



A Publication of the West Virginia Humanities Council

Summer 2005

Students Build Statehood Exhibit: Born of Rebellion

It was a busy spring semester for sixteen students of the West Virginia University College of Creative Arts' graphic design class and their professor, Eve Faulkes. In collaboration with the West Virginia Humanities Council, the students designed a traveling exhibit entitled "Born of Rebellion — West Virginia Statehood." The exhibit premieres at the Council headquarters for West Virginia Day in June 2005 and will then be available to travel to sites statewide.

A part of the We the People initiative of the National Endowment for the Humanities, the exhibit is made possible by the generous support of Columbia Gas Transmission. The project is modeled on the Council's continuing successful collaboration with the Smithsonian Institution to bring high quality traveling exhibits to rural locales in West Virginia. The joint effort with WVU allowed the new exhibit to be built in West Virginia to professional standards under the guidance of state historians and the Humanities Council, while creating a valuable educational experience for the participating students.

The exhibit highlights the important issues and people involved in the creation of our state. The brochure accompanying the exhibit, also student designed, begins with an introduction:

Born of the Civil War, West Virginia became the 35th state on June 20, 1863, under conditions unique in American history. Questions arose as to the constitutionality of the process, and even as to whether the new state should be dissolved once Virginia was restored to the Union.

The U.S. Constitution allows the division of states only by consent, and under the circumstances it was uncertain whether Virginia had in fact given its consent. After much debate, Congress and the executive branch approved the bold action of West Virginians in separating themselves from the mother state, and the separation was later accepted by the U.S. Supreme Court.

While the survival of our state is no longer at stake, fundamental constitutional questions are never really moot. The issues involved in West Virginia's birth still engage people even far beyond our borders — providing material for a recent C-Span debate, for example,

and a lengthy article in the *California Law Review*. Certainly, the story continues to fascinate those of us who live within the Mountain State.

Early Virginia society matured as a coastal plantation economy. But as the colony and later state grew in population, more people moved westward, seeking new land.

Differences in geography and economics arose between eastern and western Virginia. Plantation agriculture was generally unprofitable in the west, where the economy favored small-scale farming, natural resource production, and small industry. Many westerners opposed or were indifferent to slavery. Political issues arose around the question of representation in the state's government.

Two state constitutional conventions were unsuccessful in resolving Virginia's sectional differences. The Convention of 1829-30 brought together Virginia's greatest political minds, including James Madison and John Marshall, but westerners found the eastern

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Working the Territory

Whenever I whine about the long trip to the Eastern Panhandle, friends there are happy to remind me that it is the same distance both ways. They sometimes travel to Charleston on business, and they appreciate it when Charlestonians reciprocate.

I had the opportunity to do so on a recent trip to Shepherdstown, and — distance aside — was reminded of just what a fine drive it is.

I headed straight across the Panhandle, through Petersburg and Moorefield, a trip I like to make when I have the time for it. It takes me breathtakingly close to Seneca Rocks, which every West Virginian needs to see now and then, followed by the marvelous drive down the North Fork. (That is the North Fork of the South Branch of the Potomac River, officially, and a great name it is.) There are few places more scenic than that stretch of Pendleton and Grant counties.

Shepherdstown itself was more than fine on a sunny spring day. As it happens, our board of directors had met there last summer, and it was a pleasure to see the historic town a little earlier in the season. Business completed, I ended up on the porch of the country club with local board members Tia McMillan and Hannah Geffert. (Hey, no complaints about my job!)

Apart from the personal satisfaction I take in rambling through our hills, I believe it is important for any organization committed to serving statewide to stay in touch statewide. We make sure to disperse our programs and grants throughout the state, and we try to get ourselves out there as well. I encourage staffers traveling on Humanities Council business to get off the four-lane and into the countryside — to take the river road to Wheeling, for example, instead of the sterile Interstates that carry one deep into Ohio.

We make it a point to get our decision-makers out and about, as well. Our board met in Morgantown in March, and you may look for them in Parkersburg in July. Our program committee — that's the big one, which makes grants decisions for us — met in Elkins in the spring and is booked for Logan this summer. If we haven't been in your area lately, watch for us. Chances are we will show up soon.

It is all part of working the territory.

— Ken Sullivan

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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.

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majority unwilling to address their concerns.

