

AMERICA AT 250
*West Virginia Plans for the
Semiquincentennial*

W
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WEST VIRGINIA
ASSOCIATION
OF MUSEUMS



ANNUAL CONFERENCE AND MEETING

June 6th - June 8th, 2024
Shepherdstown, WV

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WEST VIRGINIA
ASSOCIATION
OF MUSEUMS



ABOUT WVAM

The mission of the West Virginia Association of Museums is to serve, educate, advocate for, and enhance communications within the museum community. WVAM carries out this mission by listening to its members, serving their interests, and keeping members informed of current standards and activities on a national scale.

The West Virginia Association of Museums was organized in 1989 and officially established when the Southeastern Museums Conference (SEMC) met in Charleston, West Virginia, in 1990. At that time, the local planning committee decided to create a state association that would benefit the institutions, professionals, volunteers, and others interested in the museums of the Mountain State. They voted to adopt a constitution and bylaws and form the West Virginia Association of Museums (WVAM).

The WVAM Board of Directors is comprised of a president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer, immediate past president, and six directors-at-large. The Board meets bimonthly to conduct the affairs of WVAM.



West Virginia Association of Museums

P.O. Box 4589

Morgantown, West Virginia 26504

museumsofww@gmail.com

<https://www.museumsofww.org>



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ramenopolis

A stylized illustration of a bowl of ramen. The bowl is dark blue with a thick rim. Inside, there are several thick, wavy lines representing ramen noodles in a light red color. Two black chopsticks are positioned diagonally across the bowl, with their tips resting on the noodles. The background behind the bowl is a dark blue with a subtle pattern of wavy lines.

Learn about us

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*Preserving the History and Culture of West Virginia
and Central Appalachia*



EXPLORE OUR HISTORY

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112 W German St
Shepherdstown, WV

Tuesday – Thursday, 11am – 9:00 PM
Friday – Saturday, 11am – 10:00 PM
Sunday, 10am – 4:00 PM
Monday, closed
Brunch served both Saturday and
Sunday

Bistro 112 is a neighborhood French Bistro in the center of historic downtown Shepherdstown. It is a favorite of local residents and a haven for travelers passing through - who enjoy the area for its history, theater, music, biking trails, small shops and river activities. The Bistro, decorated in eclectic art, offers creative French food at affordable prices. Built in 1830, the Bistro has several dining areas: front bar, upstairs dining room, and out outdoor garden - featuring a communal table. We prepare local ingredients into French favorites such as steak frites, escargot, roasted chicken, salad niçoise, house made soups and desserts. Rooms are available for private events

A background image showing a conservator's hands using a fine tool to work on a small, light-colored artifact. The scene is illuminated by a bright light source, possibly a microscope or a focused lamp, creating a soft glow on the work area. The overall tone is professional and focused.

CONSERVATION CENTER

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John Robert "J.R." Clifford, 1848-1933, was West Virginia's first African American attorney and a civil rights pioneer.

Friends of Blackwater and the J.R. Clifford Project are honored and proud to be a sponsor of this WVAM event.

"Human history is not only cruelty, but also compassion, sacrifice, courage, kindness. If we remember those times and places -- and there are so many -- where people have behaved magnificently, this gives us the energy to act. To live now as we think human beings should live, in defiance of all that is bad around us, is itself a marvelous victory."

Howard Zinn, author of "A People's History of the United States" (edited).

How can we work together? Check out our programs and resources at

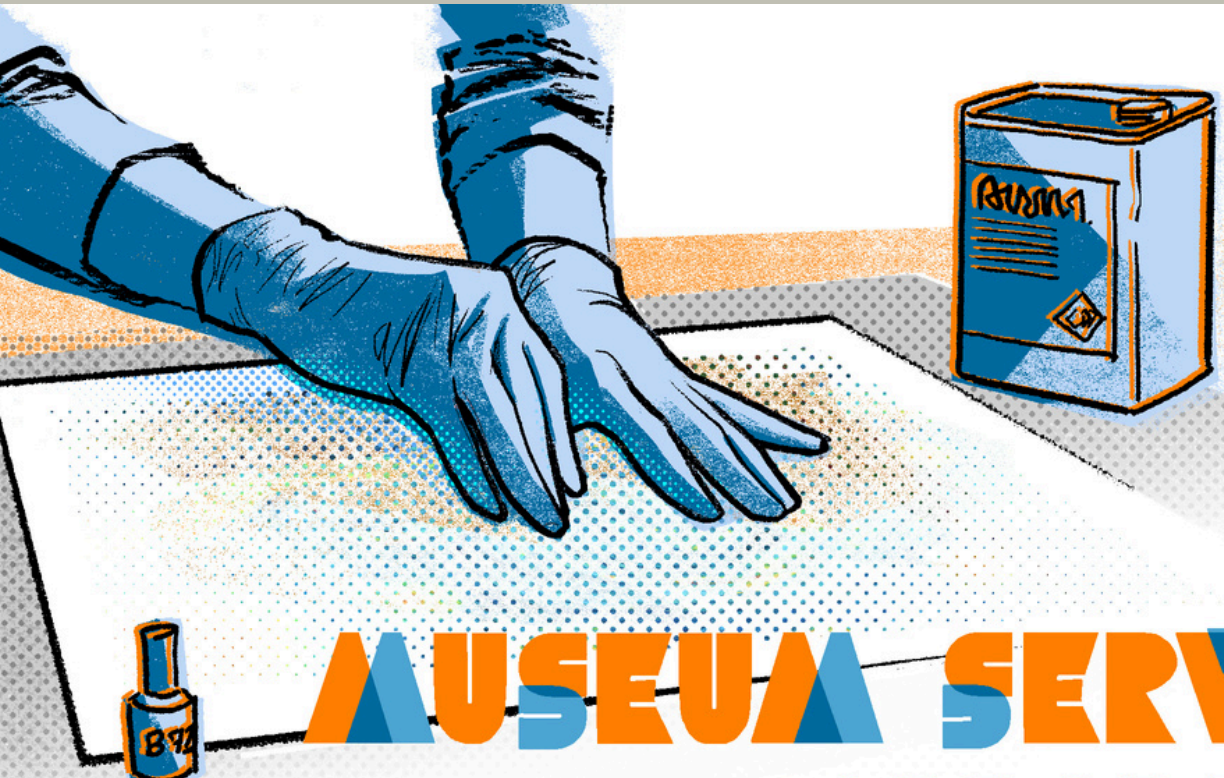
<https://jrclifford.org> and <https://saveblackwater.org>.

