



# MOUNTAINEERS ARE ALWAYS FREE



THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE WEST VIRGINIA SEMIQUINCENTENNIAL COMMISSION

December is here, and with it comes many great things on the horizon! The December 2024 edition of Mountaineers are Always Free highlights recent events, books you should read, and more events that will be held in the coming months. 2025 is right around the corner, and there are many exciting things in store!

## CELEBRATING WEST VIRGINIA VETERANS

On November 8, 2024, West Virginia Archives & History hosted a “Celebration of West Virginia Veterans,” an event to honor the history and importance of our state’s many veterans. The event featured two different panel sessions, one in the morning and one in the afternoon, which included guest speakers Kristen Bailey, James Brockman, Angela Baldree, Steve Halstead, Kyle Warmack, Monica Lewis, Dr. Corrina M. Boggess, Dr. Charles Ledbetter, and Ron Wroblewski.

The morning session was opened by the George Washington High School JROTC, which presented colors before the morning panel began. The panelists then gave brief presentations on a variety of topics relating to World War I, World War II, and the Korean War. Morning panelists included Kristen Bailey, James Brockman, Angela Baldree, and Steve Halstead.



Photo: Ella Preece, West Virginia Archives & History Education Coordinator, welcomes panelists and guests to West Virginia Archives & History’s “Celebration of West Virginia Veterans,” November 8, 2024, Photograph by Mary Johnson

The afternoon session was focused on the Korean War and beyond, which included presentations by panelists Kyle Warmack, Monica Lewis, Dr. Corrina M. Boggess, Dr. Charles Ledbetter, and Ron Wroblewski.

**CALLING  
ALL  
STUDENTS!**



Are you considering participating in next year's West Virginia Social Studies Fair? Are you interested in doing a project focused on American history? If so, we encourage you to enter your project under the Social Studies Fair's new "America 250" project category!



Students are invited to engage in research and present on the founding of America or the lasting contributions of West Virginia as the new nation was being formed. Projects within this category may include elements of other categories but must emphasize the creation of our country 250 years ago.

This category will be available for the 2024-25 and 2025-26 academic years.

Sample Themes:

- The Declaration of Independence: Voices of Freedom
- West Virginia's Role in America's Founding: A Historical Journey
- The Founding Fathers: Crafting a Nation from the Ground Up
- America at 250: How the Ideals of the Founding Fathers Shape Our Future

For more information, please visit:  
<https://wvssfair.com/classifications/>

## THE GREAT OUTDOORS

Construction continues on “West Virginia: Nature Designs a State That Fuels a Nation,” a new outdoor exhibit located outside the Culture Center on the Capitol Complex.

Preparations are being made for various large exhibit items to be placed on the grounds in the very near future, including a fireless steam locomotive.

Stay tuned for further updates on the exhibit!



Photos taken during construction of the new outdoor exhibit, entitled “West Virginia: Nature Designs a State that Fuels a Nation,” November 2024, Photos courtesy Samuel Calvert

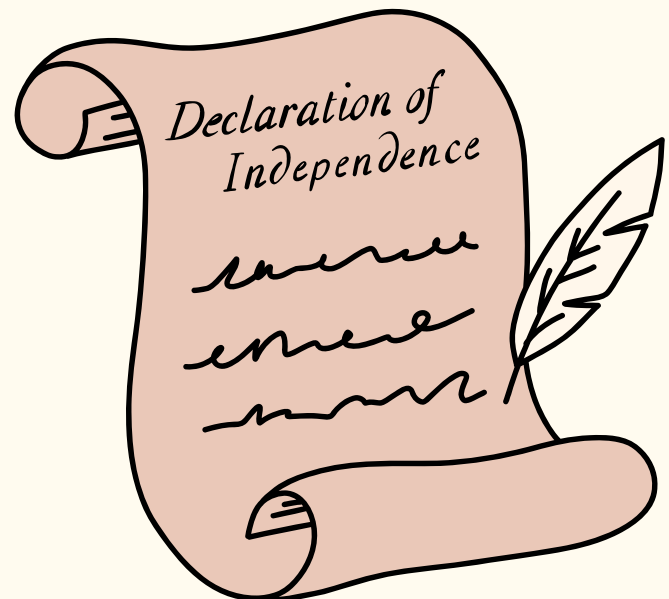
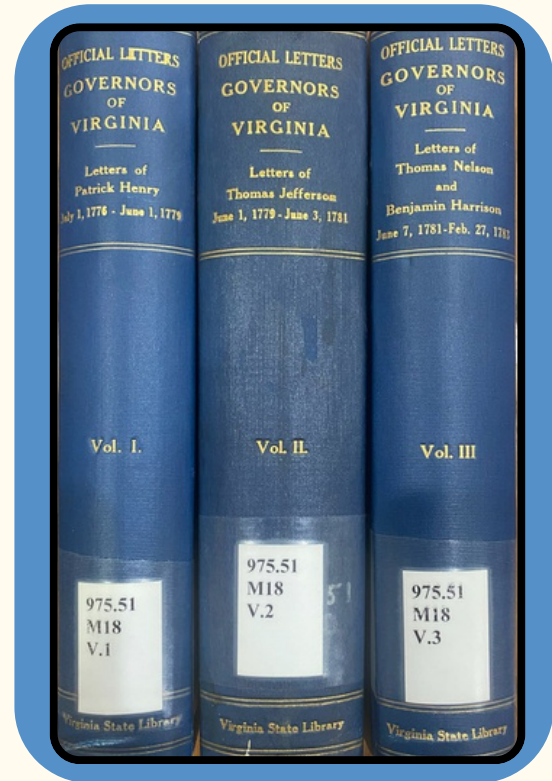


