

Newsletter

Randolph County Historical Society

RCHS Spring Program

Civil War Mapmaking and the Work of Jed Hotchkiss

Presented by Don Teter

This presentation will discuss the need for maps and how it was addressed, highlighting the work of Confederate topographer Jedediah Hotchkiss, who got his start as a military mapper in early July 1861 at Camp Garnett and Rich Mountain. Hotchkiss continued his work in (West) Virginia at Valley Mountain with Generals William Loring and Robert E. Lee in August and September 1861, and eventually embarked upon one of the most remarkable mapping projects of the war in response to Stonewall Jackson's request for a comprehensive map of the Shenandoah Valley.

Don Teter, President of the Randolph County Historical Society, earned a degree in History and Political Science from Davis and Elkins College, and spent over 35 years self-employed as a land surveyor. He has been presenting professional continuing education seminars for twenty years, and has been Assistant Professor of Surveying at Fairmont State University since 2018.

This program will be presented on Thursday, May 25th at 6:30 pm at Darden Mill, 101 Railroad Ave, Elkins. The program can also be viewed online – for link please send us your email address, or watch for information on our Facebook page Randolph County Historical Society or at www.randolphhistoricalwv.org.

President's Letter

Unease on the Home Front

by Don Teter

On Friday, April 11, 1862, the Clarksburg *National Telegraph* reported that secessionists had been creating alarm around Clarksburg by starting false rumors. The editor of the *Telegraph* was R.S Northcutt, who later enlisted in the Union Army.

Northcutt reported that on the previous Monday morning a rumor had been circulating that Captain Moore's company of Federals had all been captured by rebels near Camp Elkwater, about seven miles south of Huttonsville in Randolph County. The rumor created considerable alarm in Clarksburg because many men from Harrison County were in Moore's unit. It was said that a lady living near Clarksburg who had two sons in the company had gotten the news in an official dispatch. When questioned, she said she knew nothing of a dispatch, but had heard that rumors were going around town.

The tale turned out to be false, and the entire matter stirred Northcutt's sentiments. He warned against the spreading of more rumors, commenting that:

"It is supposed that the whole affair was concocted by secessionists, that they might enjoy the alarm. Now such conduct is an outrage, and the man or woman that can thus fabricate a story to alarm the parents, wives, and other relatives of our brave soldiers who are toiling and suffering in the cause of their country, is too mean to be recognized by the devil, and the foulest fiend that belongs to hell's dark domain would be contaminated by keeping company with such a one."

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Upcoming

RCHS Spring Program –
Civil War Mapmaking and
the Work of Jed Hotchkiss
May 25, 2023 6:30PM
Darden Mill and Zoom

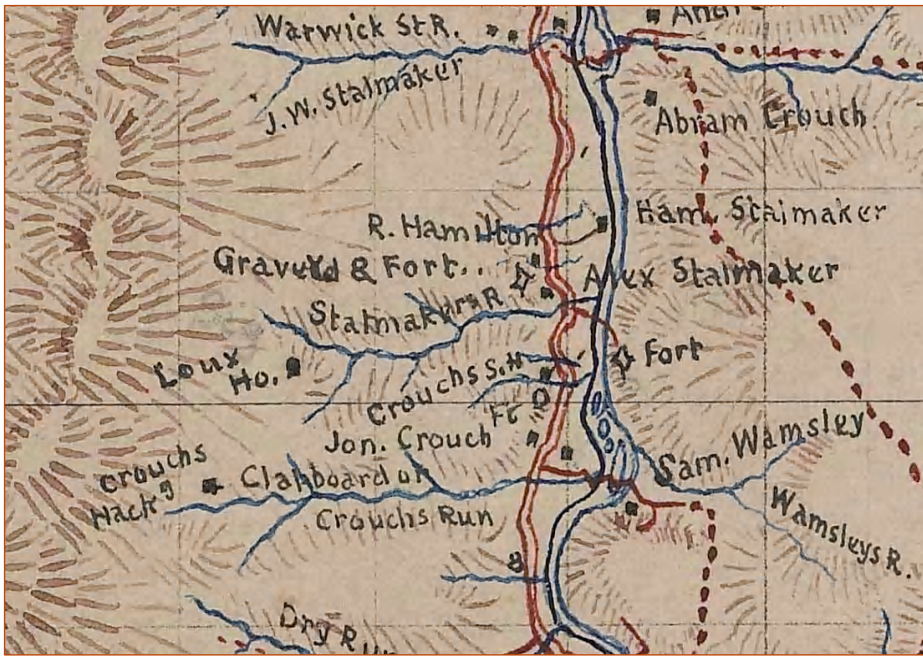
President's Letter

Unease on the Home Front

by Don Teter

"Where secessionists conduct themselves properly we are in favor of treating them properly, but when they conduct themselves as a few do, whom we could name and whom we intend to name publicly if they do not mend their manners, no treatment can be too harsh for them. The truth is if they do not stop it the Union men will have to rise in their majesty and take steps necessary to protect themselves from their impudent intrusions."

