



MOUNTAINEERS ARE ALWAYS FREE



THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE WEST VIRGINIA SEMIQUINCENTENNIAL COMMISSION

It's finally August, which means the commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence is officially less than two years away!

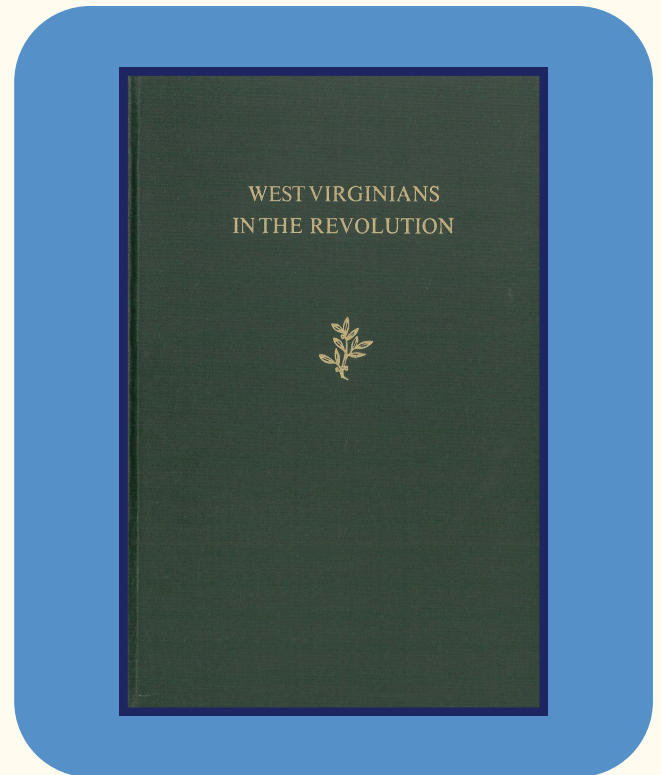
The August 2024 edition of Mountaineers are Always Free highlights recent commission activities and events, books you should read, and more events coming up this Fall.

REVOLUTIONARY READINGS

Compiled by Ross B. Johnston and reprinted by Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc. of Baltimore in 1977, *West Virginians in the Revolution* provides a list of more than thirteen hundred sketches of Revolutionary soldiers from what is now present-day West Virginia.

While this listing does not include every Revolutionary soldier who served from the area, it provides details about the lives and military careers of many soldiers from the state who served in the Revolutionary War. Relying heavily on files of the Pension Office in Washington, pension applications from present-day West Virginia counties, notes from the Sons of the American Revolution and Daughters of the American Revolution, and a variety of other sources, this compilation offers great insight into the lives of many West Virginians' ancestors who fought in the American Revolution.

Be sure to visit the Archives Library at the Culture Center in Charleston to look at this book and see what relatives you might find!



THE STATES CONVENE

From July 9-11, a multitude of states and territories gathered in Washington, D.C. to discuss upcoming plans for the America 250 Celebration in 2026. At the conference, each state highlighted the work their state commission is doing to promote the celebration of the 250th anniversary of the founding of our nation.

Representing the West Virginia Semiquincentennial Commission were Chairman Randall Reid-Smith, Cabinet Secretary of the West Virginia Department of Arts, Culture and History, and Zac Northup, a historical author and citizen member of the commission.

The two highlighted recent and upcoming events in the state, such as the state commission's participation in the Ripley Fourth of July parade, the 250th Anniversary of the Battle of Point Pleasant, and the addition of Senator Shelley Moore Capito to the National America 250 Commission.



Groundbreaking of the new outdoor exhibit to be installed at the State Capitol. Photo courtesy of Stephen Brightwell.



Cabinet Secretary Randall Reid-Smith addresses the America 250 Conference in Washington, DC. Photo courtesy of National America 250 Commission

THE GREAT OUTDOORS

July 31 marked the official groundbreaking for “West Virginia: Nature Designs a State...That Fuels a Nation,” a new outdoor exhibit located outside the Culture Center on the Capitol Complex.

The exhibit will focus on the 11 industries and natural resources that West Virginia has provided to build the nation we know today, including coal, iron, steel, chemical, oil and gas, salt, clay, glass, agriculture, timber, and water and railroad transportation.

The Governor was in attendance for the ribbon-cutting to formally begin this exciting new project.



Photo credit: America 250 WV float featured in the Ripley Fourth of July parade, photo courtesy of Aaron Parsons.

SPREAD THE NEWS

America 250 WV recently participated in the 153 rd Annual Ripley Fourth of July parade, which was attended by thousands!

Our float, which featured the America 250 logo with an American flag and West Virginia flag on each side, won third place overall! The Parkersburg News and Sentinel recently featured a story on the Ripley Parade, which can be found [here!](#)

OLD TIME COUNTRY COOKIN'

Casserole of Lamb

Ingredients:

1 1/2 pounds forequarter lamb
 1 c. tomato
 1/2 cup each white turnip,
 carrot, and onion (finely chopped)
 2 tbs rolled oats
 3 c hot water
 1 1/2 tsp salt
 1/4 tsp pepper

Preparation:

Remove fat and cut meat into inch pieces; put into casserole with vegetables, oats, seasonings and water. Cook in oven for two hours.

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



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

August 1, 2024

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

September 3, 2024

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS
Point Pleasant Student Contests
Mail all submissions to:

West Virginia Department of Arts,
Culture & History
Attn: American Revolution Project
Poster Contest
1900 Kanawha Boulevard, East
Charleston, WV 25305

October 9, 2024

Lecture Series at Marshall
University
Concerning the Battle of Point
Pleasant
Marshall University
Huntington, WV

October 10, 2024

250 th Commemoration of the
Battle of Point Pleasant (Battle Days 250)
10:00 AM, Tu-Endie-Wei State Park
Point Pleasant, WV

Student Debate
"Was the Battle of Point Pleasant
the First Battle of the American
Revolution?"
2:00 PM, Marshall University
Huntington, WV

October 11, 2024

Battle of Point Pleasant
History Panel Discussion
Marshall University
Huntington, WV

October 13, 2024

249th Birthday of the United States Navy
WV Capitol Complex
Charleston, WV



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