## REVOLUTIONARY READINGS

Are you interested in learning more about the governance of Virginia before West Virginia became a separate state? Then you should check out *Official Letters of the Governors of Virginia!*

This three volume set contains the official letters of Governors Patrick Henry, Thomas Jefferson, Thomas Nelson, and Benjamin Harrison, spanning from July 1776 through February 1783.

Be sure to stop by the State Archives to take a look at this three volume set to learn more about the first Governors of Virginia!







**West Virginia Landscapes**  
 Nov 27 2023 - Jan 05 2024  
 accepting submissions  
 Feb 16 2024  
 accepted artwork delivery (in-person or postmark) deadline  
 Mar 3 2024, 2pm  
 opening reception, the Culture Center  
 MOUNTAIN FALLS  
 KELSEY MURPHY AND ROBERT P. BOMKAMP

**West Virginia Historic Buildings and Structures**  
 Apr 08 2024 - May 24 2024  
 accepting submissions  
 Jul 02 2024  
 accepted artwork delivery (in-person or postmark) deadline  
 Jul 28 2024, 2pm  
 opening reception, the Culture Center  
 BAPTIST STEEPLE II  
 GEORGE HARPER

**West Virginia Wildlife**  
 Sep 20 2024 - Nov 08 2024  
 accepting submissions  
 Dec 20 2024  
 accepted artwork delivery (in-person or postmark) deadline  
 Jan 12 2025, 2pm  
 opening reception, the Culture Center  
 A THIN BLADE  
 BARBIE KAUFMAN

**West Virginia Historic Figures**  
 Feb 10 2025 - Mar 25 2025  
 accepting submissions  
 May 09 2025  
 accepted artwork delivery (in-person or postmark) deadline  
 June 01 2025, 2pm  
 opening reception, the Culture Center  
 DEVIL ANSE  
 STEVE BRIGHTWELL

**IMPORTANT DATES!**

## THE INSPIRED SERIES

Don't forget that submissions for the "West Virginia Historic Figures" INSPIRED Series will open on February 10, 2025. All submissions should be delivered to the Culture Center at the State Capitol Complex in Charleston.

"West Virginia Historic Figures," the fourth and final exhibit of the INSPIRED Series. More information on the INSPIRED Series can be found at: <https://wvculture.org/agencies/museums/>

Questions regarding the INSPIRED Series should be directed to State Museum Exhibits Coordinator Sidney Duncan ([Sidney.L.Duncan@wv.gov](mailto:Sidney.L.Duncan@wv.gov)).

## OLD TIME COUNTRY COOKIN'

### Ginger Wafers

**Ingredients** - 1/2 cup shortening; 1/2 tablespoon baking soda; 1 cup brown sugar; 1/4 teaspoon salt; 2 1/4 cups bread flour; 1 1/4 teaspoon ginger; 1/2 cup milk

**Preparation** - Cream shortening and sugar; sift baking soda, salt, and ginger with flour, and add alternately with milk; chill; roll thin on baking sheet; mark in squares, and bake in a moderate oven eight or ten minutes. Remove from pan while warm.

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



## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

February 10 , 2025

Submissions open for:

“West Virginia Historic Figures”  
INSPIRED Series  
The Culture Center  
Charleston, WV



March 25 , 2025

Submission deadline for:

“West Virginia Historic Figures”  
INSPIRED Series  
The Culture Center  
Charleston, WV

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

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

April 22-23, 2025

National America 250 Commission Meeting  
The Culture Center, State Capitol Complex  
Charleston, WV

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