

# HISTORY

*Weston Historic Landmark Commission news and announcements*

## *In This Issue*

**Welcoming our new  
AmeriCorps member**

**Weston's new Clio walking  
tour and what's to come**

**Cultral Center Update**

**Slate Art Project and  
Fundraiser**

**Jackson's Mill:  
Transition from family-owned  
mill to State 4-H Camp**

**Go West Young Man**

**How you can help / Spring  
Projects**

The Weston Historic Landmark Commission

p. 304-269-6141

f. 304-269-7842

e. westonhlc@cityofwestonwv.com

102 W 2nd St Weston WV 26452

## HLC's New AmeriCorp Member

By Jacob Wingett

My name is Jacob Wingett, and I came to West Virginia from Arizona (after growing up in Ohio). After graduating high school, I spent six years in the Air Force and lived in multiple states during my active duty (primarily North Carolina and Arizona). After finishing my six-year enlistment in 2019, I started to attend Arizona State University full-time and finished a degree in Parks and Recreation Management last semester. In my spare time, I enjoy many outdoor activities: running, hiking, and backpacking.

I am excited to be welcomed as the 2023 AmeriCorps Member for The Weston HLC through the West Virginia Preservation Alliance. We will be working on several projects this year including local heritage cultural events, historic walking tours, the Cultural Center restoration project, and our historic cemetery projects.

## Weston's New Clio Walking Tours

By Jacob Wingett

The Weston HLC has completed two new Clio walking tours for the Historic Residential District. Each tour consists of 12 residences/buildings and when combined, the tours create a loop through the historic districts of Weston. The tours showcase some of the oldest and most architecturally significant structures in our town.

These are intended to be “living” tours in the sense that more buildings can be added and more history/information can be added to existing entries. If you have historic information or photographs of some of the buildings within the districts, connect with the HLC on Facebook.

The tours can be accessed by going to [theclio.com](https://theclio.com) and searching for individual entries or tours in Weston, WV. You can also download the Clio (Your Guide to History) app and follow along one of the tours around the town.

# Weston Cultural Center Update

We are in the second phase of the building restoration project. This is a multi-year project that has been making steady progress. During these first two phases of the project, the team has been able to remove the failing front facade addition, reinforce the retaining wall at the back of the property, address drainage, replace the roof, and soffits, and restore corbels, and gutters. We have worked with a WV-based historic architecture firm to create the conceptual drawings for the new facade and internal that include ADA accessibility issues. We will be working with a local company that focuses on the historic restoration of stained glass windows to restore the front windows. These three very large windows will be removed, restored, and reinstalled after the facade update has been completed. The salvaged slate from the roof restoration will be repurposed for a WV artist slate fundraiser project. They will be auctioned off during the week of June 10th, funds raised from this project will help cover the cost of the restoration of these amazing windows.

The HLC has been awarded a grant from the West Virginia State Historic Preservation Office to complete the final construction drawings for this building. The team is working to complete this project so we are ready for the new facade and interior restoration of this project. We are grateful for everyone's patience with this project and understanding while we have had to block the road and work with contractors. While it is sometimes hard to see all the work going on, we are diligently working on this project to complete it.

## Slate Art Project

By Anna Cardelli

During the restoration of the roof of the Weston Cultural Center, we were able to save much 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. Artists may pick up slates and return them to the HLC. If you are an artist or know a local artist who would like to participate in this project please contact Ember Arts at [\(304\) 997-8743](tel:3049978743).

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 by many local artists and then get online and bid. The picture is of one of the slates donated by Liz Pavlovic.





# Jackson's Mill: Transition from family-owned mill to State 4-H Camp

By: Joe Obidzinski



Photos provided by WVU Jackson's Mill Archives

Most people are at least passingly familiar with the story of the Jackson family. Fewer may be familiar with how the site was selected as the location for the first state camp and the development of the site that followed.

Around 1849, Cummins Jackson (the son of Edward Jackson, and uncle to Thomas “Stonewall” Jackson and his sister Laura) left the site for California, where he died within months of his arrival. Following his death, the mill went through a series of owners. The first owners were John White and his wife, Katherine Jackson White. After Katherine died, William and Hulda Moxley purchased the property and mill, but eventually lost the home due to financial issues. A local miller, Joseph Clifton, purchased the property in 1886 and began work to renovate the house, but he died shortly after. Over the next few years, the mill ceased operation (the last reported grind was in 1892) and Clifton’s widow and daughter rented the house. In 1913, they sold the home to A.T. Watson, but the house burned to the ground in December of 1915.