Contact us at 304-345-7663; info@saveblackwater.org.




CONFERENCE SPONSORS

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The Season
April 20

Hours:
Sat 11-5 • Sun 1-4



*On the National Register of Historic Sites

CONFERENCE SPONSORS



The WVU Public History program, launched in 1979, prepares graduate students for a wide range of careers in museums, archives and libraries, historic preservation, and historic site interpretation through its MA in Public History and a certificate in Cultural Resource Management. Partnerships with the National Park Service, campus museums, the West Virginia and Regional History Center, and the West Virginia Department of Culture and History, the Public History program provide professional hands-on experiences for students. Current course offerings include Museum Studies, Historic Site Interpretation, Oral History, Local History Research Methods, and Historical Administration.

Learn more at <https://history.wvu.edu/>



MEALS

FOR ATTENDEES WHO PURCHASED MEALS IN THE RAMS DEN

FRIDAY

BREAKFAST 7:30AM - 9:00AM
LUNCH 11:30AM - 1:00PM

SATURDAY

BREAKFAST 7:30AM - 9:00AM
LUNCH 12:30PM - 2:00PM
DINNER 5:30PM - 6:30PM

SCHEDULE OVERVIEW

All events take place at Shepherd University Student Center unless otherwise noted.

\$ indicates additional cost

THURSDAY, JUNE 6TH

12:00PM - 3:00PM	Pre-Conference Tours \$	Various Locations
2:30PM - 4:30PM	Registration Open	Potomac Place
3:00PM - 4:00PM	Tour of Robert C. Byrd Center	Byrd Center
5:00PM - 6:00PM	Shepherdstown Museum Open	Historic Shepherdstown
6:00PM - 8:30PM	Conference Reception (Registration Open at Reception)	Museum

FRIDAY, JUNE 7TH

8:00AM - 4:00PM	Registration open	Outside Storer
9:00AM - 11:30AM	NPS Center Tours	Meet-Student Center
11:30AM - 1:00PM	Lunch Break	Ram's Den
12:30PM - 1:30PM	Poster Session	Storer Ballroom
1:30PM - 2:00PM	WVAM Annual Meeting	Storer Ballroom
2:00PM - 3:30PM	AASLH 250th Session	Storer Ballroom
3:45PM - 5:15PM	Afternoon Sessions	Various
6:00PM - 9:00PM	Conference Banquet, Keynote, and Auction	Storer Ballroom

SATURDAY, JUNE 8TH

8:00AM - 4:00AM	Registration open	Outside Storer
9:00AM - 10:00AM	Morning Session 1	Various
10:15AM - 11:15AM	Morning Session 2	Various
11:30AM - 12:30PM	Morning Session 3	Various
12:30PM - 2:00PM	Lunch Break	Ram's Den
2:00PM - 3:30PM	Afternoon Session 1	Various
3:45PM - 5:15PM	Afternoon Session 2	Various
6:30PM - 8:00PM	Eastern Panhandle Regional Meetup	Jefferson County Courthouse

SUNDAY, JUNE 9TH

9:00AM - 12:00PM	Post-Conference Tours \$	Various Locations
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SESSIONS AT-A-GLANCE

FRIDAY, JUNE 7TH

Morning Tours: 9:00AM - 11:30AM

NPS Harpers Ferry Conservation Center and Collections
or
the NPS Interpretive Design Center

Poster Session: 12:30PM - 1:30PM

1:30AM - 2:00PM

WVAM Annual Meeting

Afternoon Session 1: 2:00PM - 3:30PM

Preparing for 2026: Themes, Programs, and Strategies, led by John Marks of AASLH

Afternoon Session 2: 3:45PM - 5:15PM

Building a Basic Preservation Enclosure for Collections (workshop)
Washington Called and Shepherdstown Answered: Making a Beeline for Boston

SATURDAY, JUNE 8TH

Morning Session 1: 9:00AM - 10:00AM

The Logan Legacy Trail: 250 Years After Point Pleasant
Museum Speed Therapy
Using Graphics, Signage, and Dramatics to Bring Community History to Life

Morning Session 2: 10:15AM - 11:15AM

Geology of West Virginia's Contribution to Modern Geoscience Initiatives
America250 in the Appalachian Forest
Historical Research Methodology

Morning Session 3: 11:30AM - 12:30PM

250th Planning Session

Afternoon Session 1: 2:00PM - 3:30PM

Grant Writing 201: Using Evaluation to Write Better Proposals
FamilySearch Genealogy Research Workshop
The Art of Making Do: Thrift and Resourcefulness in Museums

Afternoon Session 2: 3:45PM - 5:15PM

Letting History Talk for You: A Guide to Oral Histories
The Artificial Imagination: Transformative AI Applications in Museums
Approaching the Buried Past: An Introduction to Working with Archaeological Collections and Interpretation in Museums

MAIN LOCATION

Conference registration, sessions, and the Friday banquet & keynote will be held in the Student Center.

Lodging:

On-campus conference lodging is at Potomac Place
Off-campus lodging is the Martinsburg Hilton Garden Inn

Dining:

