Mining Your Local History Collection: Telling Your Community’s Story Using Library Resources

Dr. Charles A. Julian, PhD

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Today’s Objectives

• Explore local history concepts
• Identify local history strategies
• Provide project / initiative examples
• Share other project ideas
• Inspire libraries to act
Questions Welcome Anytime During Presentation
Exploring local history concepts...
University of California Press, 2002

Rethinking Home
A Case for Writing Local History
Joseph A. Amato
People of every place and time deserve a history.

Only local and regional history satisfies the need to remember the most intimate matters.

Local history carries with it the potential to reconstruct our ancestors’ everyday lives: the goods, machines, and tools with which they worked, and the groups in which they matured, celebrated, had ambitions, retired, and resigned themselves to their fates.

It recaptures how they experienced the world through their senses: what they thought; how they felt; what they got angry, fought, and cursed about; what they prayed for; what drove them insane; and finally, how they died and were buried.
Local history’s topics arise from the desire:

• To know
• To preserve
• To understand
Local history takes form around the wish to document single episodes, which often teem with world of meaning, and is imbued with a sense of proprietorship in those episodes.

- A violent strike
- A political massacre
- A wildfire
- A sunken ship
Local historians must collect and preserve the primary and secondary documents of their locale.

[Local historians] grasp that those who come after may find the past inaccessible precisely on matters that we take for granted.
Every community has stories worthy of telling but few devoted historians worthy of telling them.

“COMPELLING NARRATIVES”
National Register of Historic Places
the official list of the Nation's historic places worthy of preservation

History is in your Neighborhood
JUST DO IT.
Identifying local history strategies...
Local History Functions

- Collection
- Preservation
- Programming
- Exhibits
- Portals
- Advocacy
Guidelines for Establishing Local History Collections


Introduction

These guidelines are intended to assist librarians establishing local history collections.

Guidelines

1.0 Considerations before making a commitment to developing a local history collection

1.1 Establish and maintain a dialog between local institutions and Agencies. Consider what is currently being collected, what services are needed, to what depth such collections are being developed, and what collaborative or cooperative agreements are needed. Determine the most suitable repository for particular materials with respect to use, dissemination, and preservation.
What Tells The Story?

People
Events
Places
Major News
Profiles
Histories-Anniversaries-Celebrations
How Can The Story Be Told?

• Printed Materials/Collections
• Biographical and Historical Resources
• City Directories – Telephone Directories
• Census Data / Profiles
• Maps
• Periodicals, Newsletters, Newspapers
• Vertical Files
• Photos, Postcards, Ephemera
• Oral Histories and Genealogical Resources
Project / initiative examples...
Wheeling A to Z

The Wheeling National Heritage Area Corporation is undertaking a new project. WQED produced a wonderful program, Pittsburgh A to Z, in which local events, people, businesses and landmarks were identified and described. We recognized that this engaging way of looking at one's community is not only interesting but also educational. Rick Sebak, the show's producer, is familiar with Wheeling and he encouraged us to gather ideas for Wheeling A to Z, which could go onto our website and into a newspaper series. Pittsburgh A to Z included not just the most "historically important" aspects of the city, but also things such as Primanti sandwiches to add some unique, local flavor. Please take just a few moments and download the PDF. Follow the instructions on the form and submit your suggestions.