The “Reform Convention” of 1850-51 was more successful from the western standpoint, bringing majority representation in the House of Delegates. The new constitution required the election of the governor by the people, rather than the legislature, and Virginia’s first western governor, Joseph Johnson of Clarksburg, was soon elected. It appeared that Virginia was making progress toward resolving sectional differences.

The coming of the Civil War reasserted sectional divisions in Virginia. When Virginia opted to join other Southern states in seceding from the Union in 1861, the northwestern counties voted against this course of action.

Western leaders moved to establish a Reorganized Government of Virginia, loyal to the United States and with Wheeling as its capital.

Western Virginia saw its most significant military action early in the war. Union forces soon gained control of most of present West Virginia, pushing the Confederates eastward. These successes gave the North control of the Baltimore & Ohio Railway and gave political leaders at Wheeling the protection to nurture their loyal Virginia government and to plan for division of the state. The Confederates briefly recaptured the Kanawha Valley in the fall of 1862 and carried out the flamboyant Jones-Imboden Raid in 1863. The raiders pushed as far north as Morgantown, proving in the words of Confederate General John D. Imboden that the western region was “not under the exclusive control of the Wash-

ington and Wheeling despotisms.” With Virginia divided, with rival governments in Richmond and Wheeling, the stage was set for the creation of the new state.

Statehood sentiment grew rapidly. Western Virginians voted for Virginia’s dismemberment in 1861 and elected delegates to a convention to create a constitution for the proposed new state. The convention met in Wheeling in 1861-62 and again in 1863.

Once the statehood bill passed through Congress, it required the approval of President Abraham Lincoln. He asked his cabinet to debate the issue and found the cabinet members to be evenly split. The sticking point was whether the Reorganized Government at Wheeling could legitimately give Virginia’s consent to the creation of West Virginia. Lincoln was also apprehensive about making such a decision under the abnormal conditions of war. Under pressure from western leaders and concluding that if this was secession, it was “our secession,” Lincoln signed the legislation December 31, 1862.

West Virginia was born June 20, 1863. The boundaries and very legality of the new state were



WVU College of Creative Arts’ graphic design class

“I never thought I’d learn so much about the history of West Virginia and the Civil War in my design class.... I also gained the experience of working in a team with a project the size of this one. This experience made me a better designer and will certainly be a factor when working with future clients.”

— student Doug Seidman

debated both before and after that date. In 1861 the Wheeling Convention voted to include 44 northern and western counties, allowing seven eastern counties to vote for themselves. All but present Frederick County, Virginia, voted to become part of West Virginia, although the final inclusion of Berkeley and Jefferson counties required a U.S. Supreme Court decision in 1871. In accepting West Virginia as a party to the suit, the Supreme Court implicitly accepted the legal existence of the new state.

The question of whether Virginia had consented to the creation of West Virginia, as required in Article IV, Section 3 of the U.S. Constitution continues to provide fodder for debate.

— Adapted from the brochure for the traveling exhibit “Born of Rebellion — West Virginia Statehood.”

Plan to see the exhibit and come to your own conclusion on the important issues raised by the creation of our state. Exhibit sites will be publicized as they are selected and made available on the Council website at www.wvhumanities.org. To inquire about displaying the exhibit, call (304) 346-8500.

What's New in the Humanities

Joining in FestivALL

The Council is participating in the first-ever FestivALL, June 24-26 in Charleston. Activities around town include music, theater, dance, art, and, in our case, history. On Saturday, June 25 from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. at the MacFarland-Hubbard House, the Council is premiering the traveling exhibit, *Born of Rebellion — West Virginia Statehood*, designed in collaboration with West Virginia University

Professor Eve Faulkes' graphic design students. Columbia Gas Transmission is sponsoring the exhibit.

At 2:00 p.m. that day at Council headquarters, C. Stuart McGehee is presenting a talk, "*The Strange Career of the 35th Star: West Virginia Statehood Reconsidered.*" Dr. McGehee, professor and chairman of the history department at West Virginia State University,



recently completed two films analyzing West Virginia statehood.

To join us call (304) 346-8500. For FestivALL information go to www.Festivallcharleston.com.

