

3. NARRATIVE

A. History and Scope of the West Virginia Newspapers

The history of West Virginia newspapers provides a rich and valuable narrative of the state, from its war torn separation from Virginia, to its development as a state whose newspapers reported the rapid growth of industry; from coal mining to oil, lumber and glass, to the influx of immigrant and African American populations to work in these burgeoning fields of commerce. The decades selected for examination cover an exciting period of West Virginia history as discontent grows in the Western section of Virginia, cries of succession rise and gather forces, the granting of statehood, and the continuing struggle for resolution of the state's separation from Virginia in court as arguments concerning the Virginia/West Virginia debt suit seek conclusion. During this same period, West Virginia finds itself at the forefront of labor and civil rights, as well as a participant in the temperance movement that swept through both the state and the nation. In short, there is no other state like West Virginia.

Harold Forbes, the recognized expert on West Virginia's newspapers and the previous managing director for West Virginia's NDNP project wrote about the history of West Virginia's newspapers in his article for the *West Virginia Encyclopedia*, available at E-WV:

<http://www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/1666> The following history is excerpted from Forbes article.

According to Forbes, "prior to the creation of West Virginia in 1863, 43 towns had established at least one weekly newspaper, and larger towns supported several. By 1850, 21 weeklies and three dailies, published in both the English and German languages, were serving a population of approximately 300,000 in Western Virginia.

The *Wheeling Intelligencer*, established in 1852, was the only daily newspaper before the Civil War. The proliferation of newspapers reflected the needs of rival political parties, demand for news of social and political controversy, the need for legal and official notices in recently created counties, and recent technological advances in printing. Although the earliest newspapers were primarily filled with national and foreign news, country editors soon learned that their efforts should be devoted to local and regional news. Throughout the early nineteenth century, religious and agricultural journals were popular, and many were published in Western Virginia. However, the region's population was small and dispersed over a rugged terrain, illiteracy was widespread, and poor transportation hindered newspaper circulation. By 1863, approximately 250 newspapers had been established, with most failing within a short time. A notable exception was the *Point Pleasant Register*; founded as a weekly in 1862, it became a daily in 1916 and continues publication today.

The press of antebellum Western Virginia was generally Unionist and antislavery, but many areas also supported pro-Southern newspapers. Wheeling's *Intelligencer* was anti-slavery, pro-

Union, and the strongest supporter of the statehood movement. Another newspaper opposed to slavery was the *Ceredo Crescent*, established in 1857 when Ceredo was founded as an anti-slavery community in a slave state. The Civil War was detrimental to many of the state's newspapers. The publishers of the *Fairmont True Virginian*, Harrisville's *Ritchie Democrat*, and Lewisburg's *Greenbrier Weekly Era* closed their papers to join the Confederate army. Pro-Southern presses of Charleston's *Kanawha Valley Star* and Martinsburg's *Virginia Republican* were seized by Union soldiers. Pro-secessionist newspapers in Philippi, Romney, and other towns in areas of strategic importance were destroyed by Union troops. Other pro-secessionist newspapers, such as the [*Parkersburg News*](#), were destroyed by civilian mobs.

At least 15 Civil War camp newspapers were published on confiscated presses for army units on active duty in western Virginia. These regimental publications included *Yankee*, the *Knapsack*, the *Old Flag*, and the *Wandering Soldier*, all Union newspapers, and the *Guerilla*, the only Confederate military newspaper printed in what became West Virginia.

Following statehood in 1863, editors changed their mastheads to reflect the name of the new state, although some delayed the change for months. Notable developments after the Civil War made newspaper publishing more lucrative. News companies supplied preprinted sheets to local publishers who added their own copy and advertisements. The introduction of less expensive wood-pulp paper reduced costs. Legislative printing contracts sustained printers in the state capital, which moved from Wheeling to Charleston in 1870, back to Wheeling in 1875, and then permanently to Charleston in 1885.

In the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, dramatic growth in the lumber, coal, oil, gas, iron, glass, and salt industries brought substantial increases in population and the establishment of new towns. Immigrants, many of whom were industrial workers, established newspapers in the German and Italian languages. African-American newspapers included Martinsburg's *Pioneer Press*, Charleston's the *Advocate*, and Keystone's *McDowell Times*. The *Volcano Lubricator*, *Sistersville Oil Review*, *West Virginia Walking Beam* and the *Derrick Herald* served the oil fields. College newspapers were established at West Virginia University and Marshall College which continue publication to the present. Cheap paper, news distribution networks, and the invention of the linotype, the telephone, and the typewriter decreased production costs and encouraged the proliferation of newspapers. With at least 223 different newspapers (dailies, weeklies, semi-weeklies, and tri-weeklies) publishing concurrently in 1912, more papers were being issued within the state than at any other time. Unlike most of their predecessors, many newspapers founded from 1866 to 1915 have survived to the present.

The presence of so many newspapers in the early twentieth century created fierce competition for readers and advertisers. World War I brought more expensive paper, rising wages, and higher postal rates, which forced many smaller papers to suspend publication or merge with

competitors. Several newspapers closed when their owners departed for military duty. Although the number of daily newspapers remained fairly constant, the number of weeklies continued to decline after the war.”

2011 CYCLE:

With this history in mind, it was decided that Grant Cycle 2011 would focus primarily on the years 1850-1876 due to that period’s overwhelming significance in West Virginia history. The state celebrated its sesquicentennial in 2013.

The *Wheeling Daily Intelligencer* was designated as the top priority for the 2011 grant cycle. The *Intelligencer* was the most significant newspaper of the time period 1850 to 1876 and continued its preeminence for the remainder of the nineteenth century. Also included was a leading eastern panhandle newspaper, Charles Town’s *Spirit of Jefferson*, and two pro-Southern newspapers, *Cooper's Clarksburg Register* and the *Kanawha Valley Star*. In addition to the four initial selections, a dozen more titles were scrutinized and from that number eight additional titles were selected for digitization. At the completion of the evaluation of the history and holdings of newspapers that met the selection criteria, the following titles were selected as most appropriate for inclusion in the initial phase of the WVDNP:

Wheeling Daily Intelligencer 1852-1859	Wheeling
Daily Intelligencer 1859-1865	Wheeling
Wheeling Daily Intelligencer 1865-1903	Wheeling
Cooper's Clarksburg Register 1851-1861	Clarksburg
Spirit of Jefferson 1844-1899	Charles Town
Star of the Kanawha Valley 1855-1856	Buffalo
Kanawha Valley Star 1856-1861	Charleston
American Union 1855-1859	Morgantown
Monongalia Mirror 1849-1855	Morgantown
The Weekly Register 1862-1909	Point Pleasant
The Democrat 1868-1874	Weston
The Weston Democrat 1875-1902	Weston

2013 CYCLE:

Newspapers selected for the second grant cycle focused on the late nineteenth – early twentieth century and were chosen to document a wide array of political and cultural aspects of the state during this time. Newspapers reported on the state’s developing industry, increasing immigrant population, and labor rights. Two Socialