

Spring 1987

WVRHC Newsletter, Spring 1987

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West Virginia and Regional History Collection

NEWSLETTER

Volume 3, No. 1

West Virginia University Library

Spring 1987

Moreland Papers Chronicle Leading Family's Role in Area History

Historical repositories are filled with isolated remnants. For the most part they contain bits and pieces of the past—an old letter, a business ledger, diaries, or the papers of a great statesman, materials that someone valued enough to protect for posterity's sake, or perhaps for sentimental reasons. The challenge of history rests in piecing together these fragments in such a way that broad insights emerge.

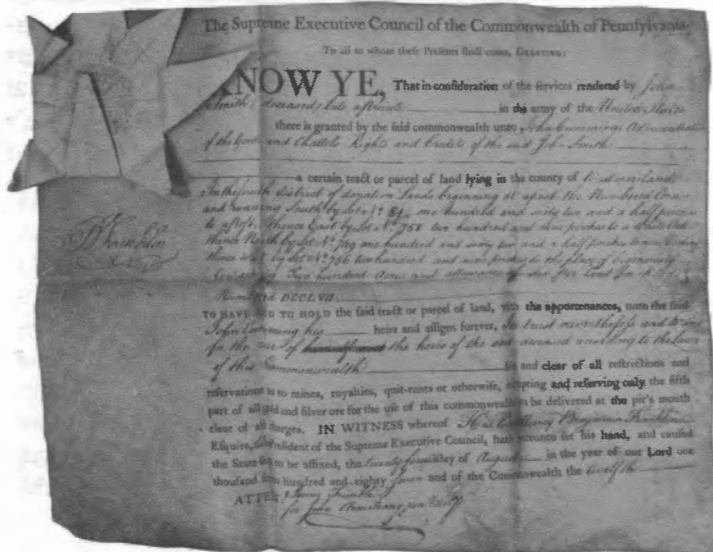
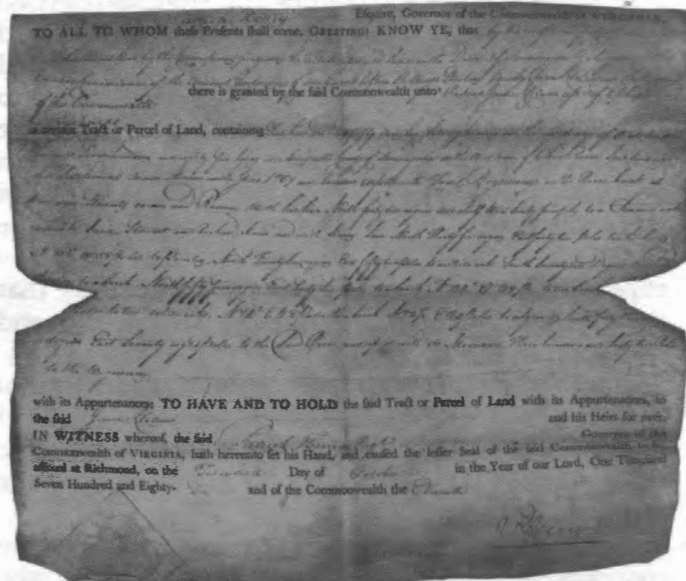
Occasionally, a thread of documentation survives that extends beyond a moment, or even a lifetime, and follows a topic across the centuries. The Regional History Collection's Moreland Family Papers are such a resource.

The composite result of five separate gifts to the Collection over thirty years' time, the Moreland Family Papers offer researchers a chance to follow a family's passage through changing times from post-Revolutionary America to the present.

The Morelands came to America from England in colonial times, settling in York County, Pennsylvania. A grant of land on the Youghieny River, in reward for military service, brought William Moreland to Western Pennsylvania, near Connellsville, shortly after the Revolutionary War. On this tract of land, William's son John manufactured the first coke to be produced in the area. John Moreland developed a system of transporting his product by barge to markets down the Ohio River, a feat which earned him the nickname, "Captain." Despite his success, his manufacturing career ended when his fleet of barges sank in the Ohio in 1850.

Captain Moreland's son Joseph set up a legal practice in Morgantown shortly after the Civil War. As partner to William T. Willey, he argued many notable cases in Monongalia County in the latter decades of the nineteenth century. He also spent a number of years as mayor of Morgantown, and as a member of the Board of Regents of West Virginia University.

