

Randolph County Historical Society



Photo by Wanye Sheets

Riders of the Iron Road: History of the American Hobo

For over 100 years in the town of Britt, Iowa a hobo convention has taken place. This convention is a great place to meet hobos, friends of hobos, and learn what exactly a hobo is. Ed Griesel has attended this convention, and done extensive research about the 'American hobo.' If you missed the convention this year and still want to learn about hobos, come hear Griesel's presentation "Riders of the Iron Road - A History of the American Hobo".

Ed Griesel first became interested in hobos when he learned that his good friend's father was a hobo during the Great Depression. This personal connection to the subject led to Griesel researching, educating the public, and wanting to preserve the history of the 'American Hobo'.

The Hobos program will be the featured presentation at the Randolph County Historical Society annual meeting, Tuesday, November 15, at 7:00 p.m. at the Darden Mill. The Darden Mill is located at the corner of Railroad Avenue and First Street in Elkins.

Come find out what we are 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 on a Centennial Campaign to raise \$10,000 per year toward capital improvements for our buildings, collections and museum improvements. The money that the Society raises goes directly to preserving our buildings, sites, and collections.

For more information about the Campaign and a letter from the Historical Society's president, go to page 3 for more information and to help us continue the great work in Randolph County!

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MUSEUM UPDATES

Museum closed for season, but can be opened by an appointment.

Email us at: randolphcountymuseum@gmail.com

Or call: (304) 637-7424.

The museum is located on the corner of Main and Court St. in Beverly, WV.

Admission is free.

EVENTS

November 15th
Meeting and program @ 7pm,
Darden Mill, Elkins, WV

December 3rd
Museum opened during Beverly's Old Fashion Christmas



Randolph County Museum

PERSPECTIVE FROM THE PAST

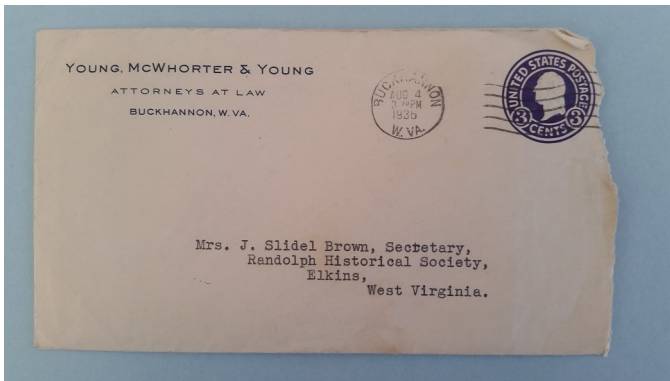
With the Randolph County Historical Society's focus on preserving the past, this letter puts some perspective on the hard work from 80 years ago.

On August 4, 1936 a letter was sent to Mrs. J. Slidel Brown, the Secretary of the Randolph County Historical Society. The letter conveyed the writer's dismay of not being able to make it a RCHS meeting and stated their respect for work the RCHS was doing, "The tenacity with which the Randolph County Historical Society persists in its onward course excited my deepest admiration. It has been doing a work whose value no one now can measure."

Looking back on the year 1936 many different events were occurring. The Olympic summer games were held in Berlin, FDR was re-elected president in a major landslide, and the country was still struggling to get out of the Great Depression. We had a country struggling with its current economic situation and a world heading towards WW II. Preserving the past for future generations wasn't the focus for many people, but here we have the example of the Randolph County Historical Society doing the opposite. This letter points this out and goes into great detail stating so:

In the decades hence, when its Cobbs, its Weeses, its Browns, its Maxwells, and all its other members who have done so much to promote the enterprise shall have been gathered to their Fathers and may be forgotten, when future historians shall peruse their work and see the historical data they have gathered and preserved, then, and not until then, can an adequate conception be had of the priceless work they have done. Unborn generations will be the beneficiaries of their labors. We of this century, who are trying to gather from the scattered and imperfect memoranda and traditions left by a pioneer here and there who had a slight vision of what this information might mean in the coming years, cannot yet envisage the priceless value of what we are now doing.

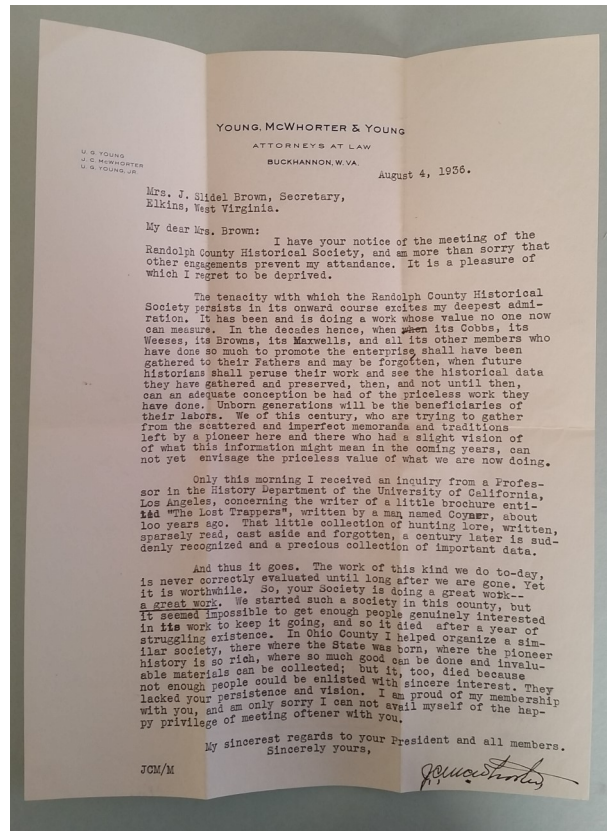
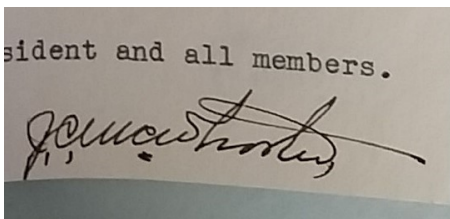
This letter was sent when the Randolph County Historical Society was twelve years old, today we are ninety two. Throughout the years we have grown and gone through some struggles like most historic societies do. With our volunteers and members assistance we have created a solid resource for the county and only with your help we can continue as a valuable resource for the public.