Student Center--Ram's Den



STUDENT CENTER MAPS



FIRST FLOOR

Registration:
Outside Storer Ballroom

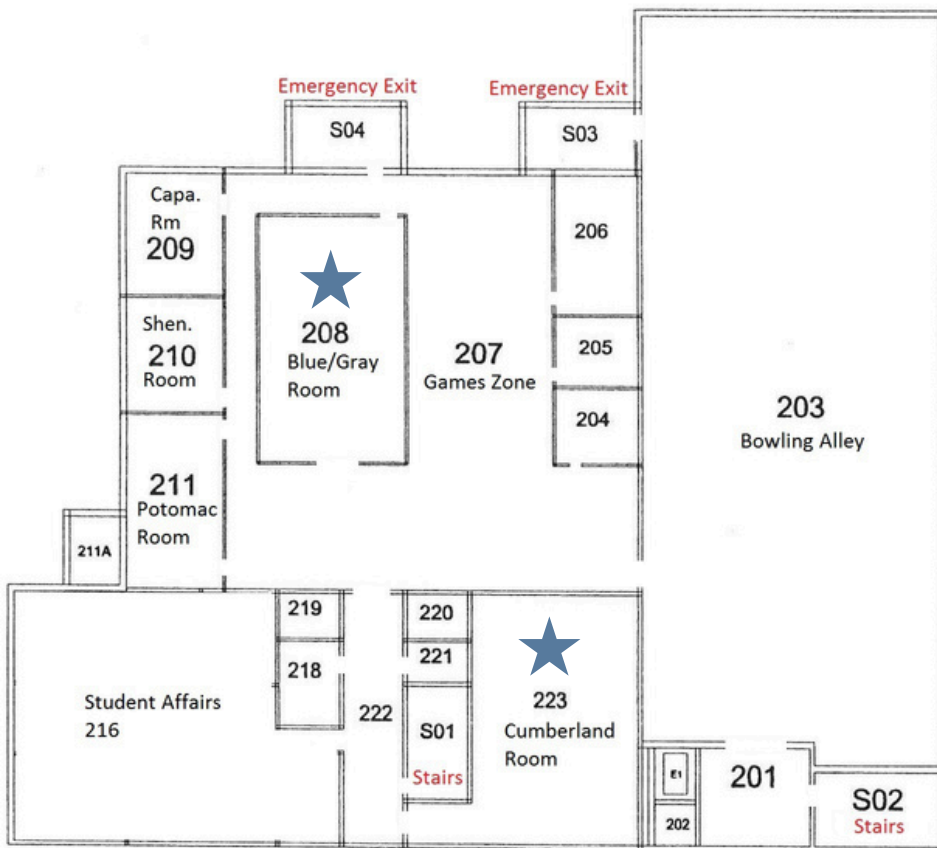
Sessions:
Cumberland, Blue/Gray,
Storer Ballroom

Meals:
Ram's Den

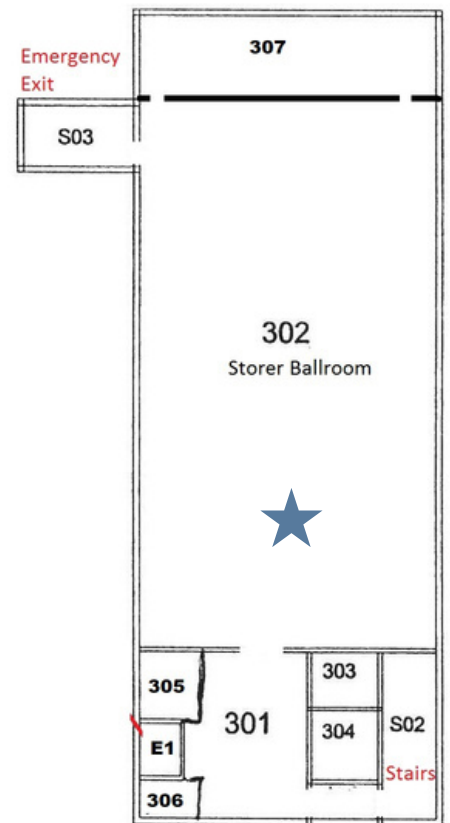
Banquet & Keynote:
Storer Ballroom

Vendor Tables:
Storer Ballroom

Auction/Raffle Tables:
Storer Ballroom



SECOND FLOOR



THIRD FLOOR

JUNE 6TH TOURS

14

C&O CANAL TOUR

1:00 - 3:00PM, COST: \$30

Transportation: Drive individually to site, or carpool from Shepherd University

Join Aidan Barnes, Director of Programs at the C&O Canal Trust, the park's official non-profit partner, on a guided walking tour of restored Lockhouse 49, the robust canal-era Four Locks area, Dam #5 and the impressive limestone cliffs of the Big Slackwater section of the park. Participants will come away with deeper insight into the area's history and stunning natural features, including the lives of those who lived and worked along the canal.

HARPERS FERRY GUIDED TOUR

12:30 - 3:00PM, COST: \$35

Transportation: carpool

The standard tour is 2.5 hours in length and includes visits to significant historic locations that tell the story of geography and natural history, the John Brown Raid and Civil War, Meriwether Lewis at Harpers Ferry, Storer College, the Niagara Movement, transportation, waterpower and industry.

JEFFERSON COUNTY BUS TOUR BY ELITE EXCURSIONS

12:00 - 3:00PM, COST \$30

Visit the circa 1734 Shepherd's Mill and Jefferson County Museum. From there a driving tour will include views of Happy Retreat, Charles Washington's Office, the graves of Charles and Mildred Washington, Zion Episcopal Church, site of John Brown's hanging, Bellaire, and the Allstadt House where John Brown held his hostages. Last stop will be at Harpers Ferry Brewing for a photo op.

SHEPHERDSTOWN MYSTERY TOUR

8:00 - 9:30PM (DEPARTS FROM THE CONFERENCE RECEPTION), COST: \$18

Stroll through Shepherdstown with a costumed guide who leads you by candlelight from one haunted and historic location to the next. Hear stories of residents who may have left this world, but not the homes they lived in. This is a rich, scenic tour through historic Shepherdstown. Its' rich history includes early settlers, French/Indian War, Revolutionary War, Civil War, the building of the C&O Canal, numerous ghosts, and history of life along the Potomac River.

TOUR THE BYRD CENTER



Robert C. Byrd Center
for CONGRESSIONAL HISTORY AND EDUCATION

THURSDAY, JUNE 6
3:00PM-4:00PM

Join staff from the Robert C. Byrd center for a guided tour guided walk-through of the archival storage area coupled with an informal display of memorabilia and select papers in the reading room.

The Robert C. Byrd Center for Congressional History and Education was established in 2002 to promote a better understanding and appreciation of the United States Congress. The Byrd Center houses the personal papers of five members of the United States Congress from West Virginia in its extensive archives. These collections offer rich resources for exploring national and international events of the Cold War era through the turn of the twenty-first century as well as preserving the voices of millions of Appalachians through their correspondence with their elected representatives.



The Robert C. Byrd Center is located on the campus of Shepherd University, right across the street from the Student Center. There is no charge to attend this tour.