In time, the land once owned by the Jacksons was parceled up. Eventually, all that remained was a small plot of land on which sat the gristmill. While no longer the prosperous milling operation, it was still an attraction due to the notoriety of “Stonewall” Jackson and the picturesque nature of the grounds and river. People regularly visited and picnicked in the area of what is currently the Heritage Area of Jackson’s Mill.



## Cont'dt

The experimental and innovative electric trolley later ran from Weston to Fairmont, with a stop just across the river from the Old Mill. In 1921, the Monongahela Securities Company acquired the land from Mr. Watson with the intention of drilling for oil, but they didn't own the property for long. Later in 1921, the West Virginia State Legislature appropriated money to secure a site for a State 4-H Camp facility, and a group of 4-H members and staff held the first State 4-H Camp at Jackson's Mill that summer. The transfer of the land was finalized in 1924, but by that time development at Jackson's Mill was well underway.

Following the success of Camp Good Luck, State 4-H leader and visionary William "Teepi" Kendrick understood the importance of camping as a reward for 4-H members. He saw it as an opportunity to shape young people by encouraging them to reach their fullest potential. Kendrick aimed to create a place where young people could be "trained [in] leadership by stretching the boys and girls to see the Four-Fold Life standards and to inspire them to lift themselves toward it." Jackson's Mill provided Kendrick and his colleague, Charles "Uncle Charlie" Hartley, the perfect place. They had grand visions of the site's potential and their hopes stretched far beyond their immediate capabilities, but holding the first camp at Jackson's Mill that summer became their priority. After much planning and effort from Kendrick, Hartley, and several others, the first State 4-H Camp was held at Jackson's Mill in the summer of 1921.

That summer, seventy-five (75) people attended the first state 4-H camp held at Jackson's Mill. The first campers were members of the Extension Service and Club Leaders who were exposed not only to the 4-H camping experience and programs of Jackson's Mill, but also to what the 4-H camping experience in West Virginia should look like at camps held across the state.



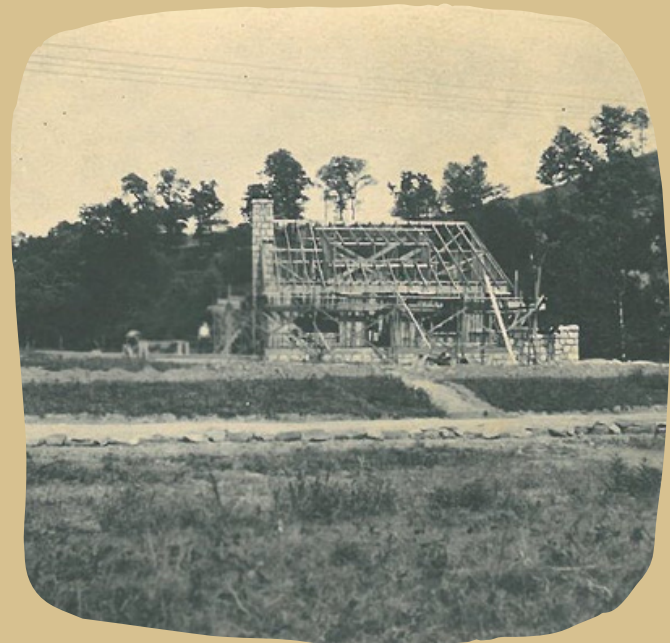
Photo provided by WVU  
Jackson's Mill Archives



## Cont'd

As campers arrived at Jackson's Mill, they found a lush green field perfectly suited for outdoor activities, tents, and a temporary shed. The Jackson gristmill building served as a meeting space and sleeping quarters, and campers spent time swimming in the West Fork River near the old mill. After morning classes, they had afternoon recreation time and evening council programs. Everyone shared responsibilities like cooking, cleaning after meals, and picking up trash throughout the campsite.

With the first camp completed successfully, Kendrick and Hartley set to work expanding the amenities at Jackson's Mill and the opportunities they could provide. They were helped along the way by several others who shared their vision, including WVU Extension Director Nat T. Frame. The vision of these early leaders did not simply view Jackson's Mill as a site for 4-H camping. They saw an opportunity for a vast array of people to benefit from all it had to offer. In order to meet these needs, plans for permanent infrastructure at Jackson's Mill were developed.



