just something you read about. It's also something you learn about through working together. WVU's graphic design program and the West Virginia Humanities Council have now collaborated on three exhibits that travel the state to tell important stories from West Virginia history. The Humanities Council provides the scripts for the exhibits. Then, trusting in design majors from the School of Art and Design under my art direction, they let us go—to find a visual style, to develop artwork, and to collect photographs from archives collections in West Virginia, at the Library of Congress, and other places. Mark Payne of the Council staff comes to Morgantown to meet with the students once or twice during each project.

The relationship has been a good one, beginning with our first exhibit when we really didn't know each other and yet had a budget on the line and a calendar that wouldn't move if we didn't move it. I appreciated the fact that the Council addressed us as professionals and let us try our own ideas, rein-ing us back when necessary. This has given students while they are still in school a real look at the design process from conception to fabrication, with all the misgivings of a new thing never done before and endless details to get right. They have been able to enter the workforce with more confidence and more experience with clients. Indeed, every student who has graduated after working on one of these projects has found and kept a good job in the design profession.

Our main job on each project is developing an aesthetic composition with interesting visual contrast and legibility, while helping viewers to keep track of which things are part of the main story and which are supplemental. What is even more challenging is designing for a physical exhibit that can be put together, broken down and transported by people who are not familiar with exhibits. Humanities Council exhibits are self-transporting, picked up at the last venue by representatives of the next

The Humanities Council and WVU students

make exhibits together:

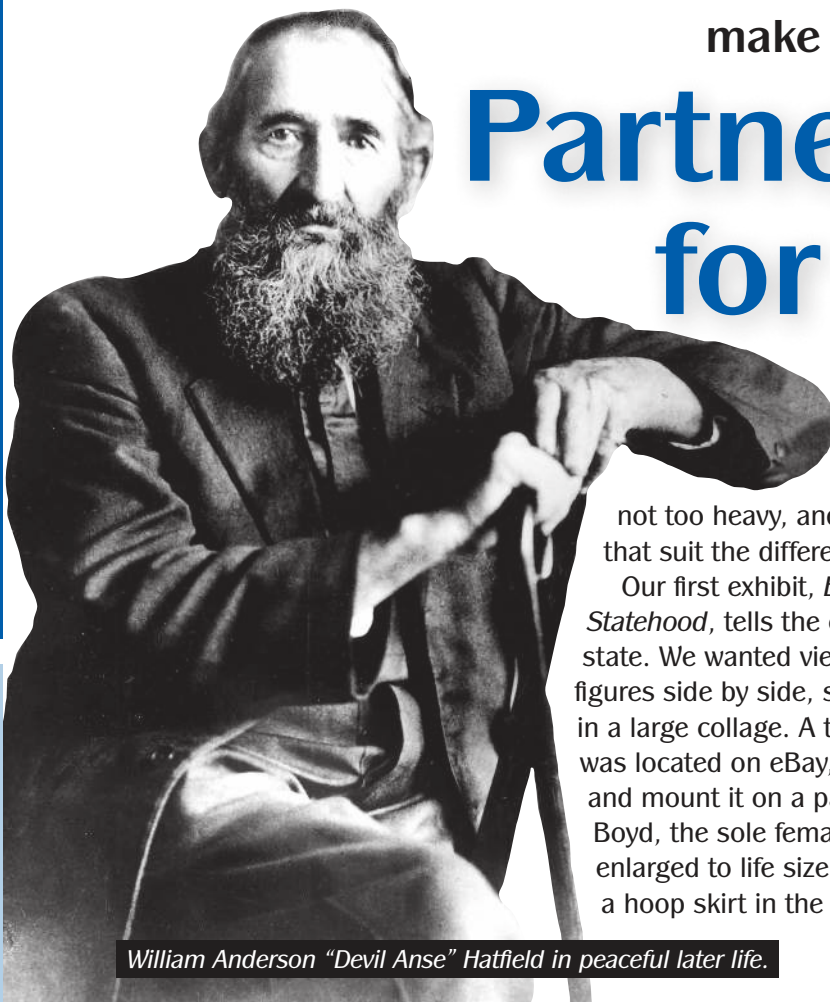
Partnering for History

By Professor Eve Faulkes

venue. The exhibits have to be transportable in normal vehicles, not too heavy, and able to be put up in configurations that suit the different sites.

