Restoring Yesterday for Tomorrow

Arthurdale, W. Va.
The First New Deal Homestead Community — Inspired by Eleanor Roosevelt

Vol. 35 — No. 2

Coming soon—updated audio and driving tours

Because of two generous grants from the West Virginia Humanities Council and the William G. Pomeroy Foundation, we are improving and expanding our tour options. Currently, our driving tour is done by following a map and directions on a paper brochure.

Soon, using your cell phone, Clio (a free GPS based service for historic sites) will help you explore Arthurdale more easily. While your phone guides you from stop to stop, you can listen to descriptions of what you are seeing and hear stories about what happened there.

An expanded tour experience is also in store for you at E-15. With funds from the Pomeroy Foundation, we bought 5 personal audio devices which will let you hear directly from homesteader families.

As you move from room to room, you will enjoy hearing snippets of stories found in our collection of homesteader oral histories which were done over the years.

For example, in the kitchen you will hear a story about home canning. In a bedroom, you will hear about a family’s sleeping arrangements, which could be quite crowded for a large family.

Plan on visiting later this summer and enjoy the expanded tours. And bring your friends!

Stop by to welcome our newest staff member

Meet Elizabeth Satterfield, our new Curator and Director of Education. Elizabeth grew up near Independence and has a special place in her heart for West Virginia and its history.

She graduated from West Virginia University in December 2021 with dual Masters in Public History and Public Administration. During graduate school, Elizabeth curated multiple exhibits at WVU and contributed to public-facing projects across the state.

In her spare time, Elizabeth enjoys spending time outdoors, working on her family’s farm, and being creative. She has two cats: Clarice and Sylvie.

“I’m so excited to be a part of the Arthurdale community,” Elizabeth said, “I hope to use my skills and passion to help preserve Arthurdale and its unique history!”
While we’re eagerly waiting for our goats to kid, we wanted to remind you all to keep an eye out for Baby Goat Yoga classes. Dates will be announced on Facebook and our website once they are born. Depending on the weather, class may be held outdoors.

Since each one is limited to 20 attendees and they are so popular, they always fill up. Email americorps@arthurdaleheritage.org to join the waiting list.

Coming soon, Baby Goat Yoga!

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Exploring the future of rural WV with students

In 2021, Arthurdale was one of eleven sites in the country awarded a Coming Home grant from the Smithsonian Institution. This grant ties in with our Crossroads exhibit. We are working with local youth to think about the questions posed by Crossroads, specifically what they value in their communities and how they can change where they live for the better.

Coming Home discussions ask young people to think for themselves and to become involved in the future of their communities. The goal is to encourage them to stay and to work for positive changes in the places that are important to them.

Our semester-long programming began with West Preston’s After School Explorers Club. We will be working regularly with the students to think about the history and the future of Preston County and Arthurdale. Over the course of the semester, students will create a video on a subject of their choosing that explores these themes.

We hope to expand this into summer educational programming as well, and we have created a handbook for any homeschooling parents or groups who want to participate.

Contact elizabeth.satterfield@arthurdaleheritage.org for more information.
Historic looms added to the Weaving Room

Our loom room filled up this winter with three new vintage looms. Most exciting is a 22" Gallinger loom that was built in Arthurdale in the 1930s. This loom traveled quite a bit in its life but is now back home in Arthurdale. Homestead daughter Sue Day-Perroots purchased this loom and donated it to our weaving program. The loom came with a stack of documents containing historical information that we are eagerly studying.

The second Gallinger loom was built by Milo Gallinger near Gettysburg and was used in a weaving school. It’s an overhead jack loom with a sectional back beam and fourteen treadles. Normally, this loom has ten treadles, so the extra ones allow for a wider variety of “tie ups” in setting up a weaving pattern.

The last one is our Barbara V loom, built by Thought Products in the 1970s. Originally, this loom had eight shafts and could be set up as a tapestry loom but, over the years, its owners modified it. Now it is a versatile four shaft one that can be set up as either a counter balance, jack, or countermarch loom. A unique feature of this loom is that it has a metal cable system.

We are thrilled with these additions to our weaving room and are very thankful to Sue Day-Perroots for her generosity in purchasing the Arthurdale Gallinger and for driving to Belington to pick it up.

We are also very fortunate to have Linda Flemmer, our weaving teacher, who drove to Cazenovia, New York, in frigid January weather to pick up the Gallinger and Barbara V looms.

AHI staffers visit the Legislature

Arthurdale Heritage workers visited Charleston twice in February. At Mon-Preston Day on February 3, Elizabeth Satterfield spoke with our state legislators about the impacts Arthurdale has on the county and the state.

During a meeting with the Secretary of Economic Development, she stressed the need for improved infrastructure, namely a sewer system and clean water, in order for AHI and the surrounding area to expand and thrive.