The *National Telegraph* of May 27, 1864, reported that Northcutt had served as Lieutenant Colonel of the 12th West Virginia Volunteer Infantry, was captured and sent to prison in Richmond, but had been exchanged and returned to duty in May 1864.



Courtesy of the Archives of the University of Virginia.

As seen in our illustration of a portion of a map of the Upper Tygart Valley, the fortification at Camp Elkwater had been sketchily mapped by Confederate topographer Jedediah Hotchkiss while he was on duty with Generals Lee and Loring at Valley Mountain in August and September 1861. Conditions in the rebel camps were particularly difficult due to unusual cold and wet weather. One of the Georgia soldiers stationed there reportedly wrote to his parents that "this August on Valley Mountain it rained for 32 days," and many of the soldiers became ill with several dying. Hotchkiss had prepared that map with the help of local surveyor Jacob Conrad, who died of typhoid soon afterward. Hotchkiss himself became so ill that he returned home to Churchville, Virginia, to recover. He returned to duty and joined the staff of General Stonewall Jackson in the spring of 1862, soon beginning work on perhaps the best-known single map of the War in response to General Jackson's request to prepare a map of the entire Shenandoah Valley. Hotchkiss had gotten his start as a military mapper at Camp Garnett in the days just before the Battle of Rich Mountain, and his work there and in the upper Tygart Valley provide fine examples of the quality of his efforts.

Today, a portion of Camp Elkwater – the cannon emplacement overlooking the valley from the west – is protected by Rich Mountain Battlefield Foundation.



Museum Updates

AFNHA AmeriCorps member Maddy Fleming will serve as museum docent throughout the museum operations season from May to September. She has also been working on the project of arranging a new exhibit for the museum regarding Randolph County Schools.

Additional information regarding this new exhibit and museum visitation can be found on the following pages.

Looking forward to the future, the Randolph County Museum is eager to pursue more projects and more exhibit research into the Fall season.

More information is to come in the next newsletter!



Visit the Exhibit

The Randolph County Museum will resume operations and open to the public on Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend.

Museum will be open to visitation on Fridays and Saturdays, 10am to 4pm.

Admission is free and donations are appreciated!

For more information, please contact the Randolph County Museum at randolphcountymuseum@gmail.com.

Randolph County Schools Exhibit Coming Soon!

by Maddy Fleming

What I appreciate and enjoy most about history is the endless experience of learning. My task of organizing this exhibit especially required me to learn about learning, to explore education from its start and its progression into what we now recognize. In doing research outside the museum along with my research of artifacts within the museum, I learned West Virginia, and Randolph County as part, has had a long and elaborate history involving education. From subscription schools of the past to the present public education system, there's so much more for me to learn than what general information I gathered for this project.

To summarize this complex history very briefly, education in pre-Revolutionary Virginia was conducted primarily through private subscription schools. Families paid tuition and classes were taught in private spaces such as homes, leaving many regions, especially poorer, rural areas, without schooling. After the Revolution, the alderman system was established in 1796. Elected as county representatives, aldermen were tasked with constructing schoolhouses, as well as attending to the upkeep of these buildings. They also selected instructors and were required to visit these schools to observe the students and teaching as superintendents do today.

1800s education history is even more elaborate. The Literary Fund was established in Virginia in 1810, and by the 1840s, locally and state-funded "old field schools" taught the basics of reading, writing, and arithmetic to a wider student base, especially those from poor backgrounds. In 1863, the first West Virginia constitution established the public free education system which divided counties into districts based on townships. Normal schools, which have evolved and now serve as many of West Virginia's universities, were also established during the latter half of the 19th century and primed future educators. One-room schools became commonplace for primary education, and instructors acted as more than just teachers; they served as the educator, counselor, principal, and janitor of these schools. The one-room model declined into the 1950s as school consolidation pushed the county school system, further centralizing education in each region.

Pictured below is a 1977 *Inter-Mountain* newspaper clipping that states one-room schools had an enduring history in Randolph County from the 1870s into the 1970s. At least a hundred years of educational legacy all over the county!

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Retired Teachers Compile List, Map of Randolph County One-Room Schools From 1876-1976

Ever wonder where the legendary "Timbuctoo" was? Or thought that "Cubana" was an island below Florida, or "Silica" an island below "Italy" in Europe? Well, those names and many others are one room schools that can be located on a map compiled as a Bicentennial project by the Randolph County Retired School Employees.

Broken up into the old Magisterial District, the organization has pinpointed 162 one-room schools dating back to 1876, the last one in Kerens closing its doors last year.

Morris Wilmoth, president of the organization, and Clara Davis, chairman of the Bicentennial Committee, said that the project was difficult because some of the names had not been included in school district records, and noted there are still a few names left to be put on when their locations are pinpointed.

