

# People & Mountains

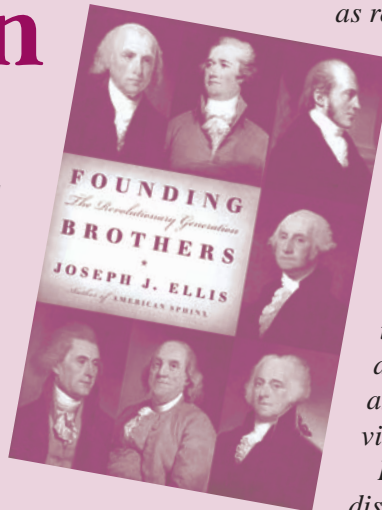
A Publication of the West Virginia Humanities Council

Fall 2005

## “The Words and the Music” – Composing a Political Tradition

*Joseph J. Ellis, one of America’s most distinguished historians, will deliver the annual McCreight Lecture in the Humanities on October 27. He will speak on “Our Founding Brothers: The Political Values of the Revolutionary Generation,” taking his title from his 2000 Pulitzer Prize book.*

*Ellis admits that his is an old-fashioned historical view, finding the crux of our nation’s founding in the character and beliefs of the founders themselves. Having united to cast off the British, they afterwards discovered that they were not of one mind*



*as regarded the country’s proper course.*

*The decade and a half following the Revolution remain among the most bitterly political years in our history, as two main parties jelled among the founders and battled it out in terms that might give pause to politicians of any later era. Ellis argues that in this they did us a great favor, institutionalizing the ongoing national debate as a matter of politics rather than violent force.*

*In the following passage, Ellis discusses the founding generation and its great accomplishment.*

Mostly male, all white, this collection of public figures was hardly typical of the population as a whole; nor was it, on the other hand, a political elite like anything that existed in England or Europe. All of its members, not just those like Benjamin Franklin and Alexander Hamilton with famously impoverished origins, would have languished in obscurity in England or France. The pressures and exigencies generated by the American Revolution called out and gathered together their talents; no titled and hereditary aristocracy was in place to block their ascent; and no full-blown democratic culture had yet emerged to dull their elitist edge. They were America’s first and, in many respects, its only natural aristocracy. Despite recent efforts to locate the title in the twentieth century, they comprised, by any informed and fair-minded standard, the greatest generation of political talent in American history. They created the American republic, then held it together throughout the volatile and vulnerable early years by sustaining their

presence until national habits and customs took root. . . .

There are two long-established ways to tell the story, both . . . written while several members of the revolutionary generation were still alive. Mercy Otis Warren’s *History of the American Revolution* (1805) defined the “pure republicanism” interpretation, which was . . . later called “the Jeffersonian interpretation.” It depicts the American Revolution as a liberation movement, a clean break not just from English domination but also from the historic corruptions of European monarchy and aristocracy. The ascendance of the Federalists to power in the 1790s thus becomes a hostile takeover of the Revolution by corrupt courtiers and moneymen (Hamilton is the chief culprit), which is eventually defeated and the true spirit of the Revolution recovered by the triumph of the [Jeffersonian] Republicans in the elections of 1800. The core revolutionary principle according to this interpretive tradition is individual liberty. It has radical and, in

*Continued on page 3*

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THE BOARD MEETS:  
October 28, 2005  
at Council headquarters  
1310 Kanawha Blvd., East  
Charleston, West Virginia.  
Open to the public.

# No X in Our Book

We shipped the last chapters of the *West Virginia Encyclopedia* to the typesetter in late summer. There were 25 chapters in all, each representing a letter of the alphabet and ranging in size from one article for Q (quilts, naturally) to 244 articles for C. There is no X in the *West Virginia Encyclopedia*.

As you may know, the *Encyclopedia* is the flagship project of the West Virginia Humanities Council. The big one-volume reference book will incorporate, according to our motto, “all there is to know about West Virginia.”

At this point we are winding up what is called the front and end matter in the publishing business: the table of contents, introduction, citations, index, and so forth. This adds up to quite a lot of material in itself — perhaps as much as 150 printed pages, mostly at the back of the 1000-page book.

And it looks like a lot more in its current typed form.

For example, I recently edited the contributors section. This includes short biographies of the freelancers who have written for the *Encyclopedia*. Our writers are mostly West Virginians, but others are scattered from England to British Columbia and all over the United States. There are more than 600 of them — and their three-line biographies now total more than 100 typed pages.