Above: Envelope dating Aug. 4th, 1936 with 3 cent postage, from Young, McWhorter & Young Attorneys at Law, Buckhannon, WV

Side: Letter to Mrs. J Slidel Brown, Secretary

Below: Signature of the letter writer



A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Centennial Campaign for Randolph History

The Randolph County Historical Society was founded in 1924 – over 90 years ago. Throughout the years the society has been the steward of several properties of historic importance, including Union trenches and the Confederate cemetery on Mt. Isner, and the old subscription school and Stalnaker House located on the Bosworth Store lot. The anchor of our properties has long been the Randolph County Museum, located in the old Bosworth Store building in the heart of Beverly.

Inside the Museum, the Society has an outstanding collection of artifacts of local importance. In addition to climate control to preserve the artifacts, it is an ongoing task to keep them cleaned and cared for, properly indexed and displayed. With the help of our AmeriCorps member, we are taking care of our collections, and changing some of the exhibits a little bit at a time. But this all takes money as well for archival and curation supplies and proper display materials.

The secret to preservation of historic buildings is ongoing maintenance, and making repairs before they deteriorate. This takes funds as well as hard work. We are working toward upgrading the heating system for the building, as well as foundation repairs and brick repointing. The Subscription School and Stalnaker Cabin are both wooden buildings, which need ongoing maintenance to preserve.

The Society preserves and shares the stories of our history, through our exhibits and periodic programs. Please get involved! Join the Society, come to our programs, visit the museum, volunteer to help!

As President of the Randolph County Historical Society, I thank our members for their past support and remind you also that it is dues renewal time. Although our dues are not a large amount, they help support our activities and programs. I would like to encourage all members to not only renew, but also to recruit an additional member, or give a gift membership. You could be the catalyst that helps awaken interest and pride in Randolph County's rich heritage.

And we need you - as supporters of Randolph County history – to donate what you can to our capital campaign to preserve our historic buildings, and our county's heritage. With your help, we can expand our reach and improve awareness of how Randolph County's story is an important part of our nation's history.



The Jacob Stalnaker Cabin

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**"

Suggested levels to contribute:

_____ \$25 _____ \$50 _____ \$100 _____ \$250 _____ \$500 _____ \$1000

Amount of contribution: _____ enclosed: _____ pledged: _____

Yes, I want to **join / renew membership** in the Randolph County Historical Society for 2016.

_____ \$10 Hardship _____ \$20 Membership _____ \$50 Supporting

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email (if used) or phone: _____

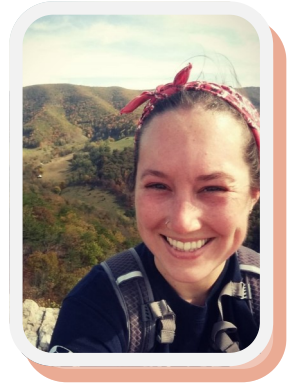
Return by mail with enclosed check to the RCHS at: P.O. Box 342 Elkins WV 26241

MEET OUR NEW AMERICORPS MEMBER!

Hello all! My name is Jessica Marks and I have the privilege of being the new AFHA AmeriCorps for the Randolph County Historical Society and Beverly Heritage Center. I went to Grand Valley State University, a University in my home state of Michigan, and received a bachelor's degree in art history with a minor in history from in 2013. Since graduating, I've worked a handful of random jobs ranging from selling tickets at the Historic Mackinac Island Fort, to conducting and engineering a tourist train in Southwest Montana.

In the spring of 2015 I drove nearly 3,000 miles to Skagway, AK for a job as a naturalist/boat crew on glacier tour boats. This job is where I really became interested in sharing information with the public and telling stories about the area. After that job I was lucky enough to backpack through Peru for a month and had a fantastic time learning about the country and culture. When I arrived back to the states I drove to Montana, prepared for a winter in the Rockies, and began my collections internship with the Montana Heritage Commission. This internship is when I decided that I want to work with artifacts and the preservation efforts to keep them available for future generations.

I hope that with my background and interest in art history and history that I can help both the Beverly Heritage Center and Randolph County Historical Society with the organization of the collections, while helping the community realize what a valuable asset both sites are.



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 # and membership fee to the RCHS mailbox at: Box 342

Elkins WV 26241

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HERE

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