Ellis to Give McCreight Lecture

Pulitzer Prize winner and best-selling author Joseph J. Ellis will deliver the 2005 Betsy K. McCreight Lecture in the Humanities. The free event is Thursday, October 27, at 8:00 p.m. at the Cultural Center, state capitol complex, in Charleston. A reception and book signing follow his lecture, "Our Founding Brothers: The Political Values of the Revolutionary Generation."

Ellis is the author of seven books on American history, the most recent being the bestseller, *His Excellency: George Washington*, published in 2004. He won the Pulitzer Prize for his book, *Founding Brothers*, while his book *American Sphinx: The Character of Thomas Jefferson* received a National Book Award.



Joseph J. Ellis

Mountain Music Heritage Project

Dedicated to the musical heritage of Appalachia, the Humanities Council is working with Congressman Nick J. Rahall to establish the Mountain Music Heritage Project. Rahall indicates he is excited about the positives for southern West Virginia with this project.

"There is a lot of musical heritage in our mountains and this project will help us research and compile

our history so it can be presented to West Virginians and tourists alike," says Rahall.

Rahall has secured \$97,000 for the project through a 2005 development grant. The grant allows for office space and the hiring of a project manager. The project

manager begins Phase I later this year, conducting research into all

aspects of Appalachian mountain music heritage.

"We would not have been able to get this far without the ongoing support of Congressman Rahall," says Ken Sullivan, Humanities Council Executive Director. "He has made this dream come closer to reality and I thank him for his continued efforts to bring the musical history of our area to the public."

Sullivan says an office has been established in cooperation with RESA 1 in Beckley. Following Phase I, the Mountain Music Hall of Fame staff will conduct a feasibility study on creating a heritage center on the musical history and traditions of southern West Virginia.

"Not only will the heritage center serve as a site for music lovers to learn more about the musical history of our region, it will also become another attraction focusing on Appalachian heritage," says Rahall.

Produce for Victory Dates

The 2006 state tour is set for the Smithsonian Institution traveling exhibit *Produce for Victory: Posters on the American Home Front, 1941-1945*. Host community representatives are meeting in September with Council staff, project scholar Charles Keeney, and Museum on Main Street Program Co-Director LuAnn Kern to discuss local programming ideas to complement the exhibit at each venue.

The 2006 tour schedule:

| | |
|--|---------------------|
| Bluefield State College, Bluefield | March 7 - April 21 |
| Musselman-South Berkeley Community Library, Inwood | April 28 - June 9 |
| New Deal Homestead Museum, Arthurdale | June 16 - July 28 |
| Parkersburg Art Center, Parkersburg | August 4 - Sept. 15 |
| West Virginia Catholic Heritage Center, Wheeling | Sept. 22 - Nov. 3 |
| Randolph County Community Arts Center, Elkins | Nov. 10 - Dec. 31 |

Visit www.wvhumanities.org for updates about the tour!



Little Lectures

The Little Lecture Series recently finished its most successful season, with capacity audiences at the MacFarland-Hubbard House. Speakers this year — Kristina Olson, Robert Beanblossom, Darla Spencer, and Imam Jamal Daoudi — discussed respectively West Virginia artist Blanche Lazzell; the history of our state park system; prehistoric burial mounds; and Islam. We welcome suggestions for 2006 Little Lecture speakers and topics.

We are indebted to volunteer Jennifer Soule who for three years has prepared incredibly tasty menus for the post-lecture receptions. And, thanks to Lois Payne for coordinating admissions.



Robert Beanblossom

Robert Beanblossom serves as Chairman of the Education Alliance Board of Directors and is also a board member for the West Virginia Arts Commission.

Albert Walker, President of Bluefield State College, holds three master's degrees in educational fields from Bradley University in Illinois and an Ed.D. in Educational Administration from Indiana University.

Humanities Council Welcomes New Board Members

The West Virginia Humanities Council elected four new members to its Board of Directors during the March meeting in Morgantown. Directors are drawn from different parts of the state and bring a variety of interests to the Board, helping the Council further its statewide mission.

Hannah Geffert, of Martinsburg, has an MA in American History from Temple University. She is assistant research professor at Shepherd University and past director of the Shepherd University Oral Research project.

Kay Goodwin, of Charleston, is Secretary of the West Virginia Department of Education and the Arts. She served in the same capacity for Governor Bob Wise. Her BA and MA are in speech and drama.