Joseph's son, James R. Moreland, and grandson, William Moreland, followed his example. Each in turn played a leading role in regional legal, business, and



A pair of eighteenth-century land grants from the Moreland Collection. **Top**, a grant of 350 acres of land "on the west side of the Cheat River in the District of Monongalia, Yohogania & Ohio" to James Cleland, October 20, 1785. Signed by Virginia Governor Patrick Henry. **Bottom**, a grant of 200 acres in Westmoreland Co., Pennsylvania, to John Cummings, administrator for John Smith, in return for Revolutionary War service, dated 24 August 1787, signed by Pennsylvania "President," Benjamin Franklin.

West Virginia and Regional History Collection NEWS-LETTER. A triannual publication of the West Virginia and Regional History Collection at the West Virginia University Library, Colson Hall, Morgantown, West Virginia 26506. (304) 293-3536.

Staff: David Bartlett, Annette Cotter, John Cuthbert, Harold Forbes, Tracy Grote, Duryea Kemp, Martha Neville, George Parkinson, Scott Schwartz, Christelle Venham

Editor: John Cuthbert



political life. Both were elected to represent the area in the state legislature.

In addition to law and politics, the Morelands shared an interest in family and regional history. Each served terms as keeper of family archives and all collected and wrote about local history. Joseph Moreland helped to organize Morgantown's centennial celebration. He published a pamphlet of anecdotes and local history in honor of the occasion. James authored some seven books and articles regarding area history. Together he and his son William amassed collections of family papers, and local business and legal records that chronicle the lives of four generations of Morelands and the times they lived in.

James Moreland's papers came to the Regional History Collection in installments between 1956 and 1985. William Moreland's historical collections were donated in 1967. His personal papers were added in the spring of last year.

The earliest material in the Moreland Collection concerns Alexander Smith, a relative of the family, who ran an inn and store in the Washington, D.C. area about 1794-1814. Smith's letters and receipts provide information about the provisioning of westward travelers on the National Road and the slave trade in Maryland at the turn of the nineteenth century. Among Smith's papers is a letter written by N. Suter offering a first hand account of an encounter with the British Navy in the War of 1812:



James R. Moreland, 1879-1955

... We were ordered down the river [Potomac] on the Maryland side to stop the progress of the Enemy fleet on its return. After an ineffectual effort on the opposite shore near Mount Vernon to injure their retreat, they bore down on our little battery at Indian head and immediately opened upon us, the most severe cannonading from Frigates, sloops of War, Rocket & Bomb Ships that I ever heard. About one hour & half we consumed our amunition and was compelled to draw off amid an extensive severe fire which followed us about 2 miles in the country. . .

Other federal era and early nineteenth-century materials in the collection include land grants signed by Benjamin Franklin, Patrick Henry and Edmund Randolph, and papers regarding John Moreland's pioneering industrial career in southwestern Pennsylvania, 1800-1850.

Later components of the collection regard virtually every aspect of regional history from the close of the Civil War to the 1940s. With three of Morgantown's most astute attorneys and businessmen in the family, the Morelands played a fundamental role in the area's economic development. Legal and business papers dated 1880-1980 concern their involvement with such corporations as the American Oil Co., South Penn Oil Co., Carnegie Gas and Oil Co., the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad and so forth. Other papers concern the development of Morgantown business and industry—banking, investments, land, hotels—and chronicle the family's involvement in political, social and historical activities.

Visiting Committee West Virginia and Regional History Collection

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Slavery From A Slave's Perspective

The last issue of the *Newsletter* reprinted a letter from an Eastern Panhandle slave owner regarding the purchase and treatment of a group of fieldhands destined for a Jefferson County plantation. Written in 1856, the letter offered blunt insight into the workings of slavery and the system of rationalization that enabled it to persist.

A letter discovered recently in the Henry Shepherd house in Shepherdstown affords a look at the institution of slavery from a different angle. The letter was written by Georgiana Washington, a former Jefferson County slave, serving a new master in the deep South. Records suggest that she was born at "Cedar Lawn" near Charles Town, a plantation owned by the descendants of George Washington's brother Samuel Washington.