Morris added that the organization is hopeful that another group will decide to make an up-to-date map pinpointing school locations after the county consolidated. The group is planning to display the birch-framed, lighted map constructed by Ernest Whiteman and Dick Feaster at area banks and at the Forest Festival.

A list of the one-room schools in Randolph County according to Magisterial District is as follows:

Beverly District: Beaver Creek, Bemis, Chestnut Grove, Elkhorn, Elliott's Ridge, Georgetown, Hazelwood, Midland, Millstone, Mount Vernon, Park, Schoonover, Wees and White.

Dry Ford District: Alpena, Beulah, Bonner Mt., Dry Fork, Elza, Flannigan, Gladly, Harman, Harpertown, Hartman, Hazelwood, Job, Lambert, Osceola, Pennington, Pine Grove, Rich Mt., Sully, Upper Dam,

Whitmer, Wymer, Wyoming, Horton, Evenwood, Johnson, Mylius, Deme School, and Jenningsston.

Huttonsville District: Bell, Channel, Conrad, Elkwater, Huttonsville, Jerusalem, Lloyd, McGee, Mitchell Run, Pingley, Ward, and Conley Run.

Leadsville District: Canfield, Chenoweth, Clay Lick, Cravensdale, Fairview, Flora, Harding, Hart, Highland Park, King Summit, Kelly Mt., Marsteller, Poe Run, Riverdale, Stalnaker Run, Vandergrift, Ward, Weaver, White, Laurel Hill, Curtis and Crystal Springs.

Middle Fork District: Adolph, Blue Rock, Cassidy, Czar, Daugherty, Fairview, Florence, Foxtown, Haselbacher, Helvetia, High Germany, Huff, Lewis, Long Run, Pickens, Pleasant Hill, Suncrest, Turkeybone, Union, Washington, and Cherry Grove.

Mingo District: Baldwin Mines, Big Run, Chestnut Grove, Conley Run, Cowger, Fairview, Hickory Lick, Mingo, Mud Lick, Oak Grove, Pine Grove, Rough Gap, Stnaker, Sunrise, Trough Springs, Valley Head, Wares Ridge, Blue Mingo, Monterville, Swacker Ridge, Swacker, and Upper Mingo.

New Interest District: Central, Cherry Fork, Gainer, Ivy Hill, Kerens, Mail Run, Montrose, Oak Grove, Pleasant Run, Victory, and Clifton Run.

Roaring Creek District: Coalton Elementary, Ellamore, Fairhope, Fairview, Harrison, King Summit, Kingsville No. I, Kingsville No. II, Mable, Norton, Rocky Glen, Rowan, Tallman, and Kings Run.

Valley Bend District: Bradley, Crawford, Dry Run, Glade Run, Maxwell, Shaver's Run, Spruce, Steiner, Thomas, Wilson, and Daily.

Randolph County Schools Exhibit Coming Soon!

by Maddy Fleming

This exhibit will showcase Randolph County's place in this history, from the Randolph Female Seminary to more currently recognized institutions like Beverly, Coalton, Elkins, Harman, Pickens, and Tygarts Valley schools. Many of the artifacts within this exhibit come from the one-room school era, namely textbooks, as well as short stories written by notable Randolph County educators, Virgil S. Hart and Donald L. Rice.

Artifacts from several noteworthy collections will also be featured, representing their contributions to Randolph County education.

Aside from this exhibit, the subscription schoolhouse located on the museum grounds also has a wealth of artifacts and is an excellent representation of how primary schooling was once structured. More detailed history on the subscription school building is available on our website.

Crafting a museum exhibit, no matter how big or small, can be an intimidating task, and one that is equally exciting and rewarding. I would certainly say such about my first experience in putting together this exhibit for the Randolph County Museum.

The Randolph County Schools exhibit is currently being arranged for viewing and will be ready in May. The Randolph County Museum will resume operations on Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend and be open to public visitation on Fridays and Saturdays, from 10am to 4pm. No entrance fee is required, and donations are appreciated.

We look forward to sharing this exhibit with the public very soon!



Interior of the subscription schoolhouse featuring desks, chalkboard, podium, and potbelly stove.

Support Randolph County History!

Please join or renew your membership in the Randolph County Historical Society. Your tax deductible dues and donations support the Randolph County Museum, and the preservation of our county's history.

Randolph County Historical Society
 PO Box 342
 Elkins, WV 26241

Randolph County Museum
 728 Main Street
 Beverly, WV 26253

www.randolphhistoricalwv.org
randolphcountymuseum@gmail.com

Membership 2023 Pay your dues now for 2023!

Annual Dues:

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Donation: \$ _____ Amount

Donation Purpose:

- Don Rice Memorial Fund for Museum Improvements
- Randy Allan Memorial Fund for Museum Improvements
- Capital Improvement Fund
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To pay online go to www.randolphhistoricalwv.org