



The Lookout

Volume 21 Issue 3

Fall 2012 Newsletter Issue

Our mission is to preserve the history of the people who have gone before us.

Table of Contents

Our next Business Meeting 1
 Accepting Nominations 1
 Last Workshop 1
 Upcoming Speakers 2
 article from West Virginia
 Encyclopedia 2
 Description of Wheeling in
 1878.....3
 Project Updates.....4
 In Memoriam4
 Membership App.....4

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 Jeanne Finstein

**Board of Directors:**  
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 Glenna Dillon (through 2012)  
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**OUR NEXT MEETING WE WILL BE ON**  
**SATURDAY OCTOBER 20<sup>TH</sup> AT 1:00PM**  
**BECAUSE OF LIBRARY SCHEDULING**

**ACCEPTING NOMINATIONS FOR NEXT YEAR'S OFFICERS:**

From our By-Laws:

### ARTICLE V

### ELECTIONS

**Section 1.** At the October meeting annually, the Nominating Committee Chairperson shall present to those present a list of persons recommended for election to the offices of President, Vice-president, Secretary, Treasurer, and Nominating Committee Chairperson for the following year and as many members for the Board of Directors as required to fulfill the authorized number of expiring terms. This listing of recommendations for election shall contain at least one, but not more than three, qualified individuals for each elective office who have signified a willingness to serve, if elected.

**Section 2.** At the November business meeting, the floor shall be declared open for additional nomination for each of the offices. After nominations shall have been declared closed, a separate vote of the members present shall be taken to elect a President, Vice-president, Secretary, Treasurer, and Nominating Committee Chairperson for the following year and as many members for the Board of Directors as required to fulfill the authorized number of expiring terms.

**Section 3.** No person shall be proposed for election, by the Nominating Committee or from the floor, unless such person shall have signified a willingness to serve, if elected.

**Section 4.** Officers shall be elected by the members at the annual business meeting to serve for a period of one year commencing with the January meeting following their election, and until their respective successors be elected and qualified.

**LAST GENEALOGY WORKSHOP LEFT:**

November 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm in the basement of the Ohio County Library

## OUR SPEAKER FOR OCTOBER WILL BE:

**Mr Harry Forrester:** He is a native of Wheeling, WV and a retired manufacturing manager from Wheeling Machine Products. His interest in Whitegate Cemetery and Moundsville Prison was spurred by genealogy research. His family genealogy began with relatives born in 1802 who resided in Tyler County. This led to searching for individual and his discovery of the prison's history and how poorly kept their death records were. Records indicated at least one and perhaps two cemeteries existed prior to Whitegate Cemetery. And thus the search began.

## OUR SPEAKER FOR NOVEMBER WILL BE:

### WAGS MEMBER Jeanne Finstein:

At our November meeting (Saturday, November 10) Jeanne Finstein will do a presentation on Francis (Frank) Hoge, a Marshall County native who was appointed to Annapolis, graduated as a midshipman in the US Navy in 1860, resigned and joined the Confederate Navy when the Civil War broke out. He served the Confederacy with distinction during the rest of the war. Afterwards, he returned to the area and became the Wheeling City Engineer. Hoge's legacy to Wheeling is the Main Street Bridge. Descendants of the family still live in the area.



The article below is a reprint from the fall 2102 issue of "People & Mountains," a publication of the WV Humanities Council. It's a good reminder to access the *West Virginia Encyclopedia* when searching for events that may have been a part of the lives of our ancestors.

### Feud Fallout

The History Channel's "Hatfields and McCoys" mini series was the TV event of the summer.

We could have told you that without ever turning on the television set by the big increase in visitation to e-WV, the online version of *The West Virginia Encyclopedia*.

e-WV traffic jumped to more than 30 times its normal rate at the peak of the broadcast. On a single day, May 30, the number of visits exceeded what we usually see in the entire month.

Interestingly, feudist Jim Vance garnered more interest on e-WV than did Devil Anse Hatfield, and our Vance article still leads Google search results. Vance was Devil Anse's uncle, ruthless and vindictive, a natural for television. Like Hatfield, Vance was a major leader in the feud, but I don't think the traffic we saw had much to do with the relative importance of the two men. Probably it simply reflected the fact that there were many other sources of information on Devil Anse while e-WV was one of the few websites with coverage of his less famous uncle.

That testifies to the depth of our encyclopedia. We knew Jim Vance before Jim Vance was cool, and we had an authoritative article ready and waiting when national attention turned his way. And that's not exceptional: e-WV has more than 20 other articles pertaining to the feud and individuals involved in it, as well as a photo exhibit and other items relating to the bloody fracas. It was an obvious place for series viewers to seek further information.

Our state has other world-class stories - John Henry and John Brown come to mind - and they too will occasionally find mass audiences in the popular media. When they do, e-WV will be there for those who want to check the facts and further educate themselves.

You may check out our treatment of Jim Vance and more than 2,200 other West Virginia topics at [www.wvencyclopedia.org](http://www.wvencyclopedia.org).