CONFERENCE RECEPTION

JOIN US TO OPEN THE 2024 CONFERENCE WITH A RECEPTION AT THE HISTORIC SHEPHERDSTOWN MUSEUM

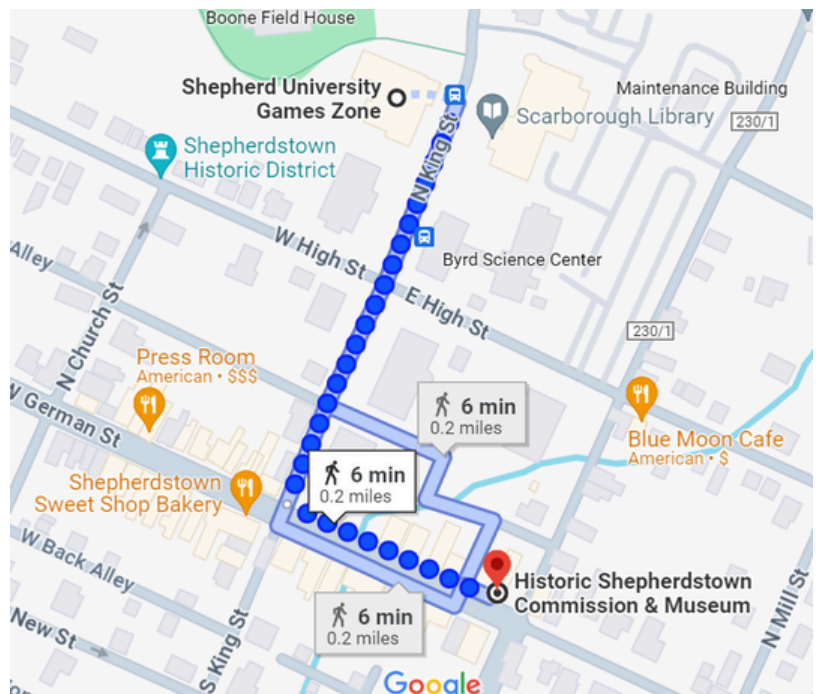
JUNE 6, 6:00PM - 8:30PM
129 E GERMAN STREET, SHEPHERDSTOWN

LIGHT REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED



THE HISTORIC SHEPHERDSTOWN MUSEUM WILL BE OPEN AT 5:00PM, PRIOR TO THE RECEPTION, FOR ATTENDEES TO VISIT THE MUSEUM GALLERIES

THURSDAY
RECEPTION
LOCATION IN
SHEPHERDSTOWN



Reception, catered by
Mojo's Catering

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

TOURS

9:00AM - 11:30AM

OFF-SITE

NPS Harpers Ferry Conservation Center & Collections

****MEET AT 8:45AM AT**

OR

THE STUDENT CENTER

NPS Interpretive Design Center

TO DEPART**

These tours are included in your conference registration and there is no extra charge to attend. You can choose to drive individually or carpool from Shepherd University.

11:30AM - 1:00PM LUNCH BREAK

POSTER SESSION

12:30PM - 1:30PM

STORER BALLROOM

Stop by the Storer Ballroom to see participants present research and projects through posters and small displays.

Patsy Adkins & Candace Bennett -- "Daughters of the American Revolution"

Jamie Billman -- "11 Most Endangered: New Salem Baptist Church"

Joni Morris & Sharon David -- "'Give me your tired, your poor' - Uncovering the Ohio County Poor Farm Cemetery"

Tom Rodd -- "Using inexpensive publications to share history"

Check out the vender tables and silent auction/raffle items too!

WVAM ANNUAL MEETING

1:30PM - 2:00PM

STORER BALLROOM

- WVAM UPDATES
- BOARD ELECTIONS

Session Sponsored by the
West Virginia & Regional History Center



FRIDAY

AFTERNOON SESSION 1

2:00PM - 3:30PM
STORER BALLROOM

PREPARING FOR 2026: THEMES, PROGRAMS, AND STRATEGIES

JOHN MARKS

[AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR STATE AND LOCAL HISTORY]

Is your organization ready for the U.S. 250th anniversary in 2026? This session will provide an update on national planning initiatives and offer practical tips and ideas to help you prepare to commemorate the Semiquincentennial. Building on resources from the American Association for State and Local History, you will have an opportunity to discuss your ideas with colleagues and make tangible progress in your planning.



Session Sponsored by the American Association for State and Local History

3:30PM - 3:45PM: Break and networking time

FRIDAY

AFTERNOON SESSION 2A

3:45PM - 5:15PM
CUMBERLAND

BUILDING A BASIC PRESERVATION ENCLOSURE FOR COLLECTIONS

DYANI FEIGE

[CONSERVATION CENTER FOR ART & HISTORIC ARTIFACTS]

Preservation housing is intended to provide safe and efficient storage for collections items. A four-flap enclosure for paper pamphlets, documents, and photographs has a fundamental design that prioritizes a variety of condition concerns, accommodates user access, and reduces unnecessary handling. How can you design a custom-sized four-flap enclosure of preservation-quality materials? In this program, with supplies provided, participants will learn to create a simple four-flap enclosure for collections objects.

*Session Sponsored by the Conservation Center
for Art & Historic Artifacts*

CONSERVATION
CENTER
for Art & Historic Artifacts

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

AFTERNOON SESSION 2B

3:45PM - 5:15PM
BLUE/GRAY

WASHINGTON CALLED AND SHEPHERDSTOWN ANSWERED: MAKING A BEELINE TO BOSTON

DONNA M. BERTAZZONI
[HISTORIC SHEPHERDSTOWN COMMISSION AND MUSEUM]

CHERYL BROWN
[PACK HORSE FORD CHAPTER, DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION]

JOHN KAVALIUNAS
[HISTORIC SHEPHERDSTOWN COMMISSION AND MUSEUM]

DOUG PERKS
[HISTORIAN LAUREATE OF SHEPHERDSTOWN]

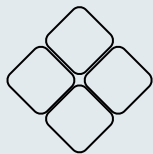
PETER SMITH
[SHEPHERDSTOWN ROTARY CLUB]



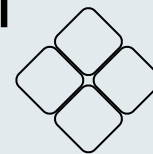
In June of 1775, the Continental Congress ordered Virginia, Maryland, and Pennsylvania to send riflemen to help George Washington blockade Boston. Virginia's Berkeley County company completed a "Beeline March" from Shepherdstown to Boston, covering nearly 600 miles in 26 days. Historic Shepherdstown Commission and Museum and other community and historical organizations will commemorate the Beeline March in the summer of 2025, to raise awareness of the march, its historical significance, and Shepherdstown's role in the Revolution. This panel will examine the march's history; plans to commemorate it; and other 2025 and 2026 events and exhibits.