Wheeling A to Z

Here is a list of the responses we have received thus far...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>A</th>
<th>B</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aviary (Wheeling Park)</td>
<td>Bloch Bros</td>
<td>Centre Market</td>
<td>DiCarlo's Pizza</td>
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<tr>
<td>Artworks Around Town</td>
<td>Big Bill Lies</td>
<td>Coleman's Fish Market</td>
<td>Doc Williams</td>
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<td>Artisan Center</td>
<td>Bridge, Suspension</td>
<td>Cave, Wetzel</td>
<td>Rebecca Harding Davis</td>
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<td>Archibald Wood</td>
<td>Beast of the East</td>
<td>Capitol Music Hall</td>
<td>Downs, Wheeling</td>
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<td>Altmeier's (funeral homes)</td>
<td>B&amp;O Railroad</td>
<td>Cruger, Lydia Boggs Shepherd</td>
<td>Doughboy Statue</td>
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<tr>
<td>Airport (Ohio)</td>
<td>Browning</td>
<td>Cesar's Center</td>
<td>Doc's Corner</td>
</tr>
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</table>
The Wheeling National Heritage Area Corporation is undertaking a new project. WQED produced a wonderful program, *Pittsburgh A to Z*, in which local events, people, businesses and landmarks were identified and described. We recognized that this engaging way of looking at one’s community is not only interesting but also educational. Rick Sebak, the show’s producer, is familiar with Wheeling and he encouraged us to gather ideas for *Wheeling A to Z*, which could go onto a website and into a newspaper series. *Pittsburgh A to Z* included not just the most "historically important" aspects of the city, but also things such as Primanti sandwiches to add some unique, local flavor. Please take just a few moments and jot down a couple of ideas that you think might fit Wheeling’s alphabet. For example:

- B. “Big” Bill Lias
- C. Coleman’s
- F. Fort Henry
- M. Madonna of the Trail

Please surprise us.

<table>
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<td>Q</td>
<td>Z</td>
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<td>H</td>
<td>R</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Thanks,

Brent Carney, Project Coordinator
Wheeling National Heritage Area
1400 Main Street - P. O. Box 350
Wheeling, WV 26003
Tel. (304) 232-3087    Fax (304) 232-1812
bcarney@wheelingheritage.org
History On-Line

History of Wheeling by Joseph L. Wilde, 1870s

Some Interesting Data about Wheeling and Vicinity, a booklet of history and statistics from around 1914

African American Heritage

Scenic Views and Cityscapes

Business and industrial history of Wheeling

Historic homes in Wheeling

Business Landmarks (banks, hotels, theaters, etc.)

Wheeling’s Bridges -- Wheeling Suspension Bridge

Historic landmarks: Fort Henry, Monument Place, McColloch’s Leap

Wheeling Schools

Lincoln School and Lincoln High School

Wheeling’s historic churches
Wetzel's Cave

from *Wheeling Illustrated*, H. R. Page, 1889
40 results found. Sorted by relevance | date | title.

Title: WEST VIRGINIA - ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

LOCATION | CALL # | STATUS(I)
NTTC Vertical File | VERT FILE | LIB USE ONLY

Note: Items under this subject are located in the Vertical File. For more information check at the Circulation Desk.
Welcome!

County Coordinator: Linda Cunningham Fluharty.

This site contains an abundance of information pertaining to the genealogy and history of Ohio County, West Virginia. The contents of the site are FREE for you to use in compiling your family histories.

Contributions to this site are always welcome. If you want to write a family history or a biography of a family member, I will be happy to make a nice page for it. Anything you care to share, including photos, will be greatly appreciated.

If you have something to share, please write.

I hope you will find some useful information in the many files presented here. However, please be respectful of the volunteers who have made this wealth of information possible. Although many of the files contain records, etc. in the public domain and are not protected by copyright, it is appropriate to consider the time, effort, and money required to make the information available on the Internet.

"Taking" files that were created by others is often justified by saying it is "legal" because there is no copyright. However, sometimes what is legal is not as important as what is right and fair.

Many examples of "taking" files could be cited here. However, suffice to say, it is always "the right thing" to be kind, considerate, fair and respectful....

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- Corrections and additions are welcome.
- Please report broken links.

