



# The Lookout

Volume 21 Issue 2

Summer 2012 Newsletter Issue

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

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### OUR NEXT BUSINESS MEETING IS GOING TO BE AN IMPORTANT ONE:

We are in need of reviewing and, perhaps, revamping some of our monthly meetings/gatherings. Please plan to attend to discuss this matter.

### Please look at your mailing label:

If there is a red \* beside your name on the mailing label, our records show that you have not yet paid your dues. If you'd like to remain on our mailing list, please send your dues.

### FORT HENRY DAYS:

For those of you who love reenactments, mark your calendars for the Fort Henry Days on September 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> at Oglebay Park's Site #1. We usually need a few volunteers to be on site to sell our books. Please consider helping out on the great event.

**Mt. Wood Cemetery:** The Wheeling National Heritage Area Corporation is coordinating efforts to nominate Mt. Wood Cemetery to the National Register of Historic Places. As part of that nomination, descriptions of some of the more famous inhabitants are being prepared. The list is quite impressive and includes Noah Linsly (for whom Linsly school is named), Dr. Simon Hullihen (a dentist who was called the "Father of Oral Surgery"), Alfred Caldwell (Mayor of Wheeling, member of the Virginia Legislature before the Civil War, and US Consul to Hawaii), Col. Joseph Thoburn (Civil War surgeon and the Colonel of the First 'West' Virginia Infantry), E.M. Norton (one of the founders of the Top Mill and Marshal who confiscated Confederate property during the Civil War), John McLure, Jr. (riverboat captain and delegate to the First Wheeling Convention during the Civil War), Lydia Holliday (Civil War nurse), John and William Goshorn (slave owners of Lucy Bagby), Isabella and Tappen Wright Kelley (wife and son of Civil War General Benjamin Franklin Kelley), George Loy and Henry Foster (Civil War soldiers who survived both Andersonville Prison and the Sultana steamboat disaster), and many others of note. Watch for further developments with this cemetery, including a possible Cemetery Tour in 2013.

## **YOUR GENEALOGY SEARCH; GETTING STARTED**

A word of caution before you begin. Genealogy research can be time-consuming, rewarding, fascinating, and last but not least, frustrating at times. But the rewards come when you see a "final" document. From experience, you will discover that family histories are never finished. It is a life-time quest.

To begin:

- Start with yourself and work backwards. If you are going to also research your spouse, do the same. To minimize confusion, research one name at a time. You might also want to make a list of your children, their spouses and children.
- Include birthdates and marriage dates.
- Document your sources of information.
- Search for:
  - copies of birth/death certificates,
- marriage certificates,
- applications to societies (such as DAR/SAR).
- family bibles
- photograph albums
- scrapbooks
- letters (they may provide clues as to where family members lived at the time the letter/post card was written
- diaries/journals
- baby books
- funeral books/memorial cards
- immigration/naturalization papers
- land records
- wills
- military records
- school records
- census records
- library genealogy research rooms
- cemetery records/obituaries
- Also ask family members to share their memories with you. These oral histories can provide you with not only their memories, but names of relatives you may not have been aware of. Soon records can become voluminous. Early on, start a file folder or binder for each family name researched. Separate into sections; i.e., "tree", research documentation, sources of information, and finally photographs. Photographs should be placed in protective sleeves.
- Select a family tree format. One such example is attached. There are also computer programs that produce your family tree format (such as "Family Tree" or "Generations".) There is now a wealth of information on the internet. Some useful web sites are listed below. Or you may want to post a note on a genealogy message board. These message boards are a means of exchanging genealogy information with others. But use caution when using other's information. Do not hesitate to ask for documentation of their sources

if it is not initially provided. You may also just want to do a general search by name to see what is provided. For example, duff, genealogy, wv.

### **Web sources:**

- Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (LDS) (or you can visit one of their Family History Centers
- www.rootsweb.ancestry.com -WV Archives
- www.usgenweb.org -Census Records
- www.worldgenweb.org -Ship passenger lists
- www.familysearch.org -Immigration/naturalization records
- www.ancestry.com -Library of Congress
- www.fold3.com -Courthouse records
- www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records
- www.findagrave.com - Find a Grave
- State/County genealogy websites

Some web sites now offer a 7 or 14 day free trial. However, they request credit card information. If you do not want a full year's subscription, you must cancel before the end of the free trial. Otherwise, you will be charged the yearly fee. Copies of marriage, birth and death certificates can also be obtained from county courthouse records. Again, fees will be charged. State and county genealogy societies have web sites and can do research for you, for a fee. We hope this information is useful to you and Happy Hunting!

### **TWO BEGINNER'S GENEALOGY WORKSHOP**

#### **LEFT;**

We have two remaining workshops left this year and we need your help in getting the word out. We will have brochures and posters to give out at our next meeting. If we don't stir more interest in the Society it is not going to last. The dates are as follows: September 8<sup>th</sup> at 11am, November 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm and are held in the basement of the Ohio County Library



#### **Take a bow MARGE RICHEY:**

Kudos to Marge Richey for setting up our "Fieldtrip" to the Ohio County Courthouse. Those who were in attendance learned a great deal from the experience.

#### **GREAT JOB DONE BY JEANNE FINSTEIN AT WLSU; HIGHLANDS:**

This past June Jeanne Finstein and Doug Breiding gave a presentation on "Genealogy: Who Do You Think You Are?" It was a full house and everyone enjoyed the presentation and learned how to get started in their in Family Research.





## 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. 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.

### 1940 CENSUS PROJECT ...

It has been decided that we as an organization will work on the 1940 Census with Familysearch.org. If you are interested please e-mail [wagswv@gamil.com](mailto:wagswv@gamil.com) for more information.

## 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): \_\_\_\_\_

City State Zip

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

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