



Restoring Yesterday *for* Tomorrow

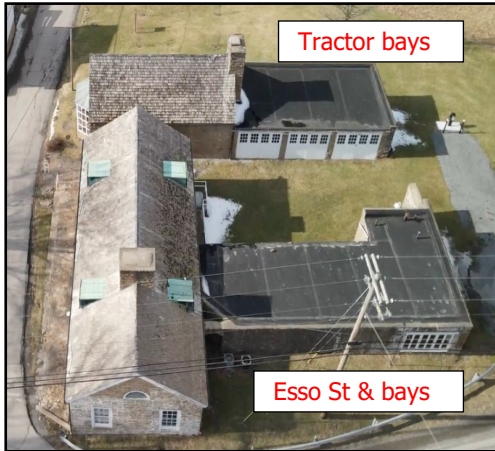
Arthurdale, W. Va.

The First New Deal Homestead Community — Inspired by Eleanor Roosevelt

Vol. 36 — No. 1

2023

Your dollars will make the difference



EMERGENCY!

Leaking roofs on our tractor bay and our iconic Esso Station must be replaced as soon as possible. Flat rubber roofs often only last 10 years, but ours have lasted for nearly 30 years. We have been patching them but now that is no longer an option. This is an immense financial burden — **\$65,349!**

If the contractor finds the underlying wood needs replaced, it could go higher. The good news is that we have an ***anonymous donor who will donate \$32,500 IF we can match*** that amount with your donations!



Please help us match this generous donation and save these historic structures and their invaluable artifacts. Your dollars will make the difference!

You can donate online at <https://arthurdaleheritage.org> or mail a check to AHI at PO Box 850 Arthurdale, WV 26520.

Please put “emergency roof repair” in the memo line.

Welcome our new PreserveWV AmeriCorps member

Please join us in welcoming our new PreserveWV AmeriCorps member, Dr. Katie Thompson!

Katie is serving with both the West Virginia Association of Museums and AHI this year. We are grateful to the Preservation Alliance of WV (PAWV) for paying her stipend while she is working here.

In Arthurdale, she will finish the re-surveying of our historic district, which encompasses more than 1,000 acres. She will also help plan our historic preservation programs.

Katie earned her PhD in Nineteenth Century/Civil War America from WVU and teaches history at several colleges and universities. Her broad background in history has included leading tours of Frank Lloyd Wright’s Fallingwater and being a seasonal interpreter at the Fredericksburg & Spotsylvania National Military Park. She is also the co-editor of Civil Discourse, a blog on the Civil War. In addition to history, Katie loves knitting and crafting and recently got back into taking ballet classes.



Welcome, Katie! We're so thankful to have you on our team!

Kate Thompson

Check out our online Annual Report

Discover how much AHI accomplished in 2022. Our Annual Report is now on our website. This year marked the highest number of visitors that have come to the site, an increase in our programming, and a record breaking New Deal Festival. None of this would be possible without the dedicated volunteers, donors like you, and the Arthurdale community. Directly because of this broad support, we continue to grow and thrive as an organization.

Take a minute and learn more about the great year that we had. Go to our website and scroll down to the News section of the Home page; there the report is available for download. Or if you're reading a virtual copy of this newsletter use the link to find it. <https://arthurdaleheritage.org/publications/>

Volunteers of the month

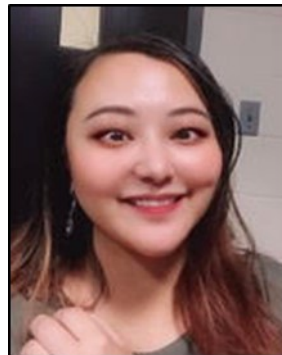
Our volunteers are the heart of Arthurdale and the reason we are able to accomplish all that we do. During our last fiscal year, 155 volunteers served over 900 hours.

At the federal in-kind rate of \$29.95 per hour, this work by our volunteers was equal to \$26,955.

In December, we honored **Valerie Nusssear**, a multi-talented volunteer who is always willing to lend a helping hand. Santa especially appreciated her help.

For January, **Jonathan Moore**, a WVU student in the Pathologists' Assistant program, transcribed some oral histories. He said that "It has been an honor to be a part of memorializing [homesteaders'] stories for decades to come and providing a means for their descendants to better understand them."

Our February VOM is **Fei Xia**, a PhD student at WVU studying Vocal Performance, who has also helped transcribe our oral history collection. Fei says that for her, "Volunteering is a chance to make friends with other people, [to offer] assistance to people, and to communicate with other people" while also learning about different organizations and what they have to offer their communities.



Valerie Nusssear writes -

Just as moving to Arthurdale was a dream come true for the homesteaders, moving to Arthurdale in 2016 was a dream come true for my husband and myself.

My husband worked in Preston County early in his career as a psychologist and we looked for a heritage house for our retirement.

We found that home on P Road as new homesteaders who could experience some of the same sense of community that Arthurdale provided for the original ones.

I have been especially thankful for that community since the untimely death of my husband last year and have found volunteering for Arthurdale Heritage both healing and rewarding.

I am happy that I can be part of preserving your wonderful heritage through my volunteering."

Thank you to all of our volunteers, past and present.

Once a year, once a month, or once a week - we are grateful for your time!

Historic Preservation Training Center plans



AHS when new in the 1930s

After sitting vacant for 30 years, the Arthurdale Schools are on the verge of full-scale rehabilitation and restoration! Repurposing and restoring the schools will not only save the buildings but the rental income will provide AHI with much needed funds to maintain our historic buildings.

We are partnering with the Preservation Alliance of West Virginia (PAWV) to establish the WV Historic Preservation Training Center in the original Arthurdale High School. Not only will the Center provide much-needed workforce training for the Mountain State, but this project will also breathe new life into our historic school buildings which are greatly in need of restoration.

AHI and PAWV are currently in the midst of strategic planning for the Center, funded by a POWER planning grant from the Appalachian Regional Commission. When restoration is finished, PAWV will lease the building from AHI and run the Trade School program there.

Students at the Center will “learn while they serve” by helping to maintain our buildings while gaining hands-on experience in the historic trades. Based in Arthurdale, once our structures are fully restored, the Center will send teams around the state. Also, business incubator and cooperative working spaces will provide emerging historic trades professionals with a place to operate their businesses.

Plans are also underway to revitalize the original Cafeteria and Elementary School. AHI hopes to convert the Elementary School into a daycare facility for children and seniors – services desperately needed in Preston County. As the central building in the complex, the Cafeteria has the potential to serve both the Training Center, the daycare, and even the surrounding area.

Additions to our collections

In 2022 we received 38 additions to our collections, ranging from photographs to furniture to books to school records. Here are a few of the items now preserved permanently at AHI to be examined and enjoyed well into the future.



Entertainment unit made by the Mountaineer Craftsmen's Cooperative Association which belonged to the Maxwells in U-2. It features a repurposed Chieftain car radio and copper hardware made in the Forge.
Donated by Bruce Maxwell.

Ceramic bowl made in Arthurdale in 1940, with the initials “GHK” on the bottom. (Possibly AHS principal G.H. Keck). Purchased at an estate sale in Ohio. On permanent loan from Frankie & Tyler Hollen.



Rev. Walter Pruett, Community Church pastor's daybook.



Entries are daily activities, such as choir practice, funerals, social events, etc. One is a visit with Mrs. Roosevelt on January 10, 1942.
Donated by Peggy Pruett Gibson.



1948 School Day Memories booklet, belonging to Betty Lou Wiles who grew up in Q-5. The book includes autographs from her classmates
Donated by Thomas Hughes.

More recognition for AHI and its volunteers



Buck Jennings, Darlene Bolyard, Elizabeth Satterfield, George Street

The important work of Arthurdale Heritage and our community is being recognized again. We were presented a State of WV Legislative Citation by Delegate George Street for AHI's service, dedication, and commitment to the history of Preston County and West Virginia.

Our faithful volunteer Jeff Zinn was also honored as a History Hero on February 23 at the WV Culture Center in Charleston.

For many years, Jeff has shared his knowledge of building preservation with us. We rely upon his practicality and honesty when helping and advising on our preservation projects. We are so lucky to have Jeff Zinn as a volunteer and we honor his years of service and contributions to AHI.



Jeff at the New Deal Festival with a friend

Donating to AHI may give you tax advantages

Your support for Arthurdale Heritage is very much needed and we appreciate all of our donations.

However, if you are older than 70.5 and are doing fine with your other income, these options can provide you with tax benefits that you might not have heard about.

You can open a "Charitable Gift Account" using your IRA funds. Donations from that account will then count toward your "Annual Required Distribution" but will escape being taxed both federally and locally. You do not get a tax deduction but neither is it counted as income nor does it need to be itemized on your return.

Your IRA plan administrator can take care of making this change and then authorizing your donations. They will also send out the checks for you.

If you do not have an IRA but do have a 403(b) or 401(k) account, your financial advisor can convert it into an IRA. Then you can use those funds for both personal and charitable purposes.

Another option is to donate stocks. Those that you donate to Arthurdale Heritage can also provide you with tax advantages when itemized on your tax return.

Ask your financial advisor for guidance on how you can both increase your giving and benefit yourself.

New security & fire suppression system

Thanks to the Preston County Commission allocating part of their federal Covid ARPA funds to help us,

we now have a new fire and security system.

We are also grateful to John and Janet Day Cherry for their generous donation which helped with the costs that were not covered by the PCC award.

In January, Morgantown Security & Fire installed these new systems in all of our buildings.

This will help us keep our buildings, archives, collections, and visitors safe.