Photos provided by WVU Jackson's Mill Archives

Even as Kendrick and others moved forward with their plans, they also needed to host an entire season of camps for longer durations than the first camp in 1921. In 1922, eight camps were scheduled and held. To accommodate these events, large tents were placed in the small open flat near the old mill. Additionally, a semi-permanent mess hall and several small cabins were constructed nearby. The mess hall and tents were left up during the camping season but could be taken down during the colder months. Although these changes improved upon the limitations of the 1921 camp, it would not be a long-term solution.

The first step to creating permanent sites at Jackson's Mill was to hire someone to design and plan the physical footprint. Tell Nicollett, a landscape engineer from Pittsburgh, was selected for the task. Nicollett produced a grand vision for Jackson's Mill that suggested both the breadth of the plans for the site, as well as a practical approach to meet the multifaceted needs of Kendrick and the other planners. Growth was essential to realize the visions of Kendrick, Hartley, Nicollett, and Extension Director Nat T. Frame to develop a large campus with many new opportunities. A copy of Nicollett's original plan hangs in the hallway of the Jackson's Mill Registration Office—check it out next time you visit!

## Cont'd

After months of planning, and guided in part by Nicollett's concept, Kendrick and others actively took up the task of developing partnerships and fundraising for the new buildings and facilities they planned.

Throughout the camping season, Kendrick and others were hard at work on various construction projects throughout other parts of the camp. Partnerships from the University and the local community directly contributed to the early growth of Jackson's Mill, and these partnerships highlighted the groups' commitment to the project's success. The University contributed to the construction of a bath house because the WVU football team elected to practice at Jackson's Mill during the summer of 1922. This bath house was also a welcome addition to the site for campers. A water and sewage disposal system was also added to meet the needs of larger groups on campus, and local businessmen in Weston offered to underwrite the \$6000 cost of construction as the camp did not have the funds immediately available to complete the project.

With some of the physical plant needs attended to, and others under way, Kendrick was also working to complete a series of permanent lodging for guests to Jackson's Mill. The design plan that Nicollett produced called for a series of "cottages" (or cabins) located throughout the grounds. These were vital for Kendrick's plans, but the cost to build numerous cottages proved prohibitive. Kendrick came up with an innovative solution to this problem, a solution that paved the way to one of the most iconic elements of Jackson's Mill.

In order to offset construction costs and encourage involvement from communities across the state, Kendrick pushed for these cottages to be named after various counties. He encouraged counties to begin fundraising campaigns for materials, as well as plan to supply volunteers for the physical construction. With Jackson's Mill located in Lewis County and Harrison County hosting their 4-H camp at the Mill, it's unsurprising that they were the first two counties to start planning. A friendly competition to see which county could get their cottage constructed first began. In the summer of 1922, construction on the Lewis County cabin began that summer.

The location of the cottage was selected because it was near the main camping area near the old Jackson Mill and nearby flat where the tents and mess hall were located. In case you've wondered why Lewis Cabin is seemingly the furthest away from the Dining Hall, this is why.

The cabin itself was constructed of "everlasting cypress to represent the 'hang-on' that the successful club members [had]." It was described as a functional cabin, not so elaborate as to shame the product of any other counties who might build cabins later. According to some accounts, a few of the foundation stones were taken from the old Jackson dam which had long since fallen into disuse.

The cabin was completed in early November of 1922, and the dedication ceremony was held on July 27th, 1923. While a great deal of money was raised to aid in the cabin's construction, Kendrick asked all 4-H members who attended the dedication to bring \$1 to help offset the remaining debt for the cabin's construction.