A message to "home" from her new residence in Louisiana, Ms. Washington's letter is remarkable in several respects. It is addressed to "Mrs. Mary Ellen Lucas, Care of Richard Johnson, Harpers Ferry, Va." Federal census returns for 1850 list Richard M. Johnson as a free black, aged thirty-four, living at Shepherdstown. Mary Lucas is identified as a free mulatto, forty-five years of age, living in the county's twenty-eighth district in the vicinity of Cedar Lawn. She may well have had a connection with the estate of Cedar Lawn neighbor Col. Robert Lucas. The Lucas farm was in fact managed during the 1840s by a youthful George Washington (great grand-nephew of the first president) who became the master of Cedar Lawn in 1849 at age eighteen. Records show that Washington and his sisters (one of whom was named "Georgana") maintained eleven slaves at Cedar Lawn in 1850. Five years later, however, the estate was broken up and sold, perhaps explaining the circumstances which led Georgiana to a Louisiana auction block.

Regarding Mr. Johnson and Mrs. Lucas, it is interesting to note that census tabulations show some 540 free blacks living in Jefferson County in 1850. This lends some credence to the claims of one local historian that the county harbored "generous masters" who quite routinely released faithful servants from bondage. On the other hand, the returns list the county's enslaved population at 4,341. The white total was 11,016.

Georgiana's letter contains a wealth of insightful information. It describes her sale and transfer from a southern "trader-yard" to the home of a New Orleans judge. Her new job enabled her to work in the master's house, a privilege that few slaves enjoyed. Her literacy (if in fact she was able to write her own letter) suggests that she had formerly been a house servant as well. Education seldom reached the field laborer.

Georgiana's words convey a warm sense of community between her, her family and a circle of friends. Indeed, her letter demonstrates strength of communication among antebellum blacks, freed and enslaved. In addition to describing her own circumstances she has heard from and sends word of three other members of

her former group. The fact that her dispatch is addressed to Mr. Johnson and Mrs. Lucas, suggests a pivotal role for free blacks in slave communication networks.

Finally, the letter attests to the harsh realities of her existence, including the loss of a younger brother, and the pain of her own separation from everything she knew and loved. Yet her comments display the courage required of those who survived the cruelty of American slavery.

*Mrs. Mary Ellen Lucas
Care of Richard Johnson
Harpers Ferry Va.*

New Orleans June 8, 1860

My dear Miss Mary Ellen Lucas

I have taken this present opportunity to write to you a few lines and to tell you where I am. I am now in New Orleans. When I first left home the first place I arrived at was Baltimore. I was then placed in the jail for safe keeping in which I staid for two weeks. I left Baltimore on a monday and arrived at New Orleans on the following Sunday. Their I was put in the trader-yard, I am not certain how long I staid there, but it was not long. I was sold to Judge Kennedy whom I like very much for my master. I am washing and ironing. I like to wash and ironing very much an is very hot in New Orleans but I am now nearly climated and the heat does not go so hard with me as it did. I would be perfectly happy if I could see you all some times

My little brother Brent was taken from me six months ago and I have not seen or heard from since. My dear miss Mary Ellen give my very best love to your grandmother and tell her I hope she has got over the grief of their taken Buckhanman away from her and I hope he is a good boy and goes to school and learns his lessons very well Oh my dear Miss Mary Ellen how I wish you all would come and live in New Orleans and I could see you often but as there is no hope for that I wish you would send me you likeness if you cannot do that send me a peice of your's [hair] -Mr Roberts Buckhanannan's and Miss Tenas's and my dear mother's

Give my best love to Mr Bobert Buchannan Miss Tenas your grandmother Miss Sarah Lucas and her family Miss Virginia Miss Evangelina and all her family Miss Punch Miss betty and tell her I want to see her very much indeed. Sally was sold six hundred miles above me on the coast and she is sold as a cook and she is very proud of her new situation Kiss all I have mentioned in

my letter Give my love to all I have Mentioned in my letter and all I have forgotten to mention good by

