

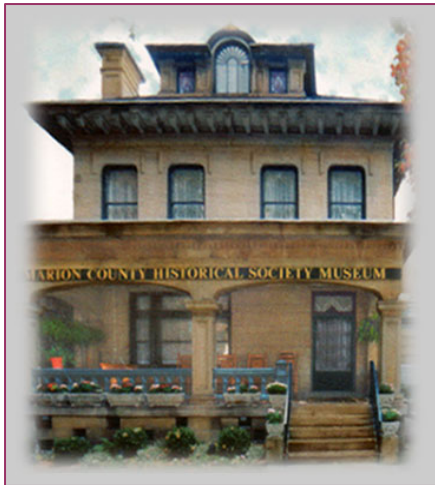


West Virginia Association of Museums NEWSLETTER

Fall 2006

Marion County Historical Society Museum

PO Box 1636, Fairmont, WV 26554 · (304) 367-5398 · www.marionhistorical.org



The Marion County Historical Society (MCHS) Museum is an unique structure as it was formerly the home of the Marion County Sheriffs and part of a three building complex (the former Marion County Jail and present Marion County Court House) designed by the noted Columbus, Ohio architectural firm of Yost & Packard in 1909. All three connecting buildings are on the National Historical Register. This rare design allowed for the former sheriffs to go from their residence to their office to the jail and to the court house without ever venturing outside. The interior of the spacious 2 ½ story home remains primarily the same as it was in the early 1900s with many unique features as a double tiered mantles, a mosaic front porch floor and bathroom tile, pocket doors a stain glass window on the landing.

The Museum remains in a home type atmosphere with an eclectic collection ranging from colonial times to the 20th century.

This Museum was the only West Virginia Museum in the published Heritage Health Index report (page 11) with 2 of the 4 photographs on the cover from its collection. Museum hours are from 10:00 – 2:00 Monday through Friday. Special tours can be arranged.

MCHS hosted the *History Hitting the Road* program from WVU Jackson's Mill on Saturday, September 9, 2006. Living history re-enactors, candle making, basket weaving, corn grinding, loom weaving, and tours of the museum were on the agenda. This was a good start of an annual event which helps make history accessible to all ages. Also in September, a paper conservator and an architectural consultant toured the museum's archives and structural set-up to determine the best way to preserve the museum's assets. The Conservation Assessment Program of Washington, D.C.'s Heritage Preservation provided a grant to fund the assessment. (See *historic photographs of the MCHS Museum with the CAP article on page 5.*) Additionally, Society member Gena Wagaman, will attend a National Preservation Institute workshop on cemetery conservation, preservation, and landscaping to be held in Washington, D.C. in September. She is also working with Arcadia Press on a pictorial history of Fairmont's cemeteries.

In November, the Society will hold its annual Historic House tour. People in the community will open their homes to tours of its historic aspects: its architecture, materials, or previous residents all contribute to a house's history, and to the history of the community. The Society is also raffling off a collection of arrowheads collected in the Fairmont area which date from 4,000 to 500 years ago. *Continued on page 3.*

WVAM Workshop Exhibition Techniques

WVU Jackson's Mill
Thursday, November 16, 2006

Registration fee is \$5.00
Lunch is \$10.00 in the
Mount Vernon Dining Hall
Total \$15.00

Reservations should be made by
calling Jim Mitchell
304-558-0220 Ext. 727,
prior to November 13, 2006

President's Notes

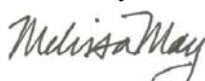
As promised, since the last newsletter we have begun to update the museum directory information on our website. The web directory is an important resource that enables visitors to find out more about each of our institutions. Many of you have replied to my letter requesting that you review and update the information on the website: www.museumsofwb.org -- Thank you! If you have not already so, please take a minute to do that and write to me at info@museumsofwb.org. You can now look at the web calendar to see upcoming events that WVAM is planning. Additional upgrades to the site are underway.

With this issue we are beginning electronic delivery of the WVAM newsletter in an effort to save on printing and mailing costs for this publication. (Institutions who desire can still receive a printed copy.) Please let us know if you would like to have electronic delivery and save the foundation the expense of printing and mailing the newsletter.

The WVAM Disaster Planning and Response Workshops were held in multiple locations around the state last month and many of you benefited from that. Those museums who did not attend these, or the conference sessions held last spring, will be receiving a disaster wheel for emergency reference. If you have suggestions for workshops you would like to see in your area, let us know.