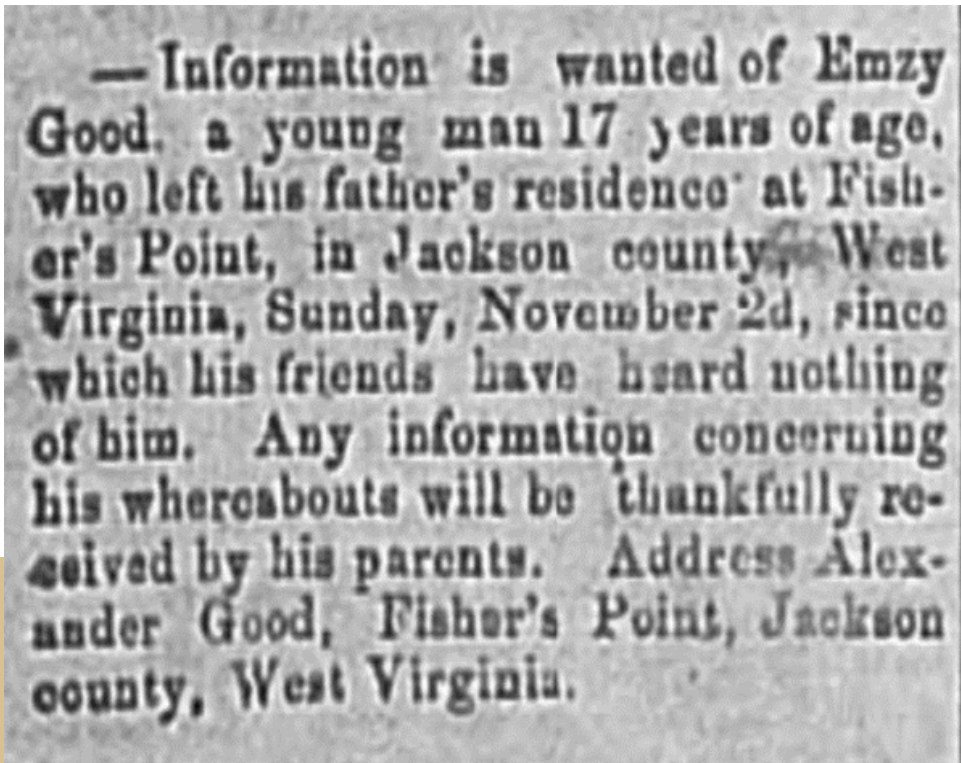
In the years since, Lewis Cabin has been remodeled several times. Shortly after World War II (1948), \$8000 was spent to remodel the building. More recently, in the spring of 2002, Lewis Cabin became the first cabin at Jackson's Mill to undergo extensive renovations including updating the cabin to meet ADA accessibility standards. It was also one of the first to have air conditioning installed.

The success of these early camps paved the way for Jackson's Mill's continued development. Under Kendrick's guidance the coming years saw a great deal of growth as many of the recognizable elements of Jackson's Mill took shape.

# Go West Young Man

By Kristen Bailey

Local newspapers can be utilized in a variety of ways for historians. When looking into the history of a place, newspapers can provide great context about local events, business, and the lives of residents. Another important feature of local newspapers is the ability to see the ways in which national events and practices impacted on the local. This article explores the ways in which the Homestead Act and westward expansion can be seen within a small article which, at first glance, appears to be just an insignificant blurb in a weekly local. On November 24, 1873, a farmer from Jackson County, West Virginia placed a notice in *The Weston Democrat*, seeking information on the whereabouts of his teenage son, Emzy Good.



— Information is wanted of Emzy Good, a young man 17 years of age, who left his father's residence at Fisher's Point, in Jackson county, West Virginia, Sunday, November 2d, since which his friends have heard nothing of him. Any information concerning his whereabouts will be thankfully received by his parents. Address Alexander Good, Fisher's Point, Jackson county, West Virginia.

*The Weston Democrat*, November 24, 1873, p. 3, [24 Nov 1873, Page 3 - The Weston Democrat at Newspapers.com](#). We note that the name is spelled both “Emzy” and “Emzy” in the historical record. Because the published request for information reads “Emzy,” we will continue that spelling throughout for clarity.

Newspapers of the day operated in a fashion which we might compare with our own digital apps, giving and receiving information from a number of sources. Current Facebook practices spring immediately to mind on reading the request for information about Emzy Good. Alexander Good was a farmer who likely depended upon the hands of his children to work the family farm and was clearly alarmed enough to spread a call across the state seeking information about his son's whereabouts. By the time this ad ran in our local paper, young Emzy had been absent from home for more than twenty days, certainly a situation which alarmed his family. By 1880, Emzy had married and was living close to his father's farm in his home county with his wife, Martha, and two small sons, noting that he worked as a farm laborer. His initial absence from home was transitory, but it would not be his last trip away from Jackson County, as Emzy became part of our national history.

History leaves gaps, and we cannot know the full story of Emzy Good, but what we ultimately know is that Emzy left the mountain state.

## Cont. Go West Young Man

West Virginians – like most of the United States – was enveloped in a feverish call to “go west,” to take advantage of federal legislation that granted tracts of land for eligible citizens (male and female) to set up independent homesteading. Historian Eric Foner notes that the Republican Party believed firmly in “the ideal of equality opportunity for social mobility and economic independence,” pushing federal funding such as the Homestead Act to grant tracts of land for those willing to settle the American west.