Later in the month, Elizabeth, Kendyl Bostic, and Linda Flemmer traveled back down to Charleston for History Day. Along with representatives from other WV culture and history organizations, they shared our unique history and how it can benefit the entire state.

While at the capitol, Linda received the West Virginia History Hero award for her tireless work in our Arthurdale Weaving program. It has become a wonderful asset to AHI and only exists because of the skill and knowledge that she shares with us. Congratulations, Linda!
At last! The New Deal Festival returns

Mark your calendars! The New Deal Festival will be happening on Saturday July 9. We are thrilled to bring back this annual celebration which has live music, arts and crafts, artisan demos, vintage auto and tractor show, lots of kids activities, great food, hayrides, and more.

Soon you can buy advance tickets online at a discount. For the updated information, visit our website newdealfestival.org or our Facebook page.

Interested in being a sponsor or volunteer? Contact us at americorps@arthurdaleheritage.org.

Reflections on the Crossroads exhibit

During the Smithsonian exhibit in historic Center Hall from December 13th to January 21st, more than 220 visitors toured the free exhibit.

We added our own touch to the exhibit. Local skilled artisans from blacksmiths to woodworkers to weavers shared their talents with our visitors. Weaver Linda Flemmer gave six demonstrations and spoke to a variety of people about the history of weaving in Arthurdale. She also helped continue this important tradition by teaching a children’s weaving class.

The Friends of Deckers Creek added their Richard Mine Exhibit to the Crossroads display. That exhibit aims to reconnect communities with the history of the mine and its legacies which would otherwise be forgotten.

Among our many activities and programs we showed ‘CC Boys: A West Virginia Legacy. This documentary shows the impact of the Civilian Conservation Corps on the state. Creator Robert Whetsell gave a presentation about his film and led a discussion about the CCC program.

Visiting Crossroads broadened everyone’s understanding of the history and future of rural America.
William Roy "Bill" Neely passed in November at 85 at his home in La Vale, Maryland with family by his side. Bill was an avid do-it-yourselfer who was adept at home renovations. A quiet man, he opened his heart and his home to neighbors and relatives who needed assistance, some for years at a time. He and his wife, the former Hester Ann Mason, celebrated 62 years of marriage together and are the parents of three children.

I think the day of selfishness is over, the day of working together has come.

We must learn to work together—all of us regardless of race, creed, or color. We must wipe out the feeling of intolerance whenever we find it—of belief that any other group can go ahead alone.

We go ahead together or we go down together.

Eleanor Roosevelt 1934
Donor Club Update

ONLY Donors who gave between November 16, 2021 and February 15, 2022 are listed.

This totals their gifts since AHI began in 1985

Those in italics gave to a Family Legacy during this period.

Richard Arthur Club
$500-$999
Richard Arthur Club
Michael & Joyce Barnicle
Jack & Susan Bell
Tom & Sharon Belmaggio
Bill & Linda Chaff
Bill & Jeri Cusack
Elanore & Daniel Decker
Trill Dreistadt
Irene Durr
Bob & Sue Fratkin
Allan & Millie Karlin
Cleo & Ruth Marsh
Rita Mulkeen
Brenda Neely
Debra Neely
William “Joe” Tschiderer
Marlene Watkins
Denese & David Yeager

Homesteaders Club
$250-$499
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Gloria Brown
Anne Broyles
Bill & Megan Carlson
Anna Chandler
Mark Durham
Ed & Joyce Fortney
Barbara Howe
Kenneth Kidd
Patricia Kotchek
Brooke McDonald
Carolyn Miller
Linda Thompson

Black and Gold Club
$100-$249
Visit Mountaineer Country CVB
Estate of Bill Bucklew
Charles & Cindy Dineley
Arlene Dolan
Jane Ensign
Shawn Falkenstein
Lois Jean & Gary Gibson
Donna Guire
Nancy Kelly
Dianna Lawrence
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Norma Calvert
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Friends
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Adam Casseday
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Antoline Family Foundation
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Clarence & Elizabeth Beall
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Kenneth & Bernice Carlsten
Okey & Dove Day
Robert & Edna Day
Frank & Annabel Davis
Clarence & Elnora DeGolyer
Harry & Dorothy Drake
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Lon & Elizabeth Fullmer
David Glass
Richard & Elizabeth Glass

Family Legacy Groups

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Kenneth & Felicia Hartsell
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Warren & Jessie Kelly
Thomas & Iva Lay
Ross & Mildred Lyons
BB & Rose Luzier
Glenn & Dot Luzier
John “Daddy” & Izura Mason
Harry & Lova McNair
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Cameron & Opal Radabaugh
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Jesse & Elma Weaver
John & Loraine (Weaver) Wiles
Whittaker Family
David & Mella Cora Wilkins
Glenna Williams
Clinton & Irene Wolfe
Luther & Marie Zinn
Donald & Ermia Zinn
Gerald & Maxine Zinn
AHI Volunteers

Thank you