



# MOUNTAINEERS ARE ALWAYS FREE

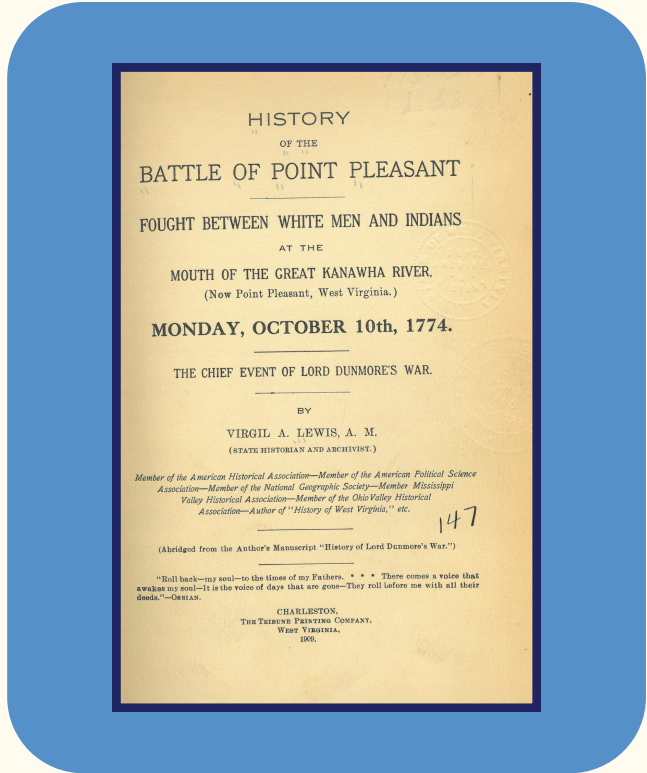


THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE WEST VIRGINIA SEMIQUINCENTENNIAL COMMISSION

Summer is here, and there are many amazing events in store to kick off West Virginia's commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence! The July edition of *Mountaineers are Always Free* highlights sites you should visit, books you should read, and events coming up this July and early August.

## REVOLUTIONARY READINGS

Written by West Virginia's first State Historian and State Archivist, Virgil Lewis's *History of the Battle of Point Pleasant* offers a detailed account of the historic Battle of Point Pleasant. A native of Mason County, Lewis grew up hearing stories of the battle from descendants of the men who participated in it, which sparked an immediate interest in the future State Historian. Be sure to stop by the West Virginia Archives & History Library to have a look at Lewis's *History of the Battle of Point Pleasant* to learn more about this historic battle and our first State Archivist and Historian!



## SEE THE SITES

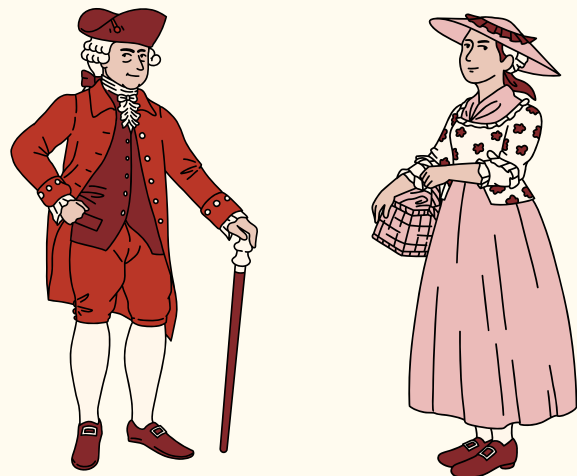
Arbuckle's Fort Preserve, a 25-acre historical area in Greenbrier County, is now open to the public. Constructed in the mid-1770s, Arbuckle's Fort was part of a system of forts constructed to protect settlers along the western frontier. The fort was first occupied by Captain Matthew Arbuckle and his militia company, who resided there until the fall of 1774 when they left to join Colonel Andrew Lewis in the Battle of Point Pleasant. Other militia companies occupied the fort throughout the Revolutionary War, and the fort was attacked at least twice.



Steve McBride presenting at the ribbon cutting ceremony, photo courtesy of Hunter Lesser.