SEARCH THIS SITE

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3000 CAPITOL 3000
WHEELING'S NEW MILLION DOLLAR AMUSEMENT WONDERLAND
A NEW ERA in Entertainment

GALA OPENING
THURSDAY (THANKSGIVING Afternoon and Evening) NOV. 29th

VITA-PHONE
OF LUXE STAGE
SPECIAL TONE
ONLY THE BEST

A WHEELING INSTITUTION
With a generous spirit of progressiveness, and unlimited confidence in the future of Wheeling, a group of its most representative citizens, have nestled their ambition together, and have created and given to our city, a most magnificent Theatre, one that rivals the finest in the east. Large, commodious and beautiful, in every respect, and furnished. The Capitol Theatre marks a new era in the presentation of stage and screen entertainment. It's the theatre of the people, presenting not only the best offerings of the stage, but the latest and finest of the screen, together with the most wonderful musical program the city has ever known. Remember one point:

THE CAPITOL'S FIRST MIGHTY OFFERING

STAR DELUXE PRESENTATION
THE FAMOUS AMERICAN TENOR
JOHN STEELE
POPULAR VICTOR RECORDING ARTIST
The Highest Salaried Star Ever in Wheeling

FANTASTIC REVUE
A Land of Beauty and Majesty
PARISH and PERU
Rhapsody of Panama

3 ADORIANS
The Beatrices
TRELLA and CO.
European Sensationalists

AMERICA'S GREATEST COMEDIANS
CLARK and McCULLOUGH
IN - THE INTERVIEW - MOVIE TONE

SPECIAL ORGAN PRELUDE
DUSTY RHODES $50,000 Wonder AT THE
THE FINEST ORGAN IN WEST VIRGINIA

DOORS OPEN 12:30 CONTINUOUS 1 TO 11 ADMISSION 60c
NEW YEAR'S EVE MIDNITE SHOW
On Stage: Connie's Hot Chocolates -- Happy-Go-Lucky with Phil Regan
Starts at 12

CAPITOL
LIFE LINERS
STARTING TOMORROW
Another Smashing Stage and Screen Show

CONNIE'S HOT CHOCOLATES
WORLD'S GREATEST SEPIA ATTRACTION
35 COPPER COLORED STARS
35
featuring
BY CLARK and his SWINGING MISSOURIANS
Palmer & Peaches
Joyner & Williams
Three Novelettes
Patsy Evans
Screen and Johnson
And the Famous CONNIE'S INN CHORUS

ON THE SCREEN
For Laughin' Out Loud!

JOE E. BROWN
Polio Joe
CAROL HUGHES
OMA CALLACHER

SHERWOOD MERTZ
The Talk of The Town

SHIRLEY TEMPLE
in "STOWAWAY"
with ROBERT YOUNG and ALICE FAYE

WVLA
Breaking All Attendance Records!
CAPITOL
NOW!
THEY'RE JUST AIR-PLAIN NUTS!

Bud Abbott and Lou Costello
in "Keep 'em Flying"
with Martha Raye, Carol Bruce,
William Gargan, Dick Foran

TODAY, IT'S WHEELING STEEL

WVLATV
Capitol
Wheeling's Finest Theatre

STARS TODAY!

ELVIS IN HIS BIGGEST MUSICAL!

RIDE THE CREST OF THE WAVE WITH

ELVIS
PRESLEY
IN A PARADISE
OF SONG!

BLUE HAWAII

HAL WALLIS
TECHNICOLOR
AND PANAVISION

FREE: Sunday Matinee Only
(While They Last!!!)
ELVIS PRESLEY LEIS

1961
The Ohio County Public Library in partnership with the Wheeling National Heritage Area Corporation presents:

Capitol Movie Night

ROMANCE OF THE UNDERWORLD

A free screening of the first film ever shown at Wheeling's Capitol Theatre during its "Gala Opening" on Thanksgiving Day November 29, 1928.
Who were mayors in Wheeling?
Wheeling Mayors