The board has met several times and is actively planning activities for the year including the next WVAM Conference for spring 2007. Watch your mail for more about the location and agenda for this annual event. Stay in touch with me and any board member so we can know your needs. Thanks for helping us to stay current!

Sincerely,


Melissa May



Participants in the Disaster Planning Workshop
at WVU Jackson's Mill, August 2006

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Curator's Corner

Georgia Green and Fairmont Green *by Jim Mitchell, WV State Museum*



In my work I find that I often have to describe the color of objects. In English, it is not enough just to say red, orange, yellow, green, blue, purple, brown, gray, black and white. Sometimes, we have to add other adjectives in front of the basic color to describe nuances. This article is about two greens, Georgia and Fairmont. (Blenko Glass Company has 130 different greens in their recipe book. I'm glad that I do not have to describe them!)

Since 1998, I have worked on various aspects of the New Exhibits in the State Museum. Currently I am writing individual captions for objects in Discovery Room 19, which is devoted to drinking and temperance, that is, whiskey, beer and Prohibition, milk and soda pop. There will be information, graphics, stills and 200 bottles and jars. The Museum will have 28 similar Discovery Rooms. Each will have more captioned objects, graphics and explanatory copy than you will see if you just walk down the Show Path, where you can view the History of our State, in a half an hour to an hour and a half, depending on your speed and interest. Five Connections Rooms with 19 computer terminals will be devoted to various aspects of WV history and culture. There will also be five Book Nooks with information on pertinent subjects (and easy chairs to read in). In short, we are creating a museum exhibition, with about 4,000 objects, that one cannot completely see in just one visit. There is too much to see, learn, experience and digest.

Recently, I examined a bottle which had been used by Charleston's Coca-Cola Bottling Works to bottle C. C. Soda, which is NOT Coca-Cola. I do not know what it was, or tasted like. "ROOT" was molded on the heel, just above the foot. I looked the mark up in Julian Harrison Toulouse's marvelous compendium of research, "Bottle Makers and Their Marks" published by Thomas Nelson Inc. and Everyman's Press in 1971. I learned that the Root Glass Company was located in Terre Haute, Indiana. They had built two factories, one in 1901 for beverage containers and the other in 1902 for fruit jars. Ball Brothers of Muncie, Indiana bought the fruit jar plant in 1909, and used it until 1914, when it was razed. Owens Illinois bought the beverage bottle plant in 1932.

In 1914, Alex Samuelson, a foreman at the Root beverage plant, entered a contest sponsored by The Coca-Cola Company to design a new bottle. He created the Mae West, or hobble skirt bottle, in short - THE Coke bottle, as everyone knows it today. The Coca-Cola Company liked the color of Root's glass which was caused by iron impurities in their sand and decreed that all plants making the Samuelson bottle should match that color, which became known in the glass trade as "Georgia Green". (The public has always just called it Coke bottle green).

Owens Illinois Glass in Fairmont made bottles for Seven-Up. They also used this emerald green for other kinds of soda pop, Sunsweet Prune Juice bottles and other retail jars and bottles. When a person picks up such an old green container in this color, one always finds Owens-Illinois' diamond mark on the bottom flanked on the left by the Fairmont factory's number "3" and on the right the date number which, when added to 1930, gives the date of manufacture. It has happened so often that some of us have begun to say, "Oh, it's Fairmont Green!" The result is that now we have two describable greens, Georgia and Fairmont.

Marion County Historical Society *continued from page 1*

The framed collection was donated by David Caine, a Society member with an abiding interest in Indian artifacts. The drawing will be held after the Christmas parade in Fairmont. You need not be present to win.

January 2007 is Founders' month, replete with important dates - Boaz Fleming and Francis Pierpont were born and the County was formed. The Society will have events, displays, and press

coverage throughout the month to remind the community how much history is associated with Fairmont. The Society meets the fourth Saturday of every month, and yearly dues are just \$10.00! Hope to see you there! Check out our website at www.marionhistorical.org for upcoming events sponsored by the Society and Museum. Our e-mail is marionhistorial@yahoo.com.

Submitted by Dora Grubb, MCHS

Another Era Passes by Joan Weiskircher, WVNCC Alumni Association

The Hazel Atlas Corporation, a West Virginia company that grew to become the second largest glass container manufacturer in the world, ceased operations in the late 1950s after it was sold to Continental Can Corporation. In 1960, that company dismantled Hazel Atlas, selling off plants to various entities. The once giant company no longer existed, even though its products remained part of American lore.