Session Sponsored by the Historic Shepherdstown Commission & Museum

FRIDAY



CONFERENCE BANQUET 6:00PM - 9:00PM STORER BALLROOM



Dinner, Keynote Address, Auction

* Raffle * Silent Auction * Live Auction *

Proceeds go towards WVAM operations, workshops, and conference scholarships.

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*Banquet Sponsored by
Ramenopolis*



*Banquet catered by
Shepherd University*

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

"HARNESSING THE TRANSFORMATIVE POTENTIAL OF THE SEMIQUINCENTENNIAL"

2026 will mark the 250 years since the signing of the Declaration of Independence and the founding of the United States of America. Across the country, history museums, historical societies, and other historical, educational, and civic organizations are preparing for this once-in-a-generation opportunity. Like the 1976 Bicentennial, this anniversary holds transformative potential for our field: for how we present the story of American history, how we connect with our audiences, how we organize and fund our work, and more. In this keynote address, public historian John Garrison Marks will explore what this anniversary can mean for our field and how we can make the most of it.



John Garrison Marks is a historian, nonprofit administrator, and writer. He is the Senior Manager for Strategic Initiatives and Director of the Public History Research Lab at the American Association for State and Local History (AASLH), the national membership association serving the public history community. At AASLH, he leads national research initiatives about the history museum community and supports field-wide planning for the U.S. Semiquincentennial anniversary. He has also written widely about major issues in the history and museum field, with his work appearing in *TIME*, the *Washington Post*, and *Smithsonian Magazine*. He is the author of a forthcoming book titled *Thy Will Be Done: Reckoning with the Memory of George Washington and Slavery*, forthcoming in 2026 from University of North Carolina Press. He earned a Ph.D. in history from Rice University and currently lives outside Washington, D.C.

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

SATURDAY

MORNING SESSION 1A

9:00AM - 10:00AM

THE LOGAN LEGACY TRAIL: 250 YEARS AFTER POINT PLEASANT

CUMBERLAND

CHRISTOPHER B. CHANEY

[WVU NATIVE AMERICAN STUDIES PROGRAM; MEMBER, SENECA-CAYUGA NATION]

Attendees will hear an Indigenous perspective about Logan (Haudenosaunee). Logan was a key figure in the history of West Virginia; his actions were critical to the unfolding of events that led to the 1774 Battle of Point Pleasant. This year marks the 250th anniversary of the battle which took place six months prior to the Battles of Lexington & Concord touching off the American Revolution. Logan's story, usually told from the non-Indigenous perspective, has great significance to the story of Native America within what is now West Virginia and beyond. The presenter, Christopher B. Chaney, is a member of the federally recognized Seneca-Cayuga Nation.

MORNING SESSION 1B

9:00AM - 10:00AM

MUSEUM SPEED THERAPY

BLUE/GRAY

CRYSTAL WIMER

[WEST VIRGINIA ASSOCIATION OF MUSEUMS]

In this laid-back and interactive session, conference attendees can pop in at any time for a moderated conversation about getting advice, brainstorming solutions, or simply venting your frustrations. The goal is to leave the session with a new idea, suggestion, or some takeaway that might help you manage the issue you're facing at your museum or historic site.

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ASSOCIATION
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WWW.MUSEUMSOFWV.ORG/MUSEUMS-OF-THE-MOUNTAIN-STATE-PASS



MORNING SESSION 1C

9:00AM - 10:00AM
STORER BALLROOM

USING GRAPHICS, SIGNAGE, AND DRAMATICS TO BRING COMMUNITY HISTORY TO LIFE

TOM RODD

[J.R. CLIFFORD PROJECT & FRIENDS OF BLACKWATER]

For twenty-five years the Tucker County-based group Friends of Blackwater has been researching, creating, and deploying a wide variety of West Virginia history programs: live presentations and re-creations, interpretive displays and signage, and print and online publications. Many of the programs deal with West Virginia's civil rights history, and almost all have been in partnership with local community and civic groups.

Session Sponsored by Friends of Blackwater



10:00AM -10:15AM: Break and networking time

MORNING SESSION 2A

10:15AM - 11:15AM
CUMBERLAND

HISTORICAL RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

KATHLEEN L. THOMPSON

[WILLIAM A. NEAL MUSEUM OF THE HEALTH SCIENCES]

It is important to keep your museum's interpretation aligned with current scholarship and updated to give your visitors the best informational experience. This session will cover the importance of current research to museums and historic sites, historiography and why our idea of history seems to change over time, and best practices of research to bring to your public history work.

Session Sponsored by WVU Department of History



CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

SATURDAY

MORNING SESSION 2B

10:15AM - 11:15AM

BLUE/GRAY

GEOLOGY OF WEST VIRGINIA'S CONTRIBUTION TO MODERN GEOSCIENCE INITIATIVES

MADISON URSE

[WEST VIRGINIA GEOLOGICAL AND ECONOMIC SURVEY]

The West Virginia Geological and Economic Survey (WVGES) takes pride in being a geoscience research center focused on geological investigation and exploration since the agency's establishment in 1897. The Survey is a strong supporter of public education, open resource sharing, and community outreach which led to the creation and housing of a free natural science museum located at the agency's headquarters in Morgantown, WV. Historical information forms an integral part of the agency's technical work by providing insight into West Virginia's unique position within the natural resource industry; also, the combination historical information and geological research delivers an informed perspective for the future development of the state's natural resource capabilities. In support of Federal Justice 40 and community benefits initiatives, the agency is working to develop a series of ArcGIS StoryMaps to tell the story of West Virginia's energy communities.

Session Sponsored by Billman Geologic

MORNING SESSION 2C

10:15AM - 11:15AM

STORER BALLROOM

AMERICA250 IN THE APPALACHIAN FOREST

BEN DUVALL-IRWIN

[APPALACHIAN FOREST NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA]

PHYLLIS BAXTER

[APPALACHIAN FOREST NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA]

This session will detail how the Appalachian Forest National Heritage Area (AFNHA) is participating in the national America250 celebration at the regional level. Through the summer of 2026, our "America250 in the Appalachian Forest" program will commemorate the semiquincentennial by sharing the stories of the people, communities, and places that have shaped our region. Presentations will give an overview of our National Heritage Area interpretive themes, our updated America250 program themes that emphasize undertold local stories and underrepresented communities, how we are encouraging partners to participate, and give examples of some stories that we have shared so far through a monthly blog series, audio stories, grant projects, and more.