By 1900, Emzy and Martha had immigrated to Job Township, Oregon County, Missouri, where he continued to work as a farm laborer, and listed in the 1900 census that he was renting his home. The Goods had been young parents, with their oldest son born when Martha was nineteen and Emzy was twenty-two. Three small daughters rounded out the hopeful homestead in 1900. Like so many Americans who moved west in search of independence through the Homestead Act, Emzy found himself in the company of people from a wide variety of backgrounds. Just within his district, there were families from Arkansas, Illinois, Tennessee, Kentucky, Missouri, Mississippi, Texas, and Ohio. Many of these settlers were clearly from immigrant families, as the census taker recorded several children of parents from Austria, Germany, and Sweden. Emzy Good listed his occupation in 1900 as a farm laborer, meaning that he did not own his own property and was still working for someone else.

There was one physician, one mail order clerk, one school teacher, four merchants, one flour miller, four blacksmiths, and one engineer in Oregon County, Missouri. The remaining residents listed their occupations as farmer, farm laborer, or day laborer. This pattern is consistent with homesteading communities which popped up across the American West, in the great early Republican policy of helping poverty-stricken citizens to build their own path to independence with access to low-cost farmland. In many instances, the land offered was of poor quality or otherwise insufficient to create such independence. Such may have been the case for Emzy Good, as he did not remain long in Missouri.

The Goods kept pressing west, ultimately settling in Quay County, New Mexico. By 1910, it was just Emzy and Martha on their home farm, and Emzy listed his occupation as farmer into his 60s and 70s. Keep in mind that “retirement,” and the concept of Social Security had not yet become a part of our national language, so Emzy likely kept his hand to the plow for his entire life. Alexander Good, the father who was desperate to locate his son in 1874, remained in Jackson County for his entire adult life. While Emzy heard the call of westward expansion, Alexander kept his home among the hills. In his last will and testament, Alexander remembered his son Emzy, dividing a Jackson County farm of 104 acres between Emzy and his brother, A.C. Good, leaving other tracts of land to his other children.

From a small notice printed in *The Weston Democrat*, we see the life of a young man tracing his independence from his father’s farm in Jackson County, West Virginia, out to the red dirt of Quay County, New Mexico. We see a father deeply attached to the son who wandered, remembering his child as he neared the end of his own farming life. Small articles, embedded in small local papers, hold incredible stories.

The *Weston Democrat*, November 24, 1873, p. 3, [24 Nov 1873, Page 3 - The Weston Democrat at Newspapers.com](#). We note that the name is spelled both “Emzy” and “Emsy” in the historical record. Because the published request for information reads “Emzy,” we will continue that spelling throughout for clarity.

1880 U.S. Census, [AncestryLibrary.com - 1880 United States Federal Census](#).

Eric Foner, *Free Soil, Free Labor, Free Men: The Ideology of the Republican Party Before the Civil War* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1970), 29.

Emsy Good, U.S. Census 1910, 1920, 1930, Quay County, New Mexico, [AncestryLibrary.com - 1910 United States Federal Census](#), [AncestryLibrary.com - 1920 United States Federal Census](#), [AncestryLibrary.com - 1930 United States Federal Census](#).

Will of Alexander Good, *Will Book, Vol 2-3, 1848-1916*, West Virginia. County Court (Jackson County); Probate Place: Jackson, West Virginia, pp. 310-311. [West Virginia, U.S., Wills and Probate Records, 1724-1985 - AncestryLibrary.com](#)



# 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](mailto:westonhlc@cityofwestonwv.com) to find out more.



## HLC Spring Projects

The HLC has been working with the city on the Old Hill annual Cemetery cleanup. Mowing will start in spring and volunteer-based clean-up programs will start in June 2023.

The Weston Cultural Center and the Blue Print Community will be implementing story walks throughout the community.

Preparations for the Weston Summer Concert Series and second year of History Alive! These events are free so be sure to keep an eye out for the summer schedule and enjoy.

The Weston Carp Festival is back and will be held this year on June 10, 2023. Preparations are underway.

Removal and restoration of the stained glass windows for the Weston Cultural Center will be happening in spring 2023.

The slate fundraiser from the old slate roof is happening this spring. Be sure to participate and bid for your favorite artwork.