Our first exhibit, *Born of Rebellion: West Virginia Statehood*, tells the exciting story of the creation of our state. We wanted viewers to see the major statehood figures side by side, so we put all the headshots together in a large collage. A top hat like that Abe Lincoln wore was located on eBay, and one idea was to cut it in half and mount it on a panel. The Confederate spy Belle Boyd, the sole female featured in the entire story, was enlarged to life size to give some balance. She wears a hoop skirt in the photograph, and the original idea was to reproduce half of the skirt

Continued on page 3



William Anderson "Devil Anse" Hatfield in peaceful later life.

The Hatfields and McCoys: American Blood Feud will soon be available at no charge for display at suitable venues throughout West Virginia. To book the exhibit contact Mark Payne at (304)346-8500 or payne@wvhumanities.org.

The West Virginia Humanities Council

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Open to the public.

Beyond King James

The roadside churches I grew up in were short on theology but long on scripture, and they left one with a profound appreciation of the bible. That's strictly the King James bible, of course, for we would have no other. I'm grateful for early immersion in that great wellspring from which so much of our culture flows, and it might surprise certain country preachers to know how much time I've since spent savoring its cadences. It's been an education to me, and I don't suppose I'm the first to conclude that between the 1611 King James Version and the closely contemporary works of William Shakespeare one can learn most of what one needs to know about the English language and more than enough about human nature.

I've come to other bibles mainly in trying to parse out the meaning of the KJV, which is often as opaque as it is magisterial. I've benefitted by having a modern-language version at hand, often literally in the other hand, while working through the grand language of 400 years ago.

Thus it was that I came onto translator Robert Alter. While some modern bibles merely restate the text that comes down from the KJV and its English-language predecessors, Alter translates everything afresh, from the original. His subject is the Hebrew Bible, what Christians call the Old Testament. Now running to four big volumes with more to come, Alter's opus is a good deal more voluminous than the familiar family bible. Any given page is likely to be more notes than text, and that's what makes it so valuable. For one of my upbringing the King James Version will always speak with the voice of the bible, but for clarity of meaning Robert Alter is better.

For all these reasons I was excited to learn that Alter was available to speak in West Virginia this fall. He's a professor at Berkeley, normally outside our travel budget, but will be on the East Coast at the time of our annual McCreight Lecture in the Humanities. As a two-time Guggenheim Fellow, a Senior Fellow at the National Endowment for the Humanities, and with numerous other honors, he more than meets the McCreight's purpose of bringing top scholars to West Virginia audiences. We booked him in a heartbeat and look forward to having him with us.

We will announce all the details later, but for now [mark your calendar for Charleston, October 30](#), to hear one of today's great translators reflect on the meaning of language ancient and modern.

— Ken Sullivan

People & Mountains is published three times a year by the West Virginia Humanities Council.	Ken Sullivan <i>Executive Director</i>
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.	Jamie DeYoung <i>Director of Development</i>
We welcome letters, comments, and financial contributions. Please address correspondence to West Virginia Humanities Council, 1310 Kanawha Boulevard, East, Charleston, WV 25301 or sonis@wvhumanities.org.	Kim Duff <i>Fiscal Officer</i>
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Continued from page 1

to be mounted on the panel. One could have lifted the skirt to see the hoops and pantaloons below, with a caption to describe how ammunition—and even people—had been hidden beneath those skirts.

These 3D elements were scaled back by our partners at the Humanities Council. Another of our ideas stayed, and that was to incorporate voting into the experience. The legal questions surrounding West Virginia statehood are so complex that the issue continues to be a case study in law schools. Why not let people vote? So upon entering the exhibit, you received a Yea or Nay ballot. Votes were collected at a ballot box in the final panel.

The *Born of Rebellion* exhibit was originally completed in 2005 and reissued in a new edition for the West Virginia Sesquicentennial in 2013. Altogether it has visited 41 locations statewide.

Our second exhibit was *John Henry: Steel-Drivin' Man*, telling another great West Virginia story. A black railroad worker, John Henry defeated a steam drill in competition at the Big Bend Tunnel in Summers County and died doing it. His heroic exploits are the basis of the most recorded folk song in the world. Picking up on that, we included a soundtrack of different versions

“Every student who has graduated after working on one of these projects has found and kept a good job in the design profession.”

of the song, triggered by the push of a button. There are no photographs of John Henry, but we know he was a strong man and a description gave him a height of 5 foot, 6 inches. As luck would have it, one of our class members was African-American, the prescribed height, and a body-builder. We fixed him up with believable clothing and a sledge hammer, sprayed him down with “sweat” and photographed him to portray John Henry in living color. Barack Obama was elected just before our exhibit hit the road, and we showed a time line of African-American rights from slavery to the White House. We replaced a panel to reflect that milestone.