11:15AM - 11:30AM: Break and networking time

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

SATURDAY

MORNING SESSION 3

11:30AM - 12:30PM
STORER BALLROOM

250TH PLANNING SESSION

Those who attend the conference will discuss the national efforts for the 250th anniversary and what West Virginian institutions are planning for this event. We hope that this conference will be a space for sharing ideas and planning collaborations.

This session will be an opportunity for attendees to plan, collaborate, and network about 250th events and activities. A representative from the WV 250th Commission will briefly present on the state's 250th plans and funding opportunities.

12:30PM - 2:00PM LUNCH BREAK

AFTERNOON SESSION 1A

2:00PM - 3:30PM
CUMBERLAND

GRANT WRITING 201: USING EVALUATION TO WRITE BETTER PROPOSALS

CRYSTAL WIMER
[WEST VIRGINIA ASSOCIATION OF MUSEUMS]

In this session, participants will review sample grant proposals for a grant for a hypothetical funding organization. Using the proposal grading criteria provided, the groups will decide whether or not to fund the project. At the end, each group will present their reasons for their choices. The overall goal is for the attendees to use evaluation as a technique to see the characteristics of a successfully funded project and for them to use those strategies to improve the quality of their grant proposals.

Session Sponsored by *Bistro 112*



CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

SATURDAY

AFTERNOON SESSION 1B

2:00PM - 3:30PM

BLUE/GRAY

FAMILYSEARCH GENEALOGY RESEARCH WORKSHOP

FAITH WALKER

[THE GREAT BEND MUSEUM]

This session will show participants how to use the free genealogy research site, FamilySearch. This site can be a valuable tool for researching historical figures represented in museum collections and exhibits. Bring a laptop, notebook, and some basic information (names, dates, and places) about the last 2-3 generations of your family. Using this information, participants will learn how to navigate FamilySearch features by creating their own family trees.

AFTERNOON SESSION 1C

2:00PM - 3:30PM

STORER

THE ART OF MAKING DO: THRIFT AND RESOURCEFULNESS IN MUSEUMS

ELIZABETH SATTERFIELD

[ARTHURDALE HERITAGE]

MARY LINSCHIED

[PAWV AMERICORPS, ARTHURDALE HERITAGE]

Being a small museum or historic site can be hard, especially in rural West Virginia. Taking notes from our Appalachian heritage of "making do," join Arthurdale Heritage staff as they offer suggestions and tips on how to be resourceful and thrifty, including exhibit design, interpretation, and educational and community programming. Just because we are small and have limited resources, does not mean we have to compromise quality! This session will include ample time to discuss and brainstorm creative solutions with colleagues.

Session Sponsored by Museum Services Corporation



3:30PM - 3:45PM: Break and networking time

AFTERNOON SESSION 2A

3:45PM - 5:15 PM
CUMBERLAND

LETTING HISTORY TALK FOR YOU: A GUIDE TO ORAL HISTORIES

JAMIE BILLMAN
[PRESERVATION ALLIANCE OF WEST VIRGINIA]

This presentation will go over how to start an oral history project, tools and how to find participants. These projects are extremely beneficial for talking about 20th and 21st century 'modern' history. We will also talk about where to go after your interviews, proper attribution and where to house your interviews.

Session Sponsored by Elite Excursions



AFTERNOON SESSION 2B

3:45PM - 5:15PM
BLUE/GRAY

ARTIFICIAL IMAGINATION: TRANSFORMATIVE AI APPLICATIONS IN MUSEUMS

FAITH WALKER
[THE GREAT BEND MUSEUM]

This session will discuss using Artificial Intelligence (AI) in museum projects. AI took off in 2023 with the unexpected arrival of OpenAI's ChatGPT and the various programs launched by competing tech companies in response. While some industries such as education, healthcare, and finance might be more heavily affected, museums will also see changes relating to this new and growing technology. This session will provide an overview of present applications, future visions, and how we can use AI to our advantage by 2026.

Session Sponsored by EleeHub



EleeHub

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

AFTERNOON SESSION 2C

3:45PM - 5:15 PM
STORER

APPROACHING THE BURIED PAST: AN INTRODUCTION TO WORKING WITH ARCHAEOLOGICAL COLLECTIONS AND INTERPRETATION IN MUSEUMS

EMMA DURHAM

[RICHARD GRUBB & ASSOCIATES, INC.]

OLIVIA A. JONES

GRAVE CREEK MOUND ARCHAEOLOGICAL COMPLEX]

BASIL J. STEWART

GRAVE CREEK MOUND ARCHAEOLOGICAL COMPLEX]

DANIEL D. DILLON

GRAVE CREEK MOUND ARCHAEOLOGICAL COMPLEX]

How many times have you heard that West Virginian lands were hunting grounds and not a home to Indigenous Peoples? While true in part, West Virginia has a long and fascinating history of Indigenous occupation. This session will provide an overview of that history, discuss how to approach working with archaeological collections, your responsibilities working with Indigenous cultural objects and human remains, and how to approach bringing Indigenous culture, both ancient and modern, into your museum exhibits or educational programs.

Session Sponsored by the Billman Family

SATURDAY

Join Us

FOR A

EASTERN PANHANDLE REGIONAL MEETUP

June 8, 2024

6:30 - 8:00 PM

Jefferson County Courthouse

100 E Washington St, Charles Town, WV

Come connect with the West Virginia Association of Museums and mingle with colleagues from other museums and cultural institutions!

As part of the event we will have a presentation about the John Brown Treason Trial and the Miner's March Treason Trials!

Light refreshments will be served.

JUNE 9TH TOURS

28

ANTIETAM BATTLEFIELD GUIDED TOUR, 2-HOURS

9:00AM - 11:00AM, COST \$35

Transportation: carpool

Highlight Tour (2 hours): This tour is designed for those with young children or people on a tight schedule, and will cover the Cornfield, Sunken Road, and Burnside Bridge overlook.