Your affectionate servant
Georgiana Washington

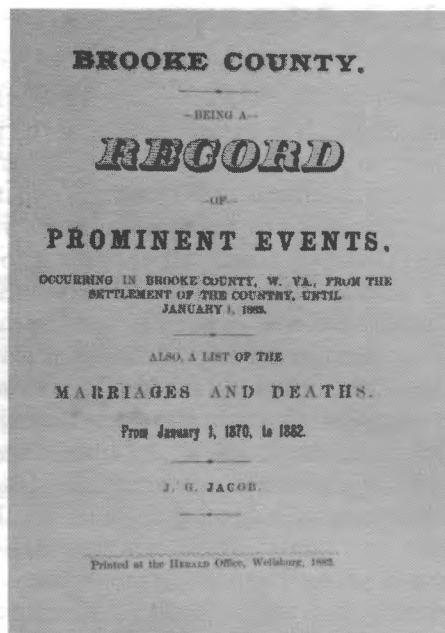
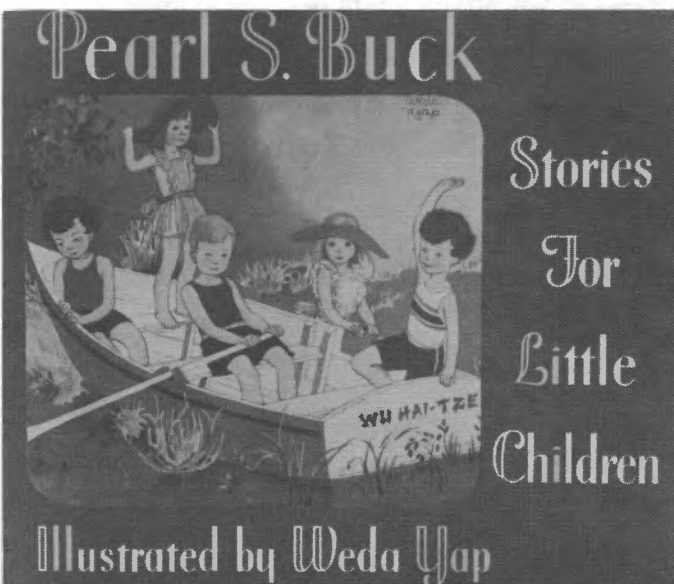
Mr Richard

Give my love to Mr John and My dear Mother you cannot tell how I have longed to see you pleas send me a peice of your hair for I have nothing to remember you by except the white skirt and sack which you gave me some time ago give my best love to aunt Die and to Aunt Wymarie and tell them I wish them all the good luck in the world give my love to Maria [Lorn] and tell her I have herde from her cousin Basil Robertson and he is a clerk on a steam boat as a clerk and sais he would not come back to virgina if he could. Tell Charles Morgan I have not forgotten him and I have seen Mr. Melvin's Margaret and she sends her best love to him and said she has a child which she has named after him. Give my best love to my grand-mother and to uncle charles. Tell good-bye and kiss them for me. I hope my dear mother you have not forgotten me your affectionate daughter

Georgiana Washington

Phi Beta Kappa Donations Augment Rare Book Holdings

Every year at about this time the University Library looks forward to an event that has become an annual occurrence. Back in 1982 the "Alpha Chapter" of Phi Beta Kappa presented the Library with a copy of Victor and Mildred George Goertzel's *Cradle of Eminence* (Boston: Little-Brown, 1962), a study regarding the childhood and education of four-hundred American



Cover and title page of two rare books donated to the West Virginia and Regional History Collection by the Alpha Chapter of Phi Beta Kappa.

geniuses of the past and present. Since that initial gift, the national honorary for students in the arts and sciences has donated carefully selected books to the Library each year.

Recently the Alpha Chapter's selections have been rare volumes of regional interest, and thus, have found their way into the Regional History Collection. In 1985 the Collection received a unique copy of a scarce collection of short stories by West Virginia Pulitzer Prize-winning author Pearl S. Buck. Written for Mrs. Buck's own children, the book, *Stories for Little Children*, was illustrated by Weda Yap. Published by the John Day Company in New York in 1940, the volume bears the embossed *ex libris* of American playwright, ambassador and congresswoman Clare Boothe Luce.