The corporation was originally formed to manufacture a simple product, the glass liners used in zinc canning jar lids. From that humble start, the founding members built an empire that made the famous HA canning jars and an endless array of commercial containers. The company also introduced a line of beautifully designed dishware for everyday use.



Today, that dishware is valued by many who collect “depression glass.” In addition to the glass products, Hazel Atlas was a leader in the manufacture of closures - that is, jar lids. The company led the battle to establish industry standards, making it possible for jar openings to be sealed with standard-sized lids. Because of that accomplishment, Hazel Atlas went on to manufacture jar lids for products found in every home in America.

In 1930, the success of the company made it necessary to find a suitable space for the widely dispersed offices found throughout the Wheeling area. The new corporate office building, a wonderful example of art deco style, was built and completed in 1931. It featured a red brick and sandstone exterior with an imposing three-story, multi-ton glass entrance portal, located front and center of the building. The recessed front entrance included a center revolving door (one of only three remaining in downtown Wheeling area today) with

two, single glass doors on either side. Dropped bronze light fixtures, hanging from twisted cables, graced the front entrance. The lobby was constructed of Vermont marble and handsome art-deco fixtures were found throughout the building. A luxurious board room, adjacent to the executive offices on the fourth floor, reflected the prosperity of the company in 1931.

After the Hazel Atlas Corporation ceased to exist, the corporate headquarters continued to be used for educational purposes – first as a downtown center for West Liberty State College and, in 1972, as the main building for the newly formed West Virginia Northern Community College. Until very recently the Community College continued to use that facility along with a second historical building, the former B&O Railroad Passenger Station. In 2005, seeking to create a more convenient campus, the college acquired a facility adjacent to the B&O Building and made plans to sell the Hazel Atlas Building.

Beginning in 1982, the Alumni Association of West Virginia Northern, acting as historians for the college’s buildings, began collecting items of historical significance to each location. Their collection of Hazel Atlas Glass grew from less than 100 items to the current total of over 1,000 pieces of glass and closures. As the building transfers to new owners, most likely from the private sector, one can only hope that an appreciation for that building’s history will continue to garner the respect and care it deserves.

For more details on Hazel Atlas, go to <http://www.wvculture.org/History/wvhs1721.html> or google Hazel Atlas history and see the article published in the WV Historical Review in April, 2003 by Joan Weiskircher, WVNCC Alumni Association.

Foundation Seeking Applicants for Director of Fort New Salem

The Fort New Salem Foundation is pleased to invite applications for the Fort Director position. This is a full time 12 month position with a targeted hire date of Fall 2006. Salary range is \$25,000 to \$35,000 plus incentives, commensurate with experience and education.

The director reports to the board of directors and works closely with the executive committee and the fund raising committee. This individual will manage the daily operations of the fort as a working museum and be responsible for the staff and all assets and resources of the Foundation. The director will also act as chief budget officer and is responsible for an annual operating budget of \$200,000. Applicant must demonstrate a working knowledge of the repair, construction and maintenance of 19th century log structures.

For more information and an application form, see www.fortnewsalemfoundation.org.

Conservation Assessment Program



The Heritage Health Index, a comprehensive study of the condition of U.S. collections, found that 75% of small museums and historical societies need a condition assessment of their collections. Are you one of them? If so, the Conservation Assessment Program (CAP) can help!

CAP is designed to help small to mid-sized museums of all types, from art museums to zoos, obtain a general assessment of the condition of their collections, environment, and historic buildings. Following an on-site assessment by a conservation professional, the museum receives a written report recommending priorities to improve collections care. This report assists museums in educating staff and board members on preservation practices, creating long-range and emergency plans, and raising funds to improve the

care of their collections.

In 2006, 110 museums in 39 states and the District of Columbia were selected to participate in CAP, including the **Marion County Historical Society** (pictured at top left and below). To view the entire list of current CAP participants, visit

www.heritagepreservation.org/CAP. The FY2007 CAP applications will be mailed on Friday, October 6, 2006, to museums on the CAP mailing list and will also be available on Heritage Preservation's Web site at www.heritagepreservation.org. The postmark deadline for applications is December 1, 2006. Eligible participants will be accepted into the program on a first-come, first-served basis. Heritage Preservation's CAP is supported through a cooperative agreement with the Institute of Museum and Library Services.