- Ken Sullivan

## Description of Wheeling in 1878

We often have a romanticized image of how our ancestors lived. Often, that image is not very accurate. Below is a description of Wheeling in 1878, written by Nathaniel H. Bishop in *Four Months in a Sneak-Box. A Boat Voyage of 2600 miles Down the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers, and Along the Gulf of Mexico*. The entire document is freely available online.

Soon after four o'clock in the afternoon the busy manufacturing city of Wheeling, West Virginia, with its great suspension bridge crossing the river to the state of Ohio, loomed into sight.

This city of Wheeling, on the left bank of the river, some eighty miles from Pittsburgh, was the most impressive sight of that dreary day's row. Above its masses of brick walls hung a dense cloud of smoke, into which shot the flames emitted from the numerous chimneys of forges, glass-works, and factories, which made it the busy place it was. Ever and anon came the deafening sound of the trip-hammer, the rap-a-tap-tap of the rivet-headers' tools striking upon the heavy boiler-plates; the screeching of steam-whistles; the babel of men's voices; the clanging of deep-toned bells. Each in turn striking upon my ear, seemed as a whole to furnish sufficient noise- tonic for even the most ardent upholder of that remedy, and to serve as a type for a second Inferno, promising to vie with Dante's own. Yet with all this din and dirt, this ever-present cloud of blackness settling down each hour upon clean and unclean in a sooty coating, I was told that hundreds of families of wealth and refinement, whose circumstances enabled them to select a home where they pleased, lingered here, apparently well satisfied with their surroundings. We are, indeed, the children of habit, and singularly adaptable. It is, perhaps, best that it should be so, but I thought, as I brushed off the thin layer of soot with which the Wheeling cloud of enterprise had discolored the pure white deck of my little craft, that if this was civilization and enterprise, I should rather take a little less of those two commodities and a little more of cleanliness and quiet.

At Wheeling I left the last of the ice-drifts, but now observed a new feature on the river's surface. It was a floating coat of oil from the petroleum regions, and it followed me many a mile down the stream.

The river being now free from ice, numerous crafts passed me, and among them many steam-boats with their immense stern-wheels beating the water, being so constructed for shallow streams. They were ascending the current, and pushing their "tows" of two, four, and six long, wide coal-barges fastened in pairs in front of them. How the pilots of these stern-wheel freighters managed to guide these heavily loaded barges against the treacherous current was a mystery to me.

It suddenly grew dark, and wishing to be secure from molestation by steamboats, I ran into a narrow creek, with high, muddy banks, which were so steep and so slippery that my boat slid into the water as fast as I could haul her on to the shore. This difficulty was overcome by digging with my oar a bed for her to rest in, and she soon settled into the damp ooze, where she quietly remained until morning.



### The WAGS Projects Update . . .



**Unscheduled needs:** We are in need of individuals willing to give a few hours from time to time on various projects for the good of the organization. Please consider helping a little to make lighter work for others. Contact us at [wagswv@gmail.com](mailto:wagswv@gmail.com)

**Scheduled needs:** We are in need of individuals who could work specific hours in the Wheeling Room. It greatly helps individuals who are doing research to have someone point them in the general direction of information that we have available. Please consider helping out. Contact us at [wagswv@gmail.com](mailto:wagswv@gmail.com)

## CEMETERIES . . .

We are continuing to gather all local cemeteries information and merging them together into one source for all interments. We currently have over 26,000 names in our starter database. Some of the Cemeteries currently in the database are Mount Wood, Mount Zion, Mount Calvary, Our Lady of Seven Dolours, Stone Church and Peninsula. This will allow us to better serve people doing research and getting them pointed into the right direction for their deceased loved ones. This will allow us to printout by name, cemetery, date etc.

## OBITUARIES . . .

We are continuing to maintain the Obituary Files in the Basement of the Library. We are in need of some additional help on this project, and it is getting close to being caught up with a project that will never end.

### ~ ~ ~ IN MEMORIAM ~ ~ ~



**Edith June Warner Jefferson:** 94 Years Old - June 17, 1918 - July 2, 2012  
She will be greatly missed.



**Ercella Hixenbaugh Shelek:** 84 years old September 12, 1927 - August 10, 2012  
Ercella was our current Vice President and died suddenly. She will be greatly missed.

## **WHEELING AREA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

Membership in the Wheeling Area Genealogical Society is \$10.00 per individual for the year from January 1 to December 31. Membership includes the newsletter, *LOOKOUT*, published in March, June, September and December. Back issues of the membership year will be mailed on receipt of dues. Inquiries \$1 a surname to non-members, free to members. Meetings are 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the month at 1:00pm at the Ohio County Public Library, Wheeling WV. There is NO December meeting. Make checks payable to WHEELING AREA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY, P.O. Box 6450, Wheeling WV 26003-6450

### **PLEASE PRINT THE BELOW INFORMATION**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Last First Middle

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Street

Mailing Address (if different from above): \_\_\_\_\_

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Home Phone: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is my check for \$10.00 \_\_\_\_\_ Check one:  NEW  RENEWAL