

HISTORY

Weston Historic Landmark Commission news and announcements

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Weston Cultural Center Slate Auction

By Anna Cardelli

Last year when the roof restoration and replacement was completed at the Cultural Center the team salvaged as much of the old slate material as possible. This slate is now being reborn into artwork. This art has been created by West Virginia artists all over the state to help support the Weston Cultural Center restoration project. The funds raised from this event will support the restoration the Stained Glass window restoration.

The large windows have been carefully removed from the building and taken to RustBelt Restoration to be restored for reinstallation. This project is a vital aspect of our facade restoration project and preserving our local history. To complete this project we need funds to cover the cost of the restoration work.

The time and craft of many local artists have been dedicated to this project. Now these works of art are available on the Kaufman Auction site for bidding. If you would like to support the restoration of these amazing windows please go up and bid on the artwork at the link below.

All of the slates are currently on display at Ember Arts 200 N River Ave Weston WV 26452 until the conclusion of the auction on June 10th at 8 PM.

The HLC would like to thank all of the artists, Kaufman Auctions, Ember Arts, and all the volunteers who have made this event possible.

To view the slate and bid please visit the Kaufman Auction link below.

<https://bid.kaufmanauctionswv.com/auctions/catalog/id/36114/>



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Old Hill Cemetery Clean Up

By Anna Cardelli

Old Hill Cemetery is the original cemetery for the town of Weston. This cemetery is historically important and in need of preservation. This fall the access road to the top of the hill was repaved to allow for improved access to the upper portion of the cemetery. This year a focus is being made to complete the Clio tours for this site, clean up and cemetery plot maps.

The Weston HLC and PAWV will be partnering up Saturday, June 11th, 2023 to hold the first cemetery cleanup project this year for Old Hill. The group will be resetting headstones and cleaning the grounds. This event is open to the public and anyone who wishes to volunteer. The group will meet at the parking lot across from the Weston City building at 10 am and carpool over to the cemetery. The location for clean up is on a steep hill and will require closed shoes with good traction. It is recommended that volunteers wear sunscreen, bug spray, gloves and bring water. We look forward to seeing you all out for this project!

@preserve_wv

CEMETERY CLEAN UP

Join us on Sunday, June 11 to clean up the Weston Old Hill Cemetery and reset a few stones!

Meet at the Weston Municipal Building 102 W 2nd Street at 10 a.m.
For more information contact jwingett@cityofwestonwv.com

Weston Cultural Center Restoration



The three very large stained glass windows have been safely removed over the course of three days by Rust Belt Restoration. The windows have been moved to their facility for restoration. A slate fundraiser going on until June 10th will help facilitate the restoration of these windows so that they can be fully restored and reinstalled in the building once the facade improvements have been completed.

Now that the windows have been removed from the building the facade improvements can move forward. If you would like to support this aspect of the restoration project please visit the link to the slate fundraiser and bid to help us earn the funds to ensure the preservation of these beautiful stained glass windows. A lot will be happening on this building in the coming months so stay tuned.



Slate Art Project

By Anna Cardelli

During the restoration of the roof for the Weston Cultural Center, we were able to save portions of the old slate. This slate is being repurposed into art by local West Virginia artists. This fundraiser will support the restoration of the stained glass windows in the Weston Cultural Center.

The slate will be available for viewing over the weekend of June 10th at Ember Arts located at 200 N River Ave in Weston. The auction will be open for bidding at this same time so be sure to take the time to stop in and check out the hard work of many local artists and then get online and bid. The picture is of one of the slates donated by Liz Pavlovic.

Bidding closes at 8pm on June 10th 2023

<https://bid.kaufmanauctionswv.com/auctions/catalog/id/36114/>



Summer Concert Series and History Alive! Free Events

By Anna Cardelli

The Weston Cultural Center, The City of Weston, The HLC, and many local businesses have made the second year of the summer concert series possible. The events will take place at Holt Square located on Main Avenue next to the glass museum. Don't miss the lineup this year as we have several great artists. Grab your lawn chairs, blankets, and come out and enjoy fantastic evenings of music in the park.

This is the second year, the Historic Landmark Commission is proud to provide the West Virginia Humanities Councils History Alive! performers as free summer events. These performances will be ongoing through the summer and are free for all to attend. History Alive! gives you a first-hand account of the lives of several characters from the past.

