

Wheeling Area Genealogical Society
P. O. Box 6450
Wheeling, WV 26003-6450

Dues paid through year on label

Stamp



HEELING AREA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

The Lookout

Volume 24 No. 4

December 2015

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

Wheeling History - Scottish Tradition in January

By Carol Bell

A Burns Supper is a celebration of the life and poems of the Scottish poet Robert Burns. The supper is usually held on or near the poet's birthday, January 25. This strong tradition is still celebrated by Scottish societies around the world. Here's a look back at Robert Burns' Day as celebrated in Wheeling in 1901 by the Scottish Thistle Society, an immigrant benevolent organization.

ROBERT BURNS DAY

Will Be Fittingly Celebrated by the Scottish Thistle Society of This City

The Scottish Thistle Society will celebrate Robert Burns day on January 24th, which also marks the second anniversary of that society in this city. The celebration will be in the shape of a banquet, followed by an entertainment. Preparations are being made to accommodate two hundred and fifty guests. The committees on arrangements are A.H. Rawley and D.W. Fite. Mr. H.P. McGregor will preside as toastmaster.

The programme will be of a very high standard, even more so than upon the like occasion last year. Mr. Hugh Diamond, renowned for his rendition of Scotch songs, has been secured along with Mrs. Flora Williams, Miss McClement, Mr. Harry R. Bell and Chief of Police Clemans, all of this city. Mr. Thomas Wallace will respond to the toast "The Immortal Memory of Robert Burns," and other extemporaneous addresses will be called for. One of the striking features arranged for will be the rendition of Scotch music on the bag pipes and the execution of Scottish dances by Prof. Blackhall of Pittsburg.

Source: *Wheeling Register*, Wheeling, WV, 12 January 1901

Note there are several Burns Suppers in the Pittsburgh area. Try to attend one in January 2016.

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Published by	
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OHIO COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY	
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Wheeling, WV 26003	
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## 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. 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



## Mt. Wood Cemetery Notables

By Jeanne Finstein

Joseph Thoburn  
1825 – 1864

Joseph Thoburn was born in Ireland; his family moved to a farm near St. Clairsville, Ohio when he was young. Disliking farm work, he turned his passion for reading into a school teaching job and then medical studies. In 1849 he practiced medicine briefly in Brownsville, Pennsylvania, and then became an assistant to the chief physician at the Ohio Lunatic Asylum in Columbus.

As a strong supporter of the Union, he enlisted as the surgeon of the first Civil War unit formed in Wheeling – the 1st Virginia Infantry (Union) – under Colonel Benjamin Franklin Kelley. The 1st Virginia was tasked with guarding the important B&O rail lines and soon found themselves in the little town of Philippi in the first land battle of the war. When Col. Kelley was badly wounded there, Thoburn tended his wounds until he could be brought back to Wheeling to recover.

When the 1st Virginia was re-organized in August 1861, Thoburn was commissioned as the colonel. He led the command in many small battles and engagements in what became known later as West Virginia and also in the Shenandoah Valley in 1862 and 1863. In 1864 he assumed command of a division in the 8th Army Corps and fought in the Valley Campaigns in the army of General Philip Sheridan.

The heaviest action he saw came on Sept 19, 1864 during the Battle of Opequon (or Third Winchester). Earlier in the fall, there had been several smaller skirmishes with the Confederate forces under General Jubal Early. The Union forces had to enter the contested area through a narrow canyon road, slowing their approach and delaying attack. This delay allowed the Rebels to strengthen their lines. By noon, Sheridan ordered a frontal attack. Thoburn's unit came up from reserve and took position at the edge of some woods. By 3:00 in the afternoon, Thoburn's men were fully engaged. After about 30 minutes, the Confederate line gave way, resulting in a Union victory in what is said by some to have been the most important conflict in the Shenandoah Campaign. But the cost was great, with one Union general killed and three more seriously wounded in addition to the loss of over 5000 Union troops. Afterwards 14 enlisted men and one officer received the Medal of Honor for their actions that day.

A month later, on October 19, 1864 at the Battle of Cedar Creek, Thoburn was mortally wounded. His remains were returned to Wheeling, where a large public funeral was held in his honor. His tombstone, damaged by vandal's years ago, remains as a testament to his service.

Judi Hendrickson  
Deborah M. Smith  
Phyllis Walters

2008

John Bowman  
Gloria Palmer Brinkmeier  
Kate Quinn  
Gary Wayne Timmons

2009

Sean Duffy  
Hazel Kerby  
Joan Moore McClelland  
David Naegele  
Betty June Wymer

2010

Bro. John Byrd, FMS, and Ginger Kabala  
Glenna Dillon  
Mary Davis Gumbita  
Rebekah Karelis  
Ryan Stanton

2011

Anne Hazlett Foreman  
Lou Horacek  
George Edward Livingston

2012

Deacon Douglas W. Breiding  
Linda S. Comins  
Joanne Sullivan

2013

Sally Wells Ezell  
Lee Kelvington and Baird Kloss  
Gary Wayne Zearott

2014

James H. Frey  
Gregory W. Smith  
Glenn White

2015

WAGS Homepage: <http://wagswv.org/>  
WAGS email: [wagswv@gmail.com](mailto:wagswv@gmail.com)