March 1805-March 1807
George Miller

March 1807-March 1809
Moses Chapline

March 1809-March 1810
William Irwin

March 1810-March 1814
Noah Linsky

March - September 1814
William Irwin
Resigned September 26, 1814

September 1814 - February 1815
No official mayor served/identified

March 1815-March 1816
George Knox

March 1816-March 1817
William Irwin

March 1817-March 1819
Peter Yarnell

March 1819-March 1820
Moses Chapline

March 1820-March 1824
Moses W. Chapline

March 1824-March 1828
Zachariah Jacob

March-September 1828
Samuel Sprigg
Resigned September 28, 1828

September 1828-March 1830
John McClure

March 1830-March 1834
Moses W. Chapline

March 1834-May 1836
Zachariah Jacob

May 1836-January 1840
Moses W. Chapline

January 1840-January 1846
George Dutty

January 1846-January 1847
Moses C. Good

January 1847-June 1848
William W. Shriver

June 1848-January 1850
Sobieski Brady

January 1850-January 1852
Alfred Caldwell

January 1852-January 1853
Morgan Nelson

January 1853-January 1855
Sobieski Brady

January 1855-August 1855
James Paul

September 1855-January 1856
Andrew J. Sweeney
Served as Mayor Pro-Tem

January 1856-January 1858
Alfred Caldwell

January 1858-January 1859
James Tanner

January 1859-January 1861
Andrew Wilson

January 1861-January 1863
Andrew J. Sweeney

January 1863-January 1864
George Baird

January 1864-January 1865
Henry Cringle

January 1865-January 1868
Andrew J. Sweeney
You Live Where ???
EAST WHEELING STREET NAMES HAVE BEEN CHANGED
(see recent articles - 1961)

Prior to 1873 most Wheeling streets had names entirely different
from those used today. But owing to the fact that Wheeling, Smith
Wheeling and Ashland (south of Forty-Third Street) were independent
communities, names were very applicable.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Street Names as Present</th>
<th>Prior to 1873</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12th.</td>
<td>Market</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13th.</td>
<td>Chestnut</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14th.</td>
<td>Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15th.</td>
<td>Homage</td>
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<tr>
<td>16th.</td>
<td>John</td>
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<tr>
<td>17th.</td>
<td>One</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18th.</td>
<td>Clay</td>
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<tr>
<td>19th.</td>
<td>Medley</td>
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<tr>
<td>20th.</td>
<td>Webster</td>
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<tr>
<td>21st.</td>
<td>Middle Street</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22nd.</td>
<td>Third</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23rd.</td>
<td>Second</td>
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<td>24th.</td>
<td>First</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25th.</td>
<td>Menchville</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26th.</td>
<td>Winton</td>
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<td>27th.</td>
<td>Preston</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28th.</td>
<td>Taylor</td>
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<tr>
<td>29th.</td>
<td>Fairview</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30th.</td>
<td>Portland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31st.</td>
<td>New York Street</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32nd.</td>
<td>Woodlawn or La Salle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>33rd.</td>
<td>Caldwell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34th.</td>
<td>Banner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35th.</td>
<td>Hazel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36th.</td>
<td>Pine</td>
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<tr>
<td>37th.</td>
<td>Vine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>38th.</td>
<td>Woodlawn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>39th.</td>
<td>Chisholm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40th.</td>
<td>Elaborate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>41st.</td>
<td>Lincoln</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>42nd.</td>
<td>Diva</td>
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<tr>
<td>43rd.</td>
<td>Elora</td>
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<tr>
<td>44th.</td>
<td>Syrinx</td>
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<td>45th.</td>
<td>Beach</td>
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<tr>
<td>46th.</td>
<td>La Grange</td>
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<tr>
<td>47th.</td>
<td>Poplar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>48th.</td>
<td>Depot</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Main, Main and Harish are also used but numbered different.
Maj. Samuel McColloch

Dr. John Eoff
Silent Cities of the Dead....
STATE OF MICHIGAN

REGISTRAR'S

No. 301

Permit for Burial or Removal.

Date of Death: May 29th, 1936

FULL NAME: Pauline B. Schmulbach
Age: 70 years

DISEASE CAUSING DEATH: Cardiovascular Renal Disease

Medical attendant: M. A. Mortensen, M.D.
Proposed date of burial or removal: May 29th, 1936

Place of Burial: Wheeling, West Virginia

Place of Removal: Williams & Braden

Undertaker: Battle Creek, Michigan

A CERTIFICATE OF DEATH having been filed in my office in accordance with the laws of Michigan, I hereby authorize the
(Burial or Removal),
of the body of said deceased person as stated above. In the case of death from a dangerous communicable disease, the burial or removal
must be conducted according to the rules of the State and local board of health.