Our current project is *The Hatfields and McCoys: American Blood Feud*. Since the story was so recently in the spotlight with the Kevin Costner TV mini-series, many viewers are already aware of the basic storyline. That gave us the opportunity to deal with some of the details, including the lasting hillbilly stereotypes that arose from sensationalized reporting in the national press. In a two-panel family tree we show that the story was more complicated than that, as Hatfields became politicians, doctors and lawyers. There is a nice photo of Dr. Henry D. Hatfield, nephew of Devil Anse, who became a U.S. senator and governor of West Virginia. We also show Devil Anse's big two-story house, and we present quotations in the beautifully ornate typographic style advertising of the Victorian period. Seniors Kristen Manzo, Jacob Dunn, and sophomore Abbey Estep were the student team on the current exhibit, which heads out for viewing this summer.

Eve Faulkes is director of graphic design at West Virginia University.



Abbey Estep, Jacob Dunn and Kristen Manzo, with Professor Eve Faulkes and a quote from the Devil.

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 2014 Humanities Fellows and their subjects are:

Christina Franzen,
Huntington, The Virgin and the Witch: Control of the Feminine Abject in Roman Literature

Debra Dean Murphy,
Buckhannon, Word Care and the Care of the World: The Poetics of Sustainability

Connie Park Rice,
Morgantown, West Virginia Women in the Civil War Era

Betty Rivard, *Duck, When We All Work Together: The Bethlehem-Fairfield Shipyard, May 1943*

James F. Siekmeier,
Morgantown, Latin American Nationalism: Identity in a Globalizing World

Janet E. Snyder,
Morgantown, Saxon and Norman Architectural Stone Sculpture in East Anglia

Travis D. Stimeling,
Morgantown, Country Music Recording and Production in the “NashvilleSound” Era

Michael E. Woods,
Huntington, Arguing Until Doomsday: Stephen Douglas, Jefferson Davis, and the Struggle for American Democracy

The next Fellowships application deadline is February 1, 2015.



President Obama has nominated William D. “Bro” Adams for chairman of the National Endowment for the Humanities. Adams is now president of Colby College in Waterville, Maine, and previously was president of Bucknell University. He has taught at Stanford, Santa Clara University, and the University of North Carolina. Adams served in Vietnam as a first lieutenant in the U.S. Army and spent a year in France as a Fulbright Scholar. The West Virginia Humanities Council is a state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Francis H. Pierpont was the pivotal Unionist governor of Virginia at the time West Virginia was created, and work is under way to honor his accomplishments with a statue to be dedicated in Wheeling on June 20, West Virginia Day. Sculptor Gareth Curtiss has also designed a base to complement the architectural style of West Virginia Independence Hall, the statue’s future location. Nearly a third of the \$125,000 project budget remains to be raised. Contributions may be made to the Wheeling National Heritage Area at P.O. Box 350, Wheeling, WV 26003.



Michael Keller

Take it and Leave it: Little Free Libraries, which are nothing more than weatherproof book boxes mounted on a post, solve two problems of the avid reader—too many books lying around the house and nothing new to read. One simply drops

off the extras while taking whatever one wants, everything on the honor system and no one keeping score. Supposedly there are now 15,000 of the small reading stations in 55 countries around the world. West Virginia has several, including one at Arlington Court in Charleston’s East End (left). Thanks to a recent Humanities Council grant to the town of Athens two more are on the way. Located near the Athens post office and on Concord University’s campus, the little

libraries will be ready for readers in early June.



Michael Keller

Fiestaware at Arthurdale

The Homer Laughlin China Company which makes Fiestaware—West Virginia’s most famous collectible—is the subject of a June 14 program at Arthurdale, the first homestead community established by the federal government during the Great Depression. Then the living history characters Eleanor and Franklin Roosevelt and teacher Elsie Ripley Clapp will appear on July 12 in conjunction with the opening of an original Arthurdale homestead exhibit. On August 9, visitors may enjoy a program featuring historic photographs of Arthurdale from the Library of Congress. Arthurdale is observing its 80th anniversary in 2014. Anniversary events conclude on October 11 with a celebration of Eleanor Roosevelt’s birthday. Fiddler Elmer Rich, who played for Mrs. Roosevelt on one of her visits to Arthurdale, will perform. For more information visit www.arthurdale.org.

We get mail!