Last year the Collection received a particularly fine copy of J.G. Jacobs' *Brooke County. Being a Record of Prominent Events, occurring in Brooke County, W. Va., from the settlement of the country until January 1, 1882.* Printed at the office of the Wellsburg Herald in 1882, this book is one of the earliest and most difficult to locate printed sources for local history in West Virginia. In addition to providing a thorough county history from the settlement era forward, the study offers eyewitness accounts of a variety of important nineteenth-century events and people, along with military rolls and rosters, marriage and death records and other vital statistics. The volume makes a fine addition to the Regional History Collection's holdings of county histories, the most comprehensive assemblage of these works in existence.

The Collection is most grateful to the Alpha Chapter for its continued support and we fondly hope that this young tradition will reach a ripe old age.

West Virginia and Regional History Association News

We would like to extend a warm welcome to a host of new Regional History Association members. As most readers know, the West Virginia University Foundation conducted a fund-raising telethon on the Collection's behalf last fall. The benefit of 1987 membership in the Association was extended to all donors. As the telethon was a resounding success, the Association's ranks have grown dramatically. A list of new members will appear in our summer *Newsletter*.

Incorporated by the enthusiasm of new and founding members, we have ambitious plans for 1987. Foremost, we will be holding the first of what we hope will be an annual open house for Association members on the 19th and 20th (West Virginia Day) of June. Held in conjunction with the spring meeting of our Visiting Committee, the affair will offer a program of tours, exhibits and discussions as well as an opportunity for members, staff and special guests to become acquainted.

A key activity among the meeting's events will be a reception ceremony for members of the Strother family and the official acceptance of the David Hunter Strother papers (see *Newsletter*, Spring 1986) by West Virginia University President Neil S. Bucklew. As this promises to be a momentous occasion, members should circle June 19 and 20 on their calendars. We hope that the Association is well represented. Members will receive a program and invitation later this spring.

Finally, those who have not renewed their memberships for 1987 are urged to do so immediately in order to continue receiving the *Newsletter*. Of course, members who donated to the Regional History Collection during the fall telethon have already been renewed. We are counting on the continued participation of our 180 founding members!



"Afternoon drills Harpers Ferry May 22nd 1861, D.H. Strother." The Strother collection will be accepted on behalf of the University by President Bucklew during the open house ceremonies June 19 and 20, 1987.

Selected Accessions List



Gainer family group, Tanner, West Virginia, ca. 1900. Photo by Lloyd Gainer.

Buck, Pearl S. Papers, 1941. 29 pages. Acquired, 1987. A&M 727.

Rough draft manuscripts of essays by West Virginia's Nobel Prize-winning author and a manuscript with corrections of a short story "Horseface." The essays are "The Miracle" which is on the topic of mental retardation and "A Memorandum about Of Men and Women" defending and explaining an earlier book about the status of the sexes.

Carpenter, Jacob, Family. Papers, 1985. 21 pages. Gift, 1987. A&M 2502.

A history of the Jacob Carpenter family of Barbour County. Jacob settled in this country in 1810 coming from Germany. Much of the content is an account of pioneer and rustic ways of life in the early days of West Virginia.

Chapman, Berlin B. Papers, 1893-1934. 1 ms. box. Gift, 1986. A&M 2229 add.

A collection of materials regarding education in West Virginia, particularly in Webster County. Contents include papers, news clippings and articles regarding Webster County's first kindergarten, teaching certificates issued for G.W. Chapman and Alice Chapman (1893-1896), and literature from the campaign of William Woodson Trent for the position of State Superintendent of Schools, 1924.



F.C. Gainer and grandson, Francis (?) Gainer (brother of Patrick Ward Gainer), Tanner, West Virginia, ca. 1900. Photo by Lloyd Gainer.

Dorr, C.P. Papers, 1898. 22 pages. Gift, 1987. A&M 304.

Letters from West Virginia newspapers and organizations, such as the West Virginia Editorial Association, concerning Dorr's chances for re-election to United States Congress. The correspondence is indicative of the lobbying efforts exercised by the press in their attempt to influence the political process of that era.

Ennon Baptist Church. Record Book, 1845-1866. 1 vol. Gift, 1986. A&M 1153.

Record book of a Harrison County church, 1 March 1845 to 15 July 1866. Contains minutes of church meetings, and a list of church members which includes dates of exclusion, dismissal, and death.

