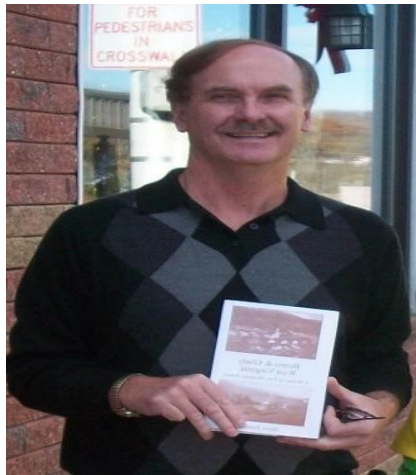


Randolph County Historical Society



Please join us on **October 24th** for a **7:00 p.m.** presentation at the **Randolph County Historical Society in Beverly** by historian and author Steve Bodkins on the life of Mary Lewis Kinnan. Taken prisoner by the Shawnee Indians after her husband and daughter were killed in a massacre near Elkwater in May of 1791, Kinnan survived a woeful 47-day journey from her home in Randolph County to the Indian Villages in Ohio. Freed by her brother, Jacob Lewis, three years later, Kinnan’s courageous return to her family in New Jersey is chronicled by Bodkins.

Bodkins deep ties to Bemis, Glady, Mingo, Monterville, Valley Head and other towns in Randolph, Pocahontas and surrounding counties, inform his scholarship. His works include *Bemis and Glady West Virginia: A History of Two Mountain Towns* and *Forgotten Towns: Pocahontas and Randolph Counties, WV*. He is a member of the Mingo District Historical Society. A high pointer, who is currently striving to climb the highest peak in every state in the USA, his current research includes exploration of the towns and regions surrounding Valley Head, Mingo and Monterville in southern Randolph County.

Come find out what we're up to and how you can be part of the RCHS.

Randolph County Museum’s Capital Campaign

As we look forward to our centennial in 2024, the Society is launching a Centennial Campaign to raise \$10,000 per year toward capital projects for our buildings, collections and museum improvements. The money that the Society raises goes directly to preserving our buildings, sites and collections.

Go to page 2 for a letter from the Historical Society’s president, more information about the campaign and how to help us continue the great work in Randolph County!

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MUSEUM UPDATES

For an appointment, email randolpcountymuseum@gmail.com, or call (304) 636-2784. The museum is located on the corner of Main and Court St. in Beverly, WV. Admission is free.



Randolph County Museum

A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear friends of Randolph County History:

We hope you will join us for Steve Bodkins' program at our General Membership meeting. I have seen his fascinating presentation before and am looking forward to the new information and insights he has been adding.

Like many other episodes in our local history, the story of Mary Kinnan provides an opportunity to put our stories in the context of what was going on in the rest of the country and the world. I believe such insights are valuable to any student of history and help give greater meaning to our understanding of the importance of historic events in Randolph County.

I want to again repeat our constant call for more people to become involved in our efforts, either as active participants or members. A lot of exciting things have happened at our Museum in Beverly during the last couple of years, from the installation of a climate control system to our current efforts to replace the roof on the building. We are working to secure matching funds for the grant we have received for this project and look forward to accomplishing another major goal.

With warmest regards,
Donald L. Teter
President
Randolph County Historical Society

Yes, I want to help with the Randolph County Historical Society's "**Capital Campaign**"

Amount of contribution: _____ enclosed: _____ pledged: _____

Yes, I want to **join / renew membership** in the Randolph County Historical Society for 2020.

___\$10 Scholar ___\$20 Collector ___\$20 Gift Membership ___\$50 Archivist _____ other amount

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email (if used) or phone: _____

Return by mail with enclosed check to the RCHS at: P O Box 342 Elkins WV 26241

On the Importance of Place: Finding the Unexpected in Beverly

Spencer Kuchle

In her exquisite essay “On Seeing,” artist Polly Thayer Starr draws upon poet and painter William Blake’s distinction between “seeing through” and “seeing with” the eyes. Starr attempts to explain the difference using two examples. The first involves holding up a sheet of paper with an ink blot on it and asking people to describe what they see. The second has them identify the contents of a lighted room. She notes that most individuals mention neither the paper, serving as the backdrop for the inkblot, nor the source of light, which makes the objects in the room visible. Starr’s desire to fully understand the world around her resulted in a life-long quest to move beyond the obvious and bring to the fore what often goes unnoticed.