Dated: May 29th, 1936

Health Officer, Registrar

*Write “Burial” or “Removal” as the case may be. Burial permits must be delivered by the Undertaker to the Sexton. Removal permits
must be given to the agent of transportation Company, and attached by him to box containing body. Sub-registrars will write “Sub” before
the words “Registrar of Deaths” and “Licensed Embalmer No.—” below, always giving No. of License.

EMBALMER’S CERTIFICATE.

I hereby certify that the accompanying dead body of Pauline B. Schmulbach

(consigned to: Wheeling, in the county of
and who died of Cardiovascular Renal Disease
and who has been prepared for transportation by a licensed embalmer holding the valid, unrevoked and unexpired License No. 2265

This disease causing death is declared by the Michigan Department of Health to be a Non—communicable disease,
and I further certify that the body has been prepared strictly in accordance with Rule. 4 of the rules of said Depart-

m ent, as printed on the back of this sheet.

Residence: Battle Creek, Michigan

Shipping Embalmer:

---

In connection with the subject, this transit permit blank will not be supplied to the health officers or to any other
undertakers without application and registration therefor. One application may be used by any other
undertakers, who desire to use them.
Vital Research Records Search Selection...

The Vital Research Records Project is placing Birth, Death, and Marriage certificates on-line. Users can search the records and view scanned images of the original records.

Article on the vital Research Records Project

Select a record type to search.

- Birth
- Death
- Marriage

Questions or comments about Vital Research Records? Email here.

West Virginia Division of Culture and History
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HISTORY OF THE CAMPUS BUILDINGS AND THEIR NAMES

50's:
- Michael Late Benedum: The Benedum Room
- The Most Reverend Patrick James Donahue: Donahue Hall
- The Most Reverend John Joseph Swint: Swint Hall
Over the course of her life, Sara Catherine Aloysia Tracy became one of the largest benefactors to the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston. Her generous contributions were pivotal in the establishment of many projects throughout the Diocese. One of five children, Miss Tracy was born December 6, 1827 in Lansingburgh, New York, the daughter of a prominent, deeply religious family. Her maternal grandfather was responsible for the founding of the Catholic Church in the area, and her mother displayed untiring devotion to caring for the local poor people.

She received her early education at Manhattan's Sacred Heart Convent and then taught for many years at the Lansingburgh Academy. She became heiress to her brother Edward's fortune after his untimely death and spent the rest of her life traveling the world and supporting numerous charitable activities. She was an invalid the last year of her life and died on November 6, 1904 in New York, New York.
1899 Ocean Voyage – first official visit to Rome

Sara Tracy witnessed chess game with German officer

Officer belittled Bishop Donohue

Bishop won game and admiration of Sara Tracy

She presented Bishop with $ 5,000 check

Became major benefactress of Diocese
Mount de Chantal, Near Wheeling, West Virginia.

Wheeling Female Academy, LT. 1877.
Who would have known.....
OTTO SCHENK – 1863-1933 – “Whose generosity and unselfish service in civic affairs made him an outstanding citizen.”
SCHENK WEDS AGAIN; ONCE POISON VICTIM

Wheeling, West Va., July 4—John G. Schenk, Wheeling's richest man, who annulled a divorce from his wife, Laura, yesterday, Schenk, after his sensational trial at a charge of attempting to kill her by theisode administration of arsenic, was married this afternoon to Mrs. Grace H. Eddy, a school teacher. Schenk is 52 and Mrs. Eddy is 24. The ceremony was performed by the Rev. A. W. Werner, pastor of St. James' Lutheran Church. There were no attendants, and a few hundred of relatives and a few close friends were present.

The newly married left for New York, whence they will sail for the Netherlands next Tuesday for a tour of Europe, which
Your project ideas/ examples...
SO WHAT?
QUESTIONS
THANK YOU