HARPERS FERRY GUIDED TOUR

9:00AM - 11:30AM, COST: \$35

Transportation: carpool

The standard tour is 2.5 hours in length and includes visits to significant historic locations that tell the story of geography and natural history, the John Brown Raid and Civil War, Meriwether Lewis at Harpers Ferry, Storer College, the Niagara Movement, transportation, waterpower and industry.

ANTIETAM BATTLEFIELD GUIDED TOUR, 3-HOURS

9:00AM - 12:00PM, COST \$45

Transportation: carpool

Standard Tour (3 hours): This is our standard tour and includes an introduction to the Maryland Campaign at the Visitors Center as well as stops at the Cornfield, Sunken Road, and Burnside Bridge. It is designed for individuals or groups seeking general knowledge of the battle and the battlefield.

*Thank you
for attending WVAM2024!*

PLEASE REMEMBER TO DROP OFF YOUR EVALUATION SHEET AND YOUR ROOM KEY (IF YOU STAYED IN POTOMA PLACE) TO THE REGISTRATION TABLE BEFORE YOU LEAVE!

PRESENTER BIOS

BAXTER, PHYLLIS

APPALACHIAN FOREST NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA

Phyllis Baxter is former Executive Director of AFNHA and current Interpretation Committee Chair. She has a MA in American History from University of Texas at Austin, and a Certificate in Public History from WVU. She has 35 years of public history and interpretation experience working with Rich Mountain Battlefield, Preservation Alliance of WV, Beverly Heritage Center, and AFNHA.

BERTAZZONI, DONNA

HISTORIC SHEPHERDSTOWN COMMISSION AND MUSEUM

Donna Bertazzoni is the immediate past president of Historic Shepherdstown Commission and Museum. She served on the board for six years, including four as president, and is now a member of the Museum Committee. A native of Massachusetts, Ms. Bertazzoni retired in 2018 as Professor Emerita of Journalism from Hood College, where she worked for 31 years. Before that, she was an editor and reporter at newspapers in Massachusetts and Maryland.

BILLMAN, JAMIE

PRESERVATION ALLIANCE OF WEST VIRGINIA

Jamie Billman graduated in 2021 with her master's in public history from West Virginia University. While there she worked in several capacities on Dr. Jennifer Thornton's African American Education History Project in which she recorded several oral histories of those who had attended segregated schools. This culminated for Ms. Billman in her Thesis which discussed integration in West Virginia from the perspective of those that experienced it. Billman now works for the Preservation Alliance of West Virginia and is based out of Elkins, WV.

BROWN, CHERYL

PACK HORSE FORD CHAPTER, DAR

Cheryl Alexander Brown served over 22 years in the military, retiring as a colonel in 1997. Since then, Ms. Brown has served in various positions for the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution, including Chapter Regent; WV State Treasurer; WV State Regent; and National Chair, DAR Service for Veterans Committee. She also served on the board of the Historic Shepherdstown Commission, from which she received the 2020 Preservation of Historic Legacies Jim Price Award.

PRESENTER BIOS

CHANEY, CHRISTOPHER B.

WVU NATIVE AMERICAN STUDIES PROGRAM;
MEMBER, SENECA-CAYUGA NATION

Chris is a member of the Seneca-Cayuga Nation located in northeastern Oklahoma. He earned his Bachelor of Arts from the University of Oklahoma and his Juris Doctor from Brigham Young University. He has extensive litigation experience in Tribal, Federal, and State courts and has handled Indigenous criminal justice matters for over 30 years. Chris has served as Prosecuting Attorney for two different federally recognized tribes, as an Assistant United States Attorney, and as Deputy Bureau Director for the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Office of Justice Services. Most recently, Chris served as Unit Chief of the FBI Office of the General Counsel's Criminal Justice Information Law Unit and currently serves as Principal Deputy Director in the US Department of Justice, Office of Tribal Justice. Chris also serves as an Adjunct Professor in the West Virginia University, Native American Studies program.

DILLION, DANIEL

GRAVE CREEK MOUND ARCHAEOLOGICAL COMPLEX

Daniel D. Dillon (Grave Creek Mound Archaeological Complex) Daniel obtained his BA in Anthropology from WVU and an MA in Applied Anthropology with a concentration in Bioarchaeology from Mississippi State University. He is currently the AmeriCorps Archaeology Assistant at Grave Creek Mound Archaeological Complex in Moundsville, WV.

DURHAM, EMMA

RICHARD GRUBB & ASSOCIATES,
WEST VIRGINIA COUNCIL FOR ARCHAEOLOGY

Emma Durham (Richard Grubb & Associates, Inc.) Emma obtained her AB from Bryn Mawr College in Pennsylvania, then an MPhil in Prehistoric Archaeology from Oxford University. She worked for a number of years in commercial archaeology as a Finds and Archives Officer before becoming Research Assistant to Professor Barry Cunliffe at Oxford. She then undertook a PhD at Reading University and continued to work on research excavations in England, France, Spain and the Channel Islands. She returned to West Virginia in 2019 and currently works as an archaeologist and editor for Richard Grubb & Associates, Inc. and is on the Executive Board of the Council for West Virginia Archaeology.

PRESENTER BIOS

DUVALL-IRWIN, BEN

APPALACHIAN FOREST NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA

Ben Duvall-Irwin is Communications Manager for AFNHA and has worked in heritage tourism for over 5 years, previously at the Beverly Heritage Center and Elkins Depot Welcome Center. He has an M.A. in Appalachian Studies from Appalachian State University.

FEIGE, DYANI

CONSERVATION CENTER FOR ART & HISTORIC ARTIFACTS

Dyani Feige, Director of Preservation Services at the Conservation Center for Art & Historic Artifacts (CCAHA), works with libraries, archives, museums, and other cultural organizations to conduct needs and risk assessments, assist in disaster planning, and help develop policy and planning documents for collections. She also develops and presents education programs on preservation and conservation concerns. She is delighted to help provide preservation resources in West Virginia with funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

JONES, OLIVIA

GRAVE CREEK MOUND ARCHAEOLOGICAL COMPLEX

Olivia obtained her BA from WVU and an MA from University College London in the United Kingdom prior to pursuing a PhD at the University of Groningen in the Netherlands. Her research focuses on the potential and ethical responsibility we have towards legacy collections. She is currently the Lead Curator at the Grave Creek Mound Archaeological Complex in Moundsville, WV and teaches anthropology and ancient history courses at WVU. Olivia is currently President of the Council for West Virginia Archaeology.