I couldn’t help but think of Starr the first time I came across a Confederate Reunion Badge & Ribbon at the Randolph County Museum and Historical Society. The badge of honor had been distributed to the attendees of a 1908 dedication of a 20-foot obelisk by the Daughters of the Confederacy that marked the graves of at least 69 soldiers and one civilian on Mt. Iser, overlooking town. Those commemorated died in the battle of Rich Mountain on July 11, 1861 or in skirmishes near Beverly.

The monument, which carries the inscriptions of those buried beneath it in a mass grave, is enclosed by rock and iron fences. What is less noticeable at first glance, however, are the trenches surrounding the site, dug by Union troops following the campaign led by General George B. McClellan against the Confederate soldiers. Stretching two-and-a-half miles on three hills overlooking the town, the entrenchments served to secure the defensive position of the Union forces for the remainder of the war. The badge and ribbon, like the cemetery itself, has taken a place among a rich collection of Civil War archives and historic places, encompassed by the Randolph County Museum and Historical Society, that illustrate the strategic importance of Beverly for both the Union and Confederate armies.

Coming to understand the pivotal role Beverly has played in our nation’s history was one of the great pleasures of moving to this region. I arrived in September, as an AmeriCorps volunteer, from my home in Washington, DC, where I have spent the past two years working in the Education Department of the Smithsonian National Museum of African Art. What I have already learned from being in Beverly is the way in which our individual experiences are altered by place. From the blue smoke rising above the mountains in the early morning and the picture-perfect sunsets on a fall evening to echoes from the past of chanting Gandy dancers on the rails and the buzzing drone of sawmills, this place anchors us to one another. We hope that you will visit the Randolph County Museum and Historical Society to explore our collections and discover the ways in which our shared histories, that connect us across time, can be used to preserve Beverly’s unique heritage!



MEET OUR NEW AMERICORPS!

Spencer Kuchle, who was raised in Woodstock, CT with his twin brother, Pierce, received his B.A. from Hampshire College in Black Studies and a Ph.D. in Afro-American Studies from the University of Massachusetts-Amherst. For the past two years, he has held a post-doctoral appointment in the education department of the Smithsonian National Museum of African Art, where he curated the digital exhibit, *Backtalk: Artists on Native, African, and African American Stereotypes*.

Dr. Kuchle has worked at the Federation of State Humanities Councils, developing materials related to the Centennial Celebration of the Pulitzer Prize Campfires Project and the Humanities and the Legacies of Race and Ethnicity Project and staffing Humanities on the Hill events with members of the House and Senate. He served as a research fellow in the Harry Ransom Center at the University of Texas-Austin and as an Experiential Training in Historical Information Resources fellow in the Special Collections and University Archives of the University of Massachusetts.



STAY CONNECTED

Stay up to date on Randolph County History and RCHS news by:

1. *Subscribing to our email list*
2. *Joining us on Facebook*
3. *Volunteering*

⇒ *To subscribe or volunteer just email.*

If you would like to join or **renew your membership** digitally, please email the museum at:

randolphcountymuseum@gmail.com

If you would like to sign up for a membership manually, please send your name, address, email address, phone number and membership fee to the RCHS mailbox at: P O Box 342 Elkins WV 26241

Announcement !

Randolph County Historical Society has been awarded a development grant from the WV Division of Culture and History, State Historic Preservation Office, for the replacement of the metal roof on the Blackman-Bosworth Store Building, which houses the Randolph County Museum. The original standing seam metal roof, which dates to the 19th-century, has reached the end of its useful life and will be replaced with a modern metal roof of matching appearance. We are working to raise matching funds for this grant - a crucial use for the Capital Campaign donations! Please help!