While we often hear from West Virginia teachers about the usefulness of e-WV: The West Virginia Encyclopedia, we also recently heard from a teacher in Illinois about how our online encyclopedia helps her teach a classic West Virginia folk story:

Amazing website. I’m teaching about the story of John Henry in my Reading Series. Your site is perfect for my fifth grade students to learn about this great folk legend! Thank you.

—Kerri Poniatowski

Visit e-WV: The West Virginia Encyclopedia at www.wvencyclopedia.org.

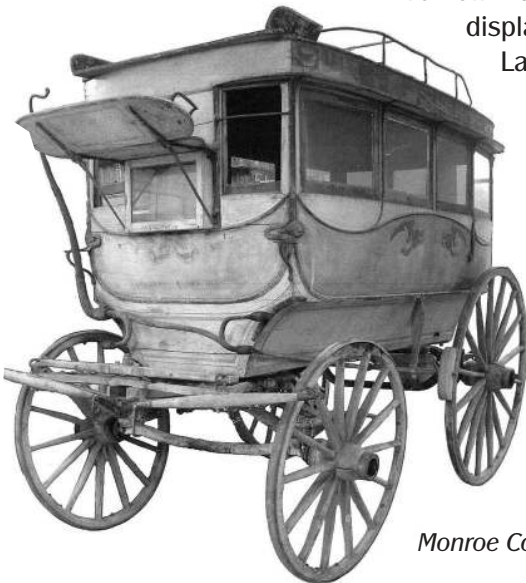
HOLLOW

AN INTERACTIVE DOCUMENTARY

Hollow, an interactive documentary funded by a Humanities Council grant, is a 2014 Peabody Award winner. It is the second project funded by the Humanities Council to receive the prestigious broadcast award in the last four years. Founded by the National Association of Broadcasters, the Peabody recognizes the nation's best in all broadcast platforms, including television, radio, and the web. *Hollow* was created by Elaine McMillion in 2012 with residents of McDowell County working on both sides of the camera. A total of 30 short films were produced. The documentary addresses McDowell County's population loss and its potential for the future, among other issues. Visit www.hollowdocumentary.com.

The Monroe County Historical Society Museum has received Humanities Council funding to update existing exhibits and create new ones in time for the museum's annual opening on June 7 in Union. The opening takes place on Monroe County Farmer's Day, an event that dates back to 1955. Among the museum updates are improved display cases, lighting improvements, and five new interpretive boards to display historical items.

Later this summer the society will open its new Carriage House Museum, which will shelter the society's rare horse-drawn omnibus along with other buggies and wagons. Contact Toni Ogden at togdenweaver@gmail.com.



Monroe County's omnibus.

The Little Lectures Series winds up in May and June. On May 18, Ronald L. Lewis, West Virginia Historian Laureate and WVU emeritus professor, will present "Aspiring to Greatness: West Virginia University Since World War II" based on his new history of WVU. On June 22, state senator and Charleston businessman Brooks McCabe will discuss the cultural and economic development of the capital city with "A History of Charleston as Lived by Four Families." The talk will explore the contributions of the Hale, Dickinson, Smith, and James families. Little Lectures begin at 2:00 p.m. Admission is \$10 and includes a wine reception following the program. Those interested in attending should call (304)346-8500. The 2014 Little Lectures are sponsored by Robinson & McElwee, a Charleston law firm.

Briefs

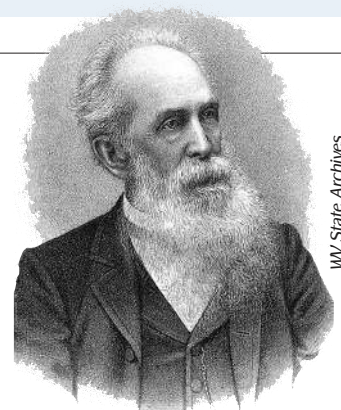
The Ohio River Festival of Books will take place September 15-20 in Huntington, with support from the Humanities Council. Featured authors include Craig Johnson, Marc Harshman, Anna Smucker, and many others. Regional publishers will be on hand, and the Cabell County Friends of the Library will hold a book sale. Visit www.ohioriverbooks.org.

Open House at the Old Houses: Join us in Charleston June 20, West Virginia Day, for refreshments and public tours at Historic Glenwood from 10:00 a.m. to 12 noon, at the Humanities Council's MacFarland-Hubbard House from 12 noon to 2:00 p.m., and at the Craik-Patton House from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.

The West Virginia Historical Society is devoted to the study and better understanding of our state's history. You may join by sending \$10 dues (\$25 for contributing members) to P.O. Box 5220, Charleston, WV 25361.