Stephen Hopta, of Bluefield, received his J.D. from WVU School of Law and is General Counsel for the Pocahontas Land Corporation. He

serves as Chairman of the Education Alliance Board of Directors and is also a board member for the West Virginia Arts Commission.

Daugherty Award Nominations Sought

The Council seeks nominations for the 2005 Charles H. Daugherty Award in the Humanities. The award recognizes a West Virginian's lifelong contribution to the humanities. Deadline: October 1. Call (304) 346-8500.

Grant Guidelines

The West Virginia Humanities Council awards grants in the following 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: \$20,000. ***Due: Sept 1**

***Don't miss the once-a-year-deadline!**

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

Call For Southern Coalfields Proposals

The Council seeks grant proposals for programs that explore the history, literature, or current events and issues of the southern West Virginia coalfields. Eligible projects might include community or panel discussions, lectures, school projects, historic reenactments, conferences, the research and creation of exhibits, or fellowships.

Proposals are invited from colleges, schools, libraries, historical societies, parks, convention and visitors' bureaus, historic sites, festivals, museums, senior centers, civic and service organizations, cultural groups, and local government agencies.

For information or technical assistance contact Pam LeRose: (304) 346-8500 or lerose@wvhumanities.org. Or, visit www.wvhumanities.org.



Photo by Lewis Hines, Library of Congress, LC-USZ62-23737

Trapper Boy, Turkey Knob Mine, MacDonald, West Virginia

Congratulations 2005 Fellowship Award Winners

Robert McCutcheon, Elkins — *English*, “The Call of Vocation in Shakespeare’s Middle Plays.”

Denis Jorge Bernschot, Shepherdstown — *Cuban Literature*, “Cuban Subversive Theatre.”

Katherine B. Aaslestad, Morgantown — *History*, “Lessons on Allegiance: Local and National Histories in Hamburg’s Schools, 1815-1933.”

Christopher Wilkinson, Morgantown — *Musicology*, “From the Dawn of the Swing Era to the Start of World War II: Big Band Jazz and Dance Music in Black West Virginia 1935-1942.”

Janet Snyder, Morgantown — *Art History*, “Speaking with One Voice: The French Character of Norman Painting and Sculpture in Southern England during the Twelfth Century.”

Deborah Janson, Morgantown — *German Literature*, “‘Die Seele als Stoerfaktor’: Faustian Guilt and Romantic Predilections in Christa Wolf’s *Leibhaftig*.”

Jeannie Dalporto, Charleston — *English*, “Class, Gender, and the Rural Economy in Eighteenth-Century Women’s Poetry in England.”

Janet Badia, Huntington — *English*, “Confessional Poetry and the Politics of Reception.”

Humanities Council fellowships, supporting research and writing in any discipline of the humanities, are among our most competitive offerings. We congratulate the 2005 Humanities Fellows and encourage 2006 applications — see “Grant Guidelines” or visit our website for details.

Thank You, New and Renewing Members!

This list represents new and renewed memberships and other donations received February 19, 2005, through May 19, 2005. A complete list of members and donors is published each year in the Humanities Council's annual report.

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*In memory of Joseph C. Jefferds, Jr.

Letters About Literature

George Orwell's *Animal Farm*, J.R.R. Tolkien's *The Hobbit*, and Sharon Creech's *Bloomability* provided the inspiration for three students to receive first-place honors in Letters About Literature. These top awards went to Ian Lovern, 5th grade, Bluefield; Alison Lester, 8th grade, Princeton Middle School; and Carolyn Rose Garcia, 9th grade, Notre Dame High School.

Letters About Literature is a national reading and writing program of the Library of Congress Center for the Book. The Humanities Council partners with the West Virginia Library Commission to host the state program sponsored by the West Virginia Center for the Book.

To enter, young readers write a personal letter to an

author. Overall, 614 state youth competed this year. At a ceremony held April 14, 2005, in the Cultural Center,

Charleston, 90 finalists were honored with a poster autographed by children's author and guest speaker, Marc Harshman, of Wheeling (shown here with several finalists and their teacher). First Lady Gayle Manchin presented the student awards. First-place winners advanced for national competition.

Karen Goff, state Center for the Book coordinator, told the 2005 Letters About Literature finalists, "Your

letters tell how the words of special authors have influenced how you look at the world, how you look at others, and how you look at yourself."



Mark Payne

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

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