Then there is the citations section. This is even bigger, with the manuscript running nearly 300 typed pages. It lists books and other sources, fully documenting the 2,200 articles in the *West Virginia Encyclopedia*. Offhand, I’d guess there are 7,500 individual citations, maybe more.

Thankfully, the index is in the hands of a professional. He was up to letter T, the last I heard. We have asked him to keep the final product to no more than 10,000 lines. In print, that will probably run to 35 pages at the very back of our book.

All considered, our *Encyclopedia* turned out to be a bigger job than expected. In a way, it reminds me of West Virginia itself. I travel all over the state in my work, and when people say it’s a small place I invite them to buckle up and start driving our country roads.

West Virginia is bigger than it looks when you get down to details. Its *Encyclopedia* is the same way, even without an X.

— Ken Sullivan

*People & Mountains*  
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Continued from page 1

modern terms, libertarian implications, because it regards any accommodation of personal freedom to governmental discipline as dangerous. . . .

The alternative interpretation was first given its fullest articulation by John Marshall in his massive five-volume *The Life of George Washington* (1804-1807). It sees the American Revolution as an incipient national movement with deep, if latent, origins in the colonial era. The constitutional settlement of 1787-1788 thus becomes the natural fulfillment of the Revolution and the leaders of the Federalist party in the 1790s—Adams, Hamilton, and, most significantly, Washington—as the true heirs of the revolutionary legacy. (Jefferson is the chief culprit.) The core revolutionary principle in this view is collectivistic rather than individualistic, for it sees the true spirit of '76 as the virtuous surrender of personal, state, and sectional interests to the larger purposes of American nationhood. . . . It has conservative but also protosocialistic implications, because it does not regard the individual as the sovereign unit in the political equation and is more comfortable with governmental discipline as a focusing and channeling device for national development. . . .

It is truly humbling, perhaps even dispiriting, to realize that . . . historians have essentially been fighting the same battles, over and over again, that the members of the revolutionary generation fought originally among themselves. Though many historians have taken a compromise or split-the-



difference position over the ensuing years, the basic choice has remained constant, as historians have declared themselves Jeffersonians or Hamiltonians, committed individualists or dedicated nationalists, liberals or conservatives, then written accounts that favor one camp over the other. . . .

But, again, . . . both sides in the debate have legitimate claims on historical truth and both sides speak for the deepest impulses of the American Revolution. With the American Revolution, as with all revolutions, different factions came together in common cause to overthrow the reigning regime, then discovered in the aftermath of their triumph that they had fundamentally different and politically incompatible notions of what they intended. In the dizzying sequence of events that comprises the political history of the 1790s, the full range of their disagreement was exposed and their different agendas for the United States collided head-on. Taking sides in this debate is like choosing between the words and the music of the American Revolution.

What distinguishes the American Revolution from most, if not all, subsequent revolutions worthy of the name is that in the battle for supremacy, for the “true meaning” of the Revolution, neither side completely triumphed. Here I do not just mean that the American Revolution did not “devour its own children” and lead to blood-soaked scenes at the guillotine or the firing-squad wall, though

that is true enough. Instead, I mean that the revolutionary generation found a way to contain the explosive energies of the debate in the form of an ongoing argument or dialogue that was eventually institutionalized and rendered safe by the creation of political parties. And the subsequent political history of the United States then became an oscillation between new versions of the old tension, which broke out in violence only on the occasion of the Civil War. In its most familiar form, dominant in the nineteenth century, the tension assumes a constitutional appearance as a conflict between state and federal sovereignty. The source of the disagreement goes much deeper, however, involving conflicting attitudes toward government itself, competing versions of citizenship, differing postures toward the twin goals of freedom and equality.

But the key point is that the debate was not resolved so much as built into the fabric of our national identity. If that means the United States is founded on a contradiction, then so be it. With that one bloody exception, we have been living with it successfully for over two hundred years. Lincoln once said that America was founded on a proposition that was written by Jefferson in 1776. We are really founded on an argument about what that proposition means.

—From *Founding Brothers*  
by Joseph J. Ellis, Copyright 2000

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# What's New in the Humanities

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## History Alive! Proposals Due

The Humanities Council seeks applications from individuals interested in portraying historical figures as part of our History Alive! program. Characters eligible for consideration can be from any period and must have played an important role in state, national, or world history. Proposals are limited to two potential characters per applicant and must be for portrayal of actual persons who lived in the past, rather than composite characters, myths, or legends.

The application deadline is January 1, 2006, with auditions held mid-year. Selected presenters join the History Alive! roster November 1, 2006, for a two-year period and receive a stipend for

additional research on the proposed character.