KAVALIUNAS, JOHN

HISTORIC SHEPHERDSTOWN COMMISSION AND MUSEUM

John Kavaliunas has been involved with the Historic Shepherdstown Museum for more than a decade, as a docent, Historic Shepherdstown Commission board member, and chair of the organization's Museum Committee. He worked for many years at the U.S. Department of Commerce in various public affairs and customer-focused positions. He also was a Peace Corps volunteer in rural Northeast Brazil. He was named a West Virginia History Hero in 2023.

PRESENTER BIOS

LINSCHIED, MARY

ARTHURDALE HERITAGE

Mary Linscheid is the PreserveWV AmeriCorps member at Arthurdale Heritage. An 8th generation West Virginian from just outside of Morgantown, Mary grew up with a deep connection to West Virginia's land and people. She holds a B.A. in English and minors in Appalachian Music and Appalachian Studies from West Virginia University. Mary has dedicated herself to learning and participating in Appalachian traditions such as music and folk and herbal medicine.

PERKS, DOUG

HISTORIAN LAUREATE OF SHEPHERDSTOWN

Doug Perks is the Shepherdstown Historian Laureate and the Historian of the Jefferson County Museum. He is a frequent lecturer on the History of Jefferson County and is the author of *The Civil War Years in Jefferson County, Virginia*. In 2017 he was named a West Virginia History Hero and in 2018 received the Preservation and Conservation Award from the Two Rivers Giving Circle.

RODD, TOM

J.R. CLIFFORD PROJECT & FRIENDS OF BLACKWATER

Tom Rodd, a retired attorney who has led this work, will discuss the varied approaches the programs have taken, and lessons learned from this multi-decade effort. Rodd attended Berea College and Fairmont State University, and he holds a J.D. from West Virginia University. He is the author of "Tracing West Virginia's Constitution" and "West Virginia Civil Rights Stories."

SATTERFIELD, ELIZABETH

ARTHURDALE HERITAGE

Elizabeth Satterfield is the Curator & Director of Education at Arthurdale Heritage. She grew up exploring historic sites and natural wonders throughout the Mountain State, which instilled a deep love and appreciation in her for the history and people of West Virginia. She holds dual Master's in Public History and Public Administration from West Virginia University. At Arthurdale, Elizabeth creates new exhibitions, manages and digitizes the archival collection, and expands educational programming.

PRESENTER BIOS

STEWART, BASIL

GRAVE CREEK MOUND ARCHAEOLOGICAL COMPLEX

Basil is an archaeologist whose research focus is on archaeological collection stewardship and human remains ethics. He obtained his MA in Public Archaeology from Binghamton University and is currently NAGPRA Coordinator at Grave Creek Mound Archaeological Complex in Moundsville, WV.

SMITH, PETER

SHEPHERDSTOWN ROTARY CLUB

Peter Smith serves on the boards of Rotary Club and Friends of Music of Shepherdstown. He was one of the original members of the Eastern West Virginia Community Foundation's Two Rivers Giving Circle, and he served as president of the Potomac Valley Audubon Society and on the boards of several other local organizations. He chaired an ad hoc committee that organized and directed all the major events related to Shepherdstown's 250th anniversary celebration in 2012.

THOMPSON, KATIE

WILLIAM A. NEAL MUSEUM OF THE HEALTH SCIENCES

Dr. Kathleen Thompson is the Curator of the William A. Neal Museum of the Health Sciences at West Virginia University. Prior to her current position she served as a Preserve WV AmeriCorps member for three years, led tours of Frank Lloyd Wright's Fallingwater, and taught history at several colleges and universities. She earned her PhD in Nineteenth Century/Civil War America from West Virginia University, and also holds a M.A. from WVU and a B.A. from Siena College.

URSE, MADISON

WEST VIRGINIA GEOLOGICAL AND ECONOMIC SURVEY

Madison Urse began working for the West Virginia Geological and Economic Survey in 2023 as part of the Administrative department as Office Assistant III after completing her Master of Science in Journalism. She specializes in digital media and outreach and engagement, in-person and virtually, to provide a social science perspective on the natural sciences, specifically, geoscience outreach and engagement. Urse also assists in coordinating and conducting K-12 geoscience outreach initiatives such as school group visits, career days, and STEM based fairs or conference attendance for the Survey.

PRESENTER BIOS

WALKER, FAITH

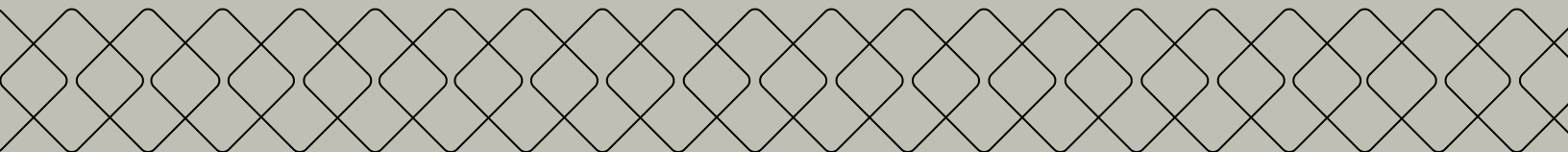
THE GREAT BEND MUSEUM

Faith Walker is the Director of the Great Bend Museum in Ravenswood WV. She has Bachelors' Degrees in Anthropology and Art & Architecture History from Miami University, and is currently a Museum Studies Master's Student at Johns Hopkins University. Her research and project interests include community engagement in local history, the history of West Virginia Poor Farms, and managing previously unmanaged collections. In her free time, she enjoys cooking, sewing, Netflix, and playing with her cat, Simon.

WIMER, CRYSTAL

WEST VIRGINIA ASSOCIATION OF MUSEUMS

Crystal Wimer is a native of Keyser, West Virginia, and the current president of the West Virginia Association of Museums. She earned her BA in history and MA in public history from West Virginia University. She currently works for the West Virginia Geological & Economic Survey in Morgantown. Previously, she held positions as the executive director of the Harrison County West Virginia Historical Society (HCWVHS) and as a Preserve WV AmeriCorps member. She has served on the Southeastern Museums Conference (SEMC) Program Committee and was named a West Virginia History Hero in 2016.



WEST VIRGINIA
ASSOCIATION
OF MUSEUMS