Folk Song Scrapbook. Book, ca. 1890-1920. 60 pages. Gift, 1986. A&M 1709.

An 18"×14½" scrapbook of lyrics to American folksongs excised from turn of the century newspapers and magazines. Of the more than 1,000 titles, included are "Kentucky Belle," "Lord Ullin's Daughter," "Life's Railway to Heaven," "The Blackberry Girl," "Robin Redbreast," and "Absence Makes the Heart Grow Fonder."

Gainer Family Photographs. Photographs, ca. 1900-1910. Gift, 1986.

Seventeen photographs of the family of folklorist Patrick Gainer taken in Parkersburg and Tanner, West Virginia, ca. 1900-1910.

Kiles, S. Papers, 1847, 1857-59. 29 pages. Gift, 1987. A&M 496.

A bank book with the S. Kiles banking house of Jacob Bound, Connellsville, Pennsylvania, (1857-59) and a letter from a member of the U.S. legation to Denmark to his daughter giving fatherly advice and an account of his stay in Europe (1847).

Marshall County Republican Executive Committee. Record Book, 1894-1950. 1 vol. Gift, 1986. A&M 1643.

Record book of the Marshall County Republican Executive Committee. Contains lists of candidates, and the number of votes each received, in various districts and precincts.

Monongalia County Schools. Papers, 1840-1966. 94 items. Gift, 1986. A&M 2744.

Essays which describe the experience of attending one-room school houses in Monongalia County. Included are personal recollections by the pupils.

Moreland Family Papers. Papers, 1788-1958. 1.5 ft. Gift, 1985. A&M 2983.

This collection reflects James R. Moreland's interest in local and regional history and the Moreland family's community service activities. Items include papers of John Moreland, a pioneer coke producer in south-western Pennsylvania, 1800-1867; excerpts from Ellis's *History of Fayette County, Pennsylvania*; land patents signed by Patrick Henry, Benjamin Franklin, and Edmund Randolph; an 1857 slave bill of sale in Monongalia County; several dozen scrapbooks regarding Morgantown history; papers concerning the establishment and development and the Morelands' support of Monongalia County Hospital, Morgantown Hospital Association, Heiskell Memorial Hospital, and Monongalia General Hospital; items concerning the celebration honoring Admiral French Ensor Chadwick, Morgantown native and Spanish-American War hero, held October 10, 1899; a centennial speech by State Senator John J. Brown in Morgantown, 1876; a Mothers Day speech by U.S. Senator M.M. Neely in Grafton, 1933.

Also numerous typescripts by Moreland regarding local history topics including "Morgantown's Early Days," "Old Kerns Fort," "Jones' Raid," "Morgantown Bridge Co.," "Children and Schools," "Col. William McCleary"; other typescripts by authors including Roy B. Cook, Andrew Price, Ruth Woods, I.C. White, E.E. Meredith; genealogical studies of the Moreland/Brown, Tennant, Lough, Hanway, and Hanks/Lincoln families of West Virginia.



A view of the logging town of Laneville, Tucker County, West Virginia, ca. 1910. J. Keller Reid Papers.

Parker, Franklin. Papers. Papers, 1968–1986. 2½ ft. Gift, 1986. A&M 2676 add.

Correspondence, news clippings and articles to and about Dr. Parker, West Virginia University Benedum Professor of Education, 1968–1986. Most of the articles authored by Parker are about education and the socio-economic milieu of Appalachia and other locations such as China, southern Africa and Latin America.

Randolph, Asa Philip. Papers, 1919–37. 45 pages. Gift, 1986. A&M 1530.

Papers of Asa Philip Randolph, a prominent civil rights and labor leader, who founded and edited *The Messenger*, an influential Black radical labor newspaper of the 1920's, and who organized and presided over the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, the only independent, viable Black trade union in the American labor movement. Much of the correspondence deals with raising subscriptions for *The Messenger*, gaining an International Charter as an independent affiliate to the American Federation of Labor and the early organizing strike actions against the Pullman Company. This correspondence emphasizes the difficulties of convincing Black workers of the feasibility of an independent fledgling black trade union; the necessity of organizing Black workers for the benefit of the whole labor movement; and the challenge of maintaining jurisdictional independence from competing trade unions with predominantly white membership, such as the Hotel Workers union. These letters also reflect Randolph's desire to attain full civil rights for Blacks.