Hometown Teams: The new Smithsonian traveling exhibit on America's love affair with sports, *Hometown Teams: How Sports Shape America*, continues to tour West Virginia in partnership with the Humanities Council. It's at the Preston County Sports Museum in Rowlesburg until June 21; the Randolph County Community Arts Center in Elkins, June 29-August 9; the Weirton Area Museum & Cultural Center, August 17-September 27; and the Morgantown History Museum, October 5-November 15.

We welcome Eric Waggoner of West Virginia Wesleyan College to the Humanities Council Program Committee. Three members were also reelected: Robert Enoch, Wood County; A. Waller Hastings, Ohio County; and Myra Zeigler, Summers County. The program committee oversees Council programs and recommends grants for approval by the board of directors. We thank departing member Karl Lilly for his years of service.



WV State Archives

John P. Hale.

Grant Categories

The Humanities Council welcomes applications in the following grant categories.

Major Grants (\$20,000 maximum) support major humanities projects, symposiums, conferences, exhibits, lectures.

Due: Sept. 1, Feb. 1

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

Due: *June 1, Oct. 1, Feb. 1, April 1

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

Due: Feb. 1

Media Grants (\$20,000 maximum) support projects intended to produce audio or video products, websites, or a newspaper series.

Due: Sept. 1

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

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 Deadline!**

Visit www.wvhumanities.org for applications and guidelines, or call (304)346-8500.

Donations November 1, 2013 – March 31, 2014

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Michael Keller

New Development Director

Jamie DeYoung is the new director of development at the West Virginia Humanities Council. She comes to the Council from the University of Charleston where she directed the Annual Fund. Originally from California, she has also lived in Texas and Minnesota. She graduated from LeTourneau University and has a master's degree from Minnesota State University Moorhead.

DeYoung will raise funds to support Humanities Council programs. "I am excited to be working at the West Virginia Humanities Council and to help share the story of this great state," she said.

Contact Jamie DeYoung at (304)346-8500 or deyoung@wvhumanities.org to learn how you can support the humanities in West Virginia.

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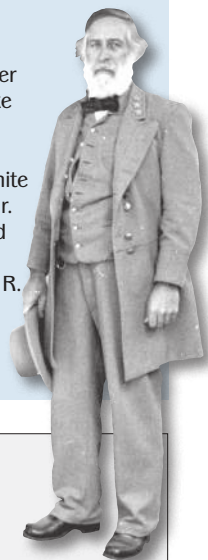
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Event Planners: Want to book Robert E. Lee, Clara Barton, or Chief Cornstalk for your next corporate or organizational event? The West Virginia Humanities Council *History Alive* program presents a roster of historical figures available for first-person portrayals for a price of \$125. Contact Mark Payne at (304)346-8500 or payne@wvhumanities.org.

Al Stone as Robert E. Lee.

West Virginia Humanities Council
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The West Virginia Humanities Council gratefully acknowledges support from the National Endowment for the Humanities; the Office of the West Virginia Secretary of Education and the Arts; and foundations, corporations, and individuals throughout the Mountain State and beyond.

Taking the Humanities to Washington: In, March, Humanities Council executive director Ken Sullivan and board members Raymond Smock and Paul Papadopoulos traveled to Washington for the annual Humanities on the Hill event, a national advocacy effort organized by the Federation of State Humanities Councils and involving humanities councils from across the country. “While the West Virginia Humanities Council receives most of its income from public and private sources in West Virginia, the single largest chunk of funding comes from the National Endowment for the Humanities, an agency of the federal government,” Sullivan said. “It’s important that we impress upon our senators and representatives that NEH funds are essential for our work statewide in West Virginia.” Adding that he is generally encouraged by this year’s trip to Washington, Sullivan noted that following three years of cuts to the NEH’s budget, the West Virginia Humanities Council received a slight increase over last year’s allotment.

The Board of Directors welcomes three new members elected at the Council’s recent meeting in Bridgeport: Susan Hardesty of Morgantown, an alumna of the WVU Division of Music and founder of the WVU Mountaineer Parents Club; Gerald Milnes of Elkins, author, old-time musician, and former folk arts coordinator of the Augusta Heritage Center; and Lisa Welch of Shepherdstown who has served on boards for the Shepherdstown Film Society, the Contemporary American Theater Festival, and the Eastern West Virginia Community Foundation. The Humanities Council thanks departing board member Karl Lilly of Sissonville.



Raymond Smock, Ken Sullivan, and Paul Papadopoulos on the Hill.