To be added to the CAP application mailing list, or for more information, please contact CAP staff at cap@heritagepreservation.org or 202-233-0800.

SEMC Jekyll Island Management Institute

The Southeastern Museums Conference (SEMC) proudly announces the 7th Annual Jekyll Island Management Institute (JIMI '07). Scheduled for January 16 – 23, 2007, JIMI is specifically designed for administrators from new and emerging museums and for museum professionals with subject area expertise desiring knowledge of general museum administration and operations.

Located on historic Jekyll Island, GA, this highly successful training program provides an eight-day immersion for museum professionals seeking the opportunity to learn management, personnel and interpretive skills from leading experts. Sessions include management styles, administration and trusteeship, fundraising and marketing, financial management, developing exhibits, public relations, collections management, disaster preparedness, education and interpretation, volunteer management, and museum ethics.

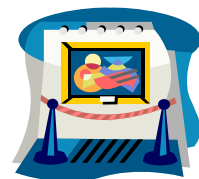
Applications are currently available, with a deadline for submitting applications October 31, 2006. JIMI is sponsored by SEMC, Jekyll Island Museum and Historic Preservation, North Carolina State Historic Sites and LaPaglia & Associates, Inc. For more information and application contact SEMC at (404) 378-3153 or www.semcdirect.net or call LaPaglia & Associates at (615) 890-4887.

**WVAM
Exhibition Techniques
Workshop**

**November 16, 2006
WVU Jackson's Mill**

**Registration \$5.00
Lunch \$10.00**

**Call Jim Mitchell to register,
304-558-0220 x727**



Celebrate West Virginia's Glass Heritage

The First Glass Fest celebrating West Virginia's glass history and heritage will be held October 20-22, 2006 in Weston, once the hand-blown glass capital of the world. Appalachian Glass at 499 US Highway 33 East will host the festival which will showcase the dying glass industry in our state.

In the early 1900s more than 500 glass producing factories were spread throughout the mountain state producing the finest glass in the world. West Virginia was attractive to glass manufacturers because it offered great quantities of silica sand, stone and other chemical compounds necessary to produce glass. With the abundance of natural gas for fuel, paired with the state's network of rivers and railroads for the transportation of raw materials and finished wares to customers, West Virginia was an ideal location to spawn the glass industry. The glass industry was a multi-million dollar business in its hey day.



West Virginia glass is still collected and revered around the world. However, now only a handful of artisans struggle to preserve our once famed heritage and revered craftsmanship. Many of the old masters and glass workers are elderly and passing away. With them passes not only out glass history but the skills and artistry they possess.

The Glass Fest to be held on October 20-22, 2006 will have various West Virginia artisans who will demonstrate many of the age old practices of making and decorating glass such as Katherine Miller, glass cutting; Sandy Conrad, diamond burr engraving; Todd Turner, sand carving; Dwayne Wallace, Pilgrim legacy cameo glass carving; Masterpiece Crystal glass blowers, the last crystal stemware producers in West Virginia; Wilkerson Art Glass and retired Louie Glass glass artists.

The West Virginia American Marble Association will conduct their state Marble Shooters Association qualifier sponsored by Marble King on Saturday afternoon. Participants in the qualifier from ages 7 to 14 are free and those 15 and above \$5 .00. All proceeds will go to the West Virginia American Marble Association Scholarship Fund.

Also on Saturday afternoon all current and former glass workers are invited to a gathering at Appalachian Glass to celebrate their part in the state's glass heritage. Hours will be Friday, October 20, 2006 from noon to 6 p.m.; Saturday from 9 a.m.-6 p.m. and Sunday from noon to 4 p.m. For more information, on the Glass Fest, call 1-800-296-7329 or stonewallcountry.com.

Best Wishes, Charlene Wideman

The WV Association of Museums Board of Directors has regretfully accepted the resignation of Director-at-Large Charlene Wideman. Charlene has retired from her position as Manager of Glenwood Estate in Charleston and moved back to her home state of Florida.

She was first elected to the Board in 2000 and has served faithfully ever since. She served on the Workshop and Training Committee assisting in the planning and presentation of a number of workshops. She joined the

Association in 1995. Charlene was an active member of Kanawha County Master Gardeners, maintaining the gardens of Glenwood Estate as well as managing the mansion since 1989. Thank you, Charlene for your many years of service. Your expertise and good spirit will be greatly missed!