## West Virginia History Heroes from Wheeling

By Jeanne Finstein

1997

Beverly Fluty  
Dr. David Javersak  
Phyllis Dye Slater  
Audra Wayne

1998

Margaret Brennan  
Mary Lou Henderson  
Holly McCluskey  
Gerry Reilly

1999

Ellen Dunable  
John R. Logan

2000

Chris Hess  
Rabbi Daniel Lowy  
Snookie Nutting  
Dr. Edward Wolf

2001

Hester Byrum  
Ed Phillips  
Harley E. Warrick

2002

John A. Artzberger  
Bill Carney  
Tracy Stephens

2003

William Klettner  
William E. Maxwell

2004

Hydie Hopkins Friend  
David B. McKinley

2005

Brent Carney  
Jeanne Carter  
Linda Cunningham Fluharty

2006

Sister Joanne Gonter  
June Jefferson  
Debra Keddie  
Bettie Steele

2007

Jeanne Finstein  
Nancy Lewellen Roe  
Joan Weiskircher

## Hi-Tech History

By Jeanne Finstein

### State Archives from CoSA

The Council of State Archivists (CoSA) has created an online list of state archives, at: <http://www.statearchivists.org/genealogy/index.htm>

The opening screen contains general information, as shown below.

The screenshot shows the CoSA website's 'Genealogy' section. The main heading is 'Genealogical Research in State and Territorial Archives'. Below this, a paragraph explains that because genealogists and family historians are among the most active users of state and territorial archives, the Council of State Archivists has developed this 'portal' to help them connect to these repositories and learn more about the kinds of records held by them. Three links are provided: 'Genealogical resources in the states and territories', 'Contact information for state and territorial archives', and 'Tips for genealogists using state archives'. A sidebar on the left contains a list of links including 'About CoSA', 'History', 'Mission/Goals', 'Bd of Directors', 'State Contacts', 'State Archivists', 'SHRABs', 'State Archives', 'Meetings', 'Issues', 'Current Projects', 'Electronic Records', 'Local Govt. Project', 'Emergency Prep', 'IPER', 'Archives Month', and 'Resource Center'. On the right, there is a 'Sponsored by' section for Ancestry.com and a small image of a person looking at a document. Below the main content, there is a section for 'WEST VIRGINIA' with a link to 'West Virginia Archives and History' and 'Contact info for state archives'. Underneath, there is a link to 'Genealogy Corner' and another section for 'Ancestry.com' with a link to 'West Virginia genealogical collections'.

Clicking on the first link – *Genealogical resources in the states and territories* – takes the user to a screen with links to each individual state that is part of the database. For West Virginia, the next page shows:

The first link on that page – *Contact info for state archives* – leads to another menu of state-based information. *Genealogy corner* leads to a menu of interesting options. In addition to the *Vital Research Records* link to births, deaths and marriages (which has extremely valuable information), other options include *West Virginia Union Militia During the Civil War* (with a general description of items that are located in the state archives), an interesting article on *Virginia Marriage Laws* (from 1792 to 1806), and *County Formations in West Virginia* (useful when determining which county would have an ancestor's records).

*Thanks to the Citrus County (Florida) Genealogical Society Newsletter*

## FRIENDLY ☺ MEMBERSHIP ☺ REMINDER

WAGS Membership is \$10 per individual for the year  
January 1 through December 31.

2016 Dues are due beginning January 1.

Have you renewed? This could be your last Lookout issue.

Check your address label.

Your dues have been paid through the end of the year listed on the label.

Membership Renewal Form is on the last page of this newsletter.

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## WAGS PROCEDURE FOR PROCESSING PURCHASED AND/OR DONATED BOOKS IS DEFINED IN THE STEPS LISTED BELOW:

1. Books are purchased by WAGS or donated by a specific individual or organization.
2. The books are then given to Lee Bourne for logging into a Record Book kept in the WAGS work room at the Library.
3. Lee then places the books in Diane Rhodes' inbox located in the WAGS room.
4. Diane gives the books to the Library to be processed into the Wheeling Room (genealogy reference books).
5. The Library then notifies Lee that the book or books have been placed in the Wheeling Room. (Beginning 2015, Diane Rhodes maintains a notebook with the copy of cover page of all books for the Wheeling Room. Purchased or Donated.
6. Lee performs the final step by logging in the Record Book that the book or books have been placed in the Wheeling Room which closes out the entry.

## **You know you are a Genealogy addict when....**

.... You brake for libraries.

.... You hyperventilate at the sight of an old cemetery.

.... You would rather browse in a cemetery than a shopping mall.

.... You would rather read census schedules than a good book.

.... You are more interested in what happened in 1699 than in 1999.

.... Eenrum, Baflo and Groningen are household names, but you can't remember what to call the dog.

.... You store your clothes under the bed (or wear the same two outfits to save space), because your closet is full of books and papers.

.... All your correspondence begins with "Dear Cousin".

.... You have traced every one of your ancestral lines back to Adam and Eve, you have it documented and still don't want to quit.

.... You're most important social life is meeting people who you run into while searching a family line.

**Isn't it the truth!!!**