Archaeological excavations have been conducted at Arbuckle's Fort since 1990. Archaeologists and Greenbrier County natives, Kim and Stephen McBride, led several excavations revealing features such as a stone chimney base and a trench. Artifacts have also been recovered at the site, including a Liberty letter seal and wrought iron tools. Efforts to establish the preserve began in 2020. The creation of this preserve was a collaborative effort between the Archaeological Conservancy, the West Virginia Land Trust, Greenbrier County Commission, and the Greenbrier Historical Society. The site includes an archaeological research preserve with public interpretation and a new hiking trail.

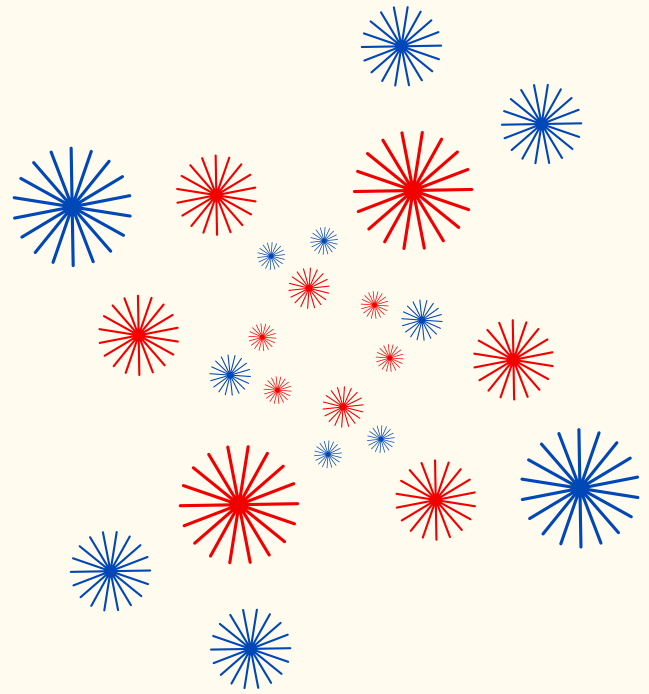
For more information, please follow the [link!](#)



## SPREAD THE NEWS

The *River Cities Tribune* recently ran articles highlighting the upcoming Battle Days 250 celebration that will take place in Point Pleasant and Huntington this October. Check it out [here!](#)

Senator Shelley Moore Capito was recently appointed to the National Semiquincentennial Commission. There are a total of only four US Senators appointed to the National America 250th Commission, so this is great news for West Virginia and for our country!



## OLD TIME COUNTRY COOKIN'

### Beef Stew

#### Ingredients:

2 pounds shoulder trimmings	1 c. tomatoes
1 white turnip	1 carrot
2 quarts boiling water	2 ½ teaspoons salt
2 potatoes sliced	⅛ teaspoon pepper
1 onion	⅓ c. flour



#### Preparation:

Cut beef into pieces for serving, add water and simmer two hours; finely chop onion, carrot, and turnip and add to meat; add potatoes, tomatoes, and seasonings, and cook forty-five minutes; thicken with flour mixed to paste with cold water; serve with dumplings.

Original recipe can be found in: *Twentieth Century Cook Book and Home Candy Making*, The Geographical Publishing Co., Chicago, IL, 1921

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

June 20, 2024

Capitol Mural Dedication  
10:30 AM, Capitol Rotunda  
State Capitol Complex (Building 1)  
Charleston, WV

Gov. A. I. Boreman Statue Unveiling  
4:00 PM, Independence Hall  
Wheeling, WV

July 4, 2024

Ripley 4th of July Parade  
12:00 PM, Downtown  
Ripley, WV

July 18, 2024

People's University - Class 1  
"Who Was Lord Dunmore?"  
7:00 PM, Ohio County Public Library  
Wheeling, WV

July 25, 2024

People's University - Class 2  
"Last Indian Conflict of the Colonial Era"  
7:00 PM, Ohio County Public Library  
Wheeling, WV

August 1, 2024

People's University - Class 3  
"The People Between: Dunmore's  
War & the Indigenous Struggle for  
Independence"  
7:00 PM, Ohio County Public Library  
Wheeling, WV

**Website:**  
[www.america250wv.org](http://www.america250wv.org)

**Contact Us:**  
[america250wv@wv.gov](mailto:america250wv@wv.gov)