Reid, J. Keller. Papers, photographs, ca. 1870–1940. 1 ms. box. Gift, 1986. A&M 2884.

A Civil War letter from William J. Delay, Camp Bridgewater, 22 March 1864, to his father asking about a transfer of goods and money. Several turn of the century receipts and an artist sketch book from Franklin, West Virginia. Also photos of logging boom towns and rural scenes at the turn of the century in the Eastern Panhandle, particularly of Laneville, Tucker County, and Petersburg, Grant County.

Ridenour Family. Papers, 1972–1983. ¼ in. Gift, 1987. A&M 2230.

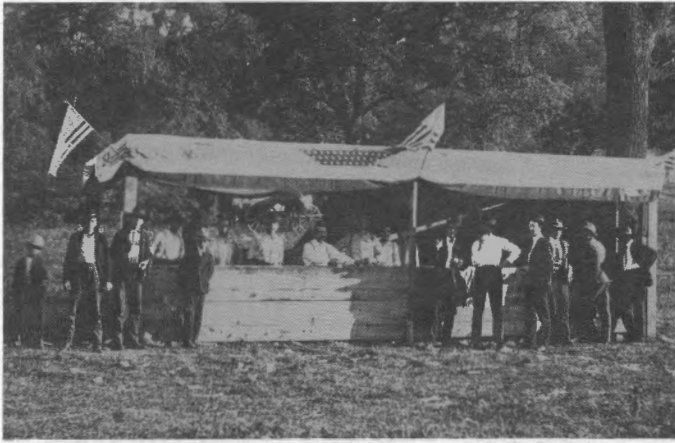
A history of the Ridenour/Reitenauer family from its early Germanic roots to their settlement in Pennsylvania in the late seventeenth century down to the present generation.

Skaggs-Summers-Maddy Family History. Papers, 1977. 15 pages. Gift, 1987. A&M 2496.

A family history tracing the respective families who are inter-related from their earliest settlement in Virginia in the late seventeenth century to the present.

Strayer, Daniel E. Ledger, 1820–1827. 334 pages. Gift, 1986. A&M 1124.

Ledger of a Jefferson County blacksmith, Daniel E. Strayer. Contains entries of individual customers with corresponding types of payment, such as cash and exchange.



Fourth of July celebration, ca. 1910, Petersburg Gap, Grant County, West Virginia. J. Keller Reid Papers.

United States Department of Agriculture. Photographs, ca. 1935, 1960. Gift, 1986.

A series of forty-eight photographs of the United States Department of Agriculture tree nursery at Parsons, West Virginia.

Wade Family. Scrapbook, ca. 1900-50. 1 reel of microfilm. Gift, 1987. A&M 2293.

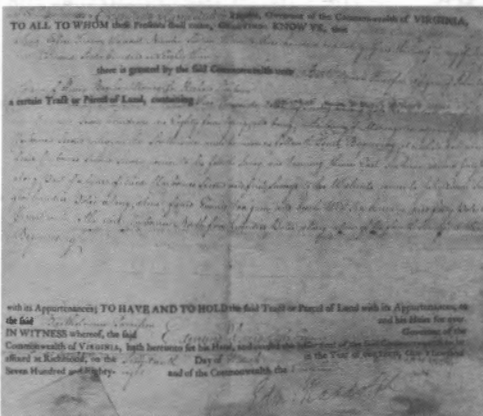
A scrapbook, kept by Fanny Isabella Wade Wallace, containing correspondence, postcards, and genealogical records of the Britton, Davis, Hursey, and Wade families of Clarksburg. There are obituaries of prominent West Virginians as well as news clippings and invitations to weddings and social events, and news clippings regarding local and American history.

West Virginia Postcards. Postcards, ca. 1910. Acquired, 1986.

One hundred and forty postcards depicting West Virginia subjects including towns, scenes and landmarks.

West Virginia and Regional History Collection
 Newsletter
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A grant of 2000 acres in Monongalia Co., adjoining the property of John Evans, to Bartholomew Tarrison, dated March 17, 1788. Signed by Virginia Governor Edmund Randolph.

(See story, page 1.)