A character is researched thoroughly by the presenter using first-person sources such as letters, journals, speeches, film, and other archival materials. Presentations are not scripted. Each presenter “becomes” their character and engages in a dialogue with the audience.

Each year, approximately 200 History Alive! presentations are given for schools, libraries, civic groups, historical societies, and a wide range of public gatherings across West Virginia. Presenters are paid by the Humanities Council. Contact Mark Payne at (304) 346-8500 or [payne@wvhumanities.org](mailto:payne@wvhumanities.org) for information and application materials.



*Robert E. Lee, portrayed by Al Stone*



*Readers, authors and book lovers gather annually at the state's largest literary event.*

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## West Virginia Book Festival

The 5th annual West Virginia Book Festival is October 22 and 23 at the Charleston Civic Center. Authors include James Alexander Thom, Avi, Jack Gantos, Sharyn McCrumb, Asra Nomani, Jennifer Haigh, and David Selby, among others. The festival offers something for all ages, including readings, workshops, a publisher fair, performances, and children's activities. The Education Alliance's annual Read Aloud conference and the Central West Virginia Writing Project workshops are scheduled, as is the annual used book sale. Admission is free.

The Council is once again pleased to sponsor this festival with the Kanawha County Public Library system, The Library Foundation of Kanawha County, *The Charleston Gazette* and *Charleston Daily Mail*. For more information visit [www.wvhumanities.org](http://www.wvhumanities.org) or call (304) 343-4646.

# 2005 Appalachian Writer-in-Residence

The 2005 Appalachian Writer-in-Residence Project, sponsored in part by the West Virginia Humanities Council and hosted by Shepherd University, brings to the Eastern Panhandle the distinguished West Virginia short story writer and award-winning novelist, Jayne Anne Phillips. Phillips will fulfill a weeklong residency beginning September 27 designed to coincide with the annual Appalachian Heritage Festival held each fall in Shepherdstown. Activities featuring Phillips will include public readings and discussions, writer workshops on campus and in the public schools, and music and literary programs open to the public.

A part of Phillips' role is to judge the West Virginia New Writers Fiction Competition, a component of the Appalachian Writers Project at Shepherd. Phillips provides the finalists in the competition with a detailed critical analysis of their stories. The winner of the competition for 2005 is Ellen Simonson Bowman of Martinsburg for her story "Ask." Other finalists include for second place Shawn Beckner of Huntington for his story "White Room"; and two third place awards, Mary Claire Johnson of Morgantown for "Personal Consultation" and Gregory W. Leatherman of Fairmont for his story "Baptism." The four winners receive their

awards from Phillips at the Scarborough Awards Ceremony on September 29. This keynote event, "Home is Where You Come From," is the highlight of the week-long activities, with Phillips presenting the address and receiving the Appalachian Heritage Writer's Award.

For more information go to [www.shepherd.edu/ahwirweb/](http://www.shepherd.edu/ahwirweb/) or call (304) 876-5497.



Jayne Anne Phillips

## *Born of Rebellion on the Road*

The Council's traveling exhibit *Born of Rebellion—West Virginia Statehood* premiered at the MacFarland-Hubbard House on June 25 as part of Charleston's inaugural FestivAll. Dr. Stuart McGehee presented a talk titled "The Strange Career of the 35th Star: West Virginia Statehood Reconsidered" to an overflow crowd.

*Born of Rebellion* goes on the road and displays September 8 - October 13 in the

Creative Arts Center of West Virginia University in Morgantown. For information call (304) 293-4841. It travels to the McGrew House at 109 East Main Street in Kingwood for display October 16 - November 5. Call (304) 329-0221 for information. From Kingwood the exhibit moves on to Mingo County.

Visit [www.wvhumanities.org](http://www.wvhumanities.org) for information on hosting the exhibit or to view schedule updates. To bring the exhibit to your community, call Mark Payne at (304) 346-8500 or email [payne@wvhumanities.org](mailto:payne@wvhumanities.org).



## BRIEFS

### Call for Board Member Nominations

The Council seeks nominations for its Board of Directors. Board members are responsible for the general governance of the Council. Nominations must include the nominee's name, address and telephone, and a brief statement about humanities interests. We welcome self-

nominations. Send nominations to Mary Estep, West Virginia Humanities Council, 1310 Kanawha Blvd., East, Charleston, WV 25301. Or email: [mary@wvhumanities.org](mailto:mary@wvhumanities.org). Deadline: December 15, 2005.