This event would not be possible without the support of our generous sponsors.

NELLIE BLY

June 10th 2023 @ 11am
Holt Square, Weston WV



Weston Historic Landmark Commission
Presents Nellie Bly - History Alive!
Free performance at Holt Square

In 1887, Nellie Bly was hired as a reporter with Pulitzer's New York The World, she feigned insanity to get committed to a lunatic asylum with no guarantee of release. Her subsequent articles on the conditions and treatment of the "patients" led to improvements in the care of the mentally ill. Come enjoy getting to know Nellie Bly, portrayed by JoAnn Peterson of Kingwood during the Weston Carp Festival on Main Ave.

History Alive!

Historical figures, first-person portrayals



CHARLES SCHULZ

June 17th 2023 @ 11am
Holt Square, Weston WV



Weston Historic Landmark Commission
Presents Charles Schulz - History Alive!
Free performance at Holt Square

Schulz was a cartoonist best known as the creator of the Peanuts comic strip that featured Charlie Brown, Snoopy, Linus, and all the rest of the gang. A veteran of World War II, Schulz's first Peanuts strip was published in 1950 in seven newspapers. At the time of his death in 2000, it was appearing in 2,600 papers around the world. Schulz recognized that comics were not just a medium for children, portrayed by James Froemel of Madsville at Holt Square on Main Ave.

History Alive!

Historical figures, first-person portrayals



THEODORE ROOSEVELT

August 12th 2023 @ 11am
Holt Square, Weston WV

Weston Historic Landmark Commission
Presents Theodore Roosevelt
History Alive!
Free performance at Holt Square

In addition to being the 26th president, Theodore Roosevelt won the Nobel Peace Prize, led the Rough Riders in the Spanish-American War, served as governor of New York, authored more than 35 books, ranched in the Badlands of the Dakota Territory, lectured around the world and established some of our most beloved national parks. A strong advocate of the "life of strenuous endeavor" Roosevelt pushed himself to overcome a sickly childhood. The youngest president in our history, he championed progressive reforms and a strong foreign policy.

Portrayed by Gene Worthington of Fayetteville at Holt Square on Main Ave.



History Alive!

Historical figures, first-person portrayals



WESTON LIVE MUSIC SERIES

PRESENTED BY

H&M MOTORS &

WEST VIRGINIA AMERICAN WATER

6:00PM - 8:30PM AT HOLT SQUARE IN DOWNTOWN WESTON, WV

JUNE 2ND **The Dirty Grass Players**

JUNE 16TH **The Montvales**

JUNE 30TH **Aaron Henry**

JULY 14TH **Tanner Bingaman**

JULY 28TH **Ash Devine**

AUGUST 11TH **Minor Swing**

AUGUST 25TH **The Wild Hymns**



H&M MOTORS
AND

 **WEST VIRGINIA
AMERICAN WATER**

 **UNITED
BANK**

West Virginia
**JAZZ
Society**



Citizens Bank

Caplan's
JEWELRY STORE

 **CITY OF
WESTON**
West Virginia




**WESTON
CULTURAL
CENTER**

The City Building

By Kristen Bailey

Weston has long been at the center of the state's transportation systems, sitting today near the intersection of US Route 33 and Interstate 79. In the nineteenth century, the Virginia state government chartered the Staunton Turnpike, which was intended to be part of a larger road system to link to the National Road. Construction of what was adopted as the Staunton-Parkersburg Turnpike was completed in 1845, opening opportunities to transport livestock and