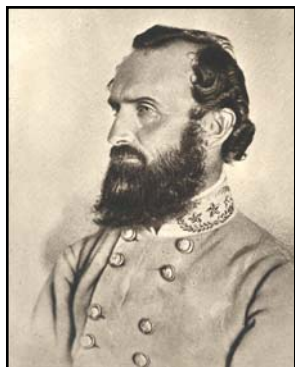
Charlene's departure and another existing expired term left two vacancies on the WVAM Board. Chelley Depp of the Rich Mountain Battlefield Foundation and Larry Sypolt of WVU's Eberly College of Arts and Sciences have joined the Board to fill these unexpired terms until the next election at the 2007 Annual Meeting.



Charlene at a recent Board Meeting at Pricketts Fort

Symposium to Study Jackson's Early Life

A symposium, His Path to Glory, from Orphan to Soldier, the early years of Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson will be held at his boyhood home at WVU Jackson's Mill on November 2-4, 2006.



Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson born in Clarksburg, West Virginia and raised to manhood at Jackson's Mill in Weston is considered by historians as one of the greatest natural military genius the world ever

saw. His magnetic personal leadership, which so dominated and inspired his men, along with his great loyalty and love of his home and family constituted only part of his many attributes of greatness. What made him the man he became?

A symposium will be held at WVU Jackson's Mill on November 2-4, 2006 to study his early years. Participants can walk the ground he walked, savor the environment of a 1,500 acre farm and Mill he grew up in and learn about

the Appalachian people and why so much of what he became is deeply imbedded in Appalachia. Participants will spend the weekend visiting sites that were important to Tom and his family and learn about his childhood friends, his sorrows and his happiness.

Friday, November 3 participants will spend the day traveling to Jackson family spots in the area. Saturday, November 4, symposium participants will spend the day at WVU Jackson's Mill learning about his childhood friends, his life at the mill which includes hands on 19th century farm and mill education and a discussion concerning those oddities he had that everyone has heard and read about and learn about the Jackson clan. Saturday night dinner will include a very special presentation by Richard G. Williams, Jr., a distinguished civil war author who will speak on his new book, "Stonewall Jackson, The Black Man's Friend." For more information please call 1-800-296-7329 or visit www.stonewallcountry.com. The cost for the symposium will be \$140 which will include transportation on Friday, all meals and Saturday night's dinner and presentation.

Free Disaster Plan Template Available Online

The [Northeast Document Conservation Center \(NEDCC\)](http://www.nedcc.org) and the [Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners](http://www.mass.gov) have created dPlan, a free online program to help institutions write comprehensive disaster plans. dPlan provides an easy-to-use template that allows museums, libraries, archives, and other cultural institutions of all sizes to develop a customized plan that includes: disaster response procedures, salvage priorities, preventive maintenance schedules, current contact information for staff and emergency personnel, sources of emergency supplies and services, insurance checklists, electronic data backup and restoration procedure.



dPlan can serve the needs of small institutions without in-house preservation staff, library and museum systems that need to develop separate but related plans for multiple locations, and state agencies that need to structure training programs on disaster planning. Each institution's password-protected plan is stored on a secure server. An automatic e-mail is sent every six months with a reminder to update the plan.

The development of the template was funded by the [Institute of Museum and Library Services \(IMLS\)](http://www.imls.gov) and the [National Center for Preservation Technology and Training \(NCPTT\)](http://www.ncptt.org). For more details, visit www.dplan.org or press control and click on the dPlan icon above. (*Article text from <http://www.nedcc.org/welcome/disaster.htm>*)

**Don't forget to visit www.museumsofww.org to review your museum information.
Email your updates to info@museumsofww.org
Also, let us know if you would like to receive an electronic copy of this newsletter. Thanks!**

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Join Today! Membership in WVAM provides a unique opportunity to be involved with sites and museums across the state. Dues are for the calendar year from January to December.

Individual Member:

Active 15.00
Staff* 15.00
Retired/Student** 15.00
*staff of institutional member
**with copy of student ID

Institutional Member with a budget of:

\$ 0 – 29,000 30.00
\$ 30,000 – 99,000 50.00
\$100,000 – 249,000 85.00
\$250,000 – 749,000 175.00
\$750,000 and up 200.00

If you don't want to be a member, but would still like to donate, enter amount here: \$ _____

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