### NEH Celebrates 40<sup>th</sup>

The National Endowment for the Humanities launches a year of 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations on September 29, 2005. Plans include publishing a book about the NEH's activities and developing a video

with the History Channel. For information visit [www.neh.gov](http://www.neh.gov).

### "Save Our History" Grant Program

This year the History Channel will award Save Our History grants to organizations that design and execute local history education and preservation projects with schools or youth groups. Organizations may apply for grants of up to \$10,000. Visit [www.saveourhistory.com](http://www.saveourhistory.com).

# 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](mailto:lerose@wvhumanities.org), or  
download from our website  
[www.wvhumanities.org](http://www.wvhumanities.org)

## Call for 2006 Fellowship Proposals

The Council invites proposals for its 2006 fellowship awards of \$2,500. The awards offer West Virginia college faculty and independent scholars support for research and writing projects in a humanities discipline.

Applicants must demonstrate interest and accomplishment in a field of the humanities; reside or be employed in West Virginia; not have received a Council fellowship within the preceding two years; and not be seeking support for degree work or to fund routine teaching preparations.

The image shown here is from research by Janet Snyder



of Morgantown, one of the 2005 Fellowship Award recipients, for her project "Speaking with One Voice: The French Character of Norman Painting and Sculpture in Southern England during the Twelfth Century."

Snyder says that this photograph is one of many she took this summer for her research. The photograph is a wall painting called "The Raising of Darius's Daughter." It is from the north nave wall in St. Michael's Church in Copford, in Essex. She explains, "Darius is appealing to Christ, stepping through a door in a marvelous fictive architecture. Darius and his wife do not wear courtly dress, but the materials of their mantles are luxury goods. Christ and his disciple wear what I call 'ancient philosopher' clothes, something no one was wearing during the twelfth century."

For more examples of past fellowship awards or for applications and assistance, contact Pam LeRose at (304) 346-8500 or email her at [lerose@wvhumanities.org](mailto:lerose@wvhumanities.org). *Deadline - February 1, 2006.*

## Call For Program Committee Nominations

The Council seeks new citizen members for its program committee, which oversees Council-conducted programs and recommends grants decisions to the board of directors. The program committee is composed of equal numbers of citizen members and members of the Council's board. Citizen members are elected to three-year terms with the possibility of re-election for a second term.

Four citizen members will be elected, two from higher education, and two from the general public. Annually members participate in two major grant application review meetings, two minigrant application review conference calls, and one planning meeting.

Nominations must include the nominee's name, address and telephone numbers, and a brief statement about humanities interests. *Deadline - November 1, 2005.* Send nominations to Pam LeRose, West Virginia Humanities Council, 1310 Kanawha Blvd., East, Charleston, WV 25301. Or email: [lerose@wvhumanities.org](mailto:lerose@wvhumanities.org).

## Thank You, New and Renewing Members and Donors!

This list represents new and renewed memberships and other donations received May 20, 2005, through August 18, 2005. A complete list of members and donors is published each year in the Humanities Council's annual report.

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~The West Virginia Humanities Council is pleased to receive contributions through the United Way of Central West Virginia, and thanks United Way donors who designate their gifts in support of the Council and/or the Hubbard House.

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# Dipping In

**T**he punch has never tasted so good! On June 25, 2005, guests at the Humanities Council's West Virginia statehood event witnessed a donation by C. Rand Burdette of an Austria Imperial Crown China punch bowl (shown here with Mr. Burdette "dipping in").

The bowl, now permanently on display, is a lovely new addition to the Council's headquarters, the historic Hubbard House. The story is that French stage actress Sarah Bernhardt performed at the Burlew Opera House in Charleston and gave the bowl as a gift in the 1890's to the opera house owners, Elizabeth Rand Burlew and Noyes Burlew. Mr. Burdette is their grandnephew.

Mr. Burdette grew up in the house next door to the

Council headquarters. That house, known as the Rand house and once a twin to the Hubbard House, is now gone, but its stories and those of the people connected to it and to our house live on through folks like Mr. Burdette.



Gifts in the form of stories, furnishings and unique keepsakes, as well as cash donations, help the Council in its stewardship of this historic property. It is in this spirit that our Board of Directors is launching a campaign for the house. The campaign, *Stepping Up to the Challenge: Finishing the*

*Job at the Hubbard House*, officially gets under way with a kick-off event on September 30. For event information or to make a gift to the Hubbard House, call (304) 346-8500 or see the envelope inserted within.

*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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**West Virginia Humanities Council**  
1310 Kanawha Blvd., East  
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