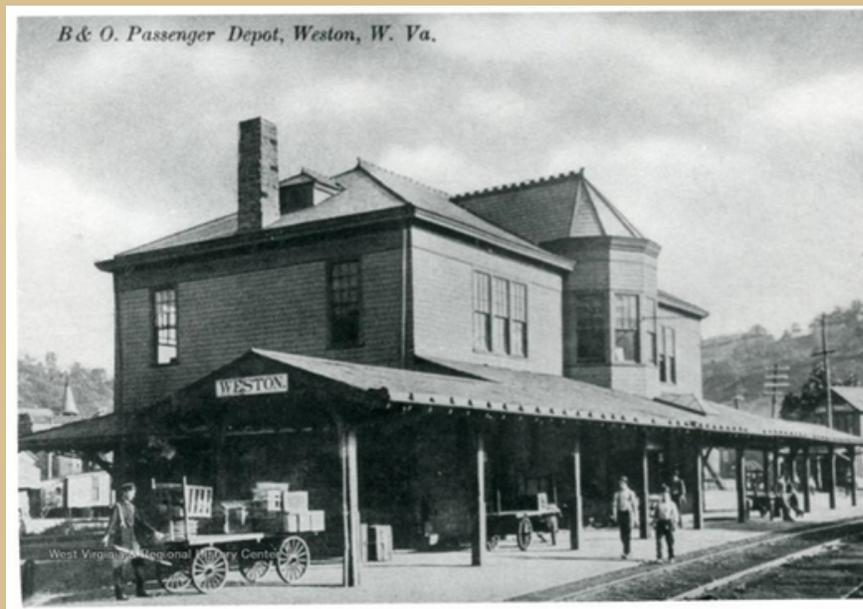
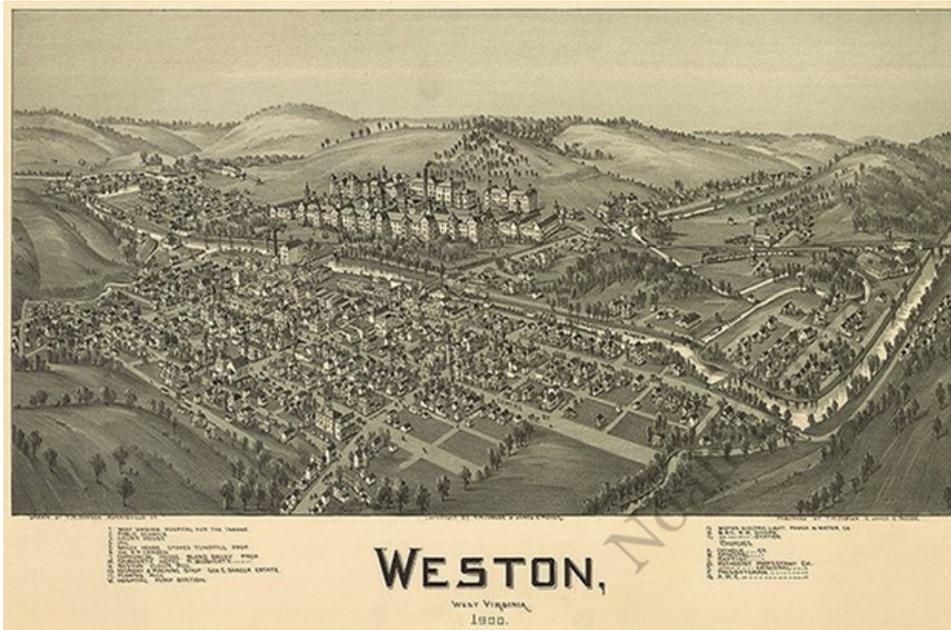
farm products, as the road finally reached the Ohio River at Parkersburg in 1847. ¹ The intersection of the Ohio and Little Kanawha Rivers at Parkersburg provided multiple opportunities for market exchange. Weston also acquired good access to the southern regions of the state via the Weston & Gauley Bridge Turnpike, also chartered by the Virginia General Assembly, which was a viable route beginning in 1858. ²



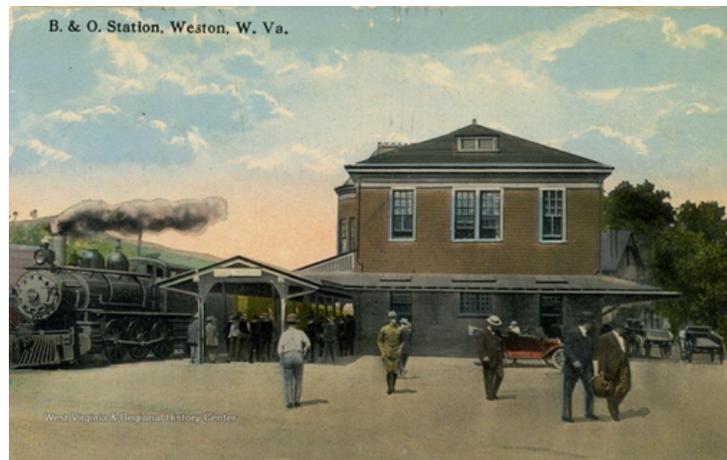
While the Civil War was a great disrupter of travel and resulted in significant damage to multiple road systems across the state, the advantage that Weston gained by having established access to these systems was critical to the town's post-war economic revival. While Weston did not lie directly on primary Baltimore & Ohio Railroad lines, a narrow-gauge track from Clarksburg was opened in 1879, linking the town to additional business opportunities. The presence of the B&O was enhanced when the transportation giant updated the route to standard gauge and located a division office in town in the 1920s. The former B&O building is currently the home of the municipal government offices for Weston, and its presence serves as an anchor to the downtown historic business district. The city's core businesses lie along the intersection of these oldest transportation routes, and the presence of so many of our prized historic structures speaks to the value of maintaining good links to viable market routes.

1. Sturm, Philip "Staunton-Parkersburg Turnpike." e-WV: The West Virginia Encyclopedia. 05 November 2010. Web. 05 June 2023.

2 Kemp, Emory L. "Weston & Gauley Bridge Turnpike." e-WV: The West Virginia Encyclopedia. 25 March 2020. Web. 05 June 2023.



This early twentieth-century view of the B&O depot from the Roy Bird Cook Collection shows the importance of trade by the presence of wagons and crates. Other images, such as the postcard view below, show us business travelers coming and going from this hub of activity, although evidence of farm traffic remains with the presence of wagons.



Today, the former B&O building remains a hub – this time for city government. Weston’s municipal offices are located within the structure, as are the city’s police force, and offices for the variety of meetings that keep the city humming. The building also serves as an early voting site for municipal elections. You may have noticed recent improvements at the municipal building, as the city is preparing to repaint this highly valued historic structure. With the bid awarded to All Star Painting, a local business, the revitalized face of Weston’s City government is expected to be completed by mid-June.

Cont'd

Helping residents and businesses stay informed on ways to restore, rehabilitate, or refresh historic buildings is part of the Weston Historic Landmarks Commission's central mission. We applaud the city for taking steps to maintain the integrity of this important historic structure in our downtown district.



Clio Tours

The City currently has three historic walking tours online through the Clio website/app. These self-guided tours can be done at your leisure and encompass many of our most historic buildings and sites. You can complete an entire tour in one walk or do a section at a time. For more information or to view the tours please visit the links below. All tours are listed at www.theclio.com website.

This summer the HLC is working on the Old Hill Cemetery's tour and a military walking tour and will make them available as soon as they are complete.

The City of Weston, WV historic downtown walking tour:

<https://theclio.com/tour/1774>

Historic Residential Walking Tour downtown Weston, WV:

<https://theclio.com/tour/2408>

Historic Residential Walking Tour downtown Weston WV:

<https://theclio.com/tour/2407>

How you can help

How you can help? The projects you have read about in this newsletter represent a significant and long-term commitment to preserving Weston and Lewis County's heritage. The Weston Historic Landmark Commission is a 100% volunteer-based group that has dedicated participants that are very passionate about this community. If you share our passion for the City of Weston and Lewis County, you may be wondering how you can help! We need volunteers to support exhibits, restoration projects, and community activities.

We also need volunteers to help us bring programming to the public and help us keep costs as affordable as possible. If you are unable to participate physically and want to contribute via work-at-home projects or monetary contributions, these are other ways you can support our goals. We have something for everyone, and we appreciate all contributions, large and small. If you wish to support our work, please contact westonhlc@cityofwestonwv.com to find out more.



HLC Summer Projects

Walk This Way 11:30 am June 9th Ribbon Cutting @ Louis Bennett Library Weston WV

Millie Bly History Alive! June 10th, 11am
Charles Shultz History Alive! June 17th, 11 am
Theodore Roosevelt History Alive August 12, 11 am
All History Alive! are at Holt Square next to the glass museum.

Weston Summer Concert Series is ongoing @ Holt Square in Weston WV.

The Weston Carp Festival is back and will be held this year on June 10, 2023 @ Holt Square

Artist Slate Auction June 10th, on exhibit at Ember Arts 200 N River Ave Weston WV. The auction is online and ends at 8pm on June 10th.

Cemetery Clean Up 10am June 11th @ Old Hill Cemetery Weston WV located at 15 S. Center Ave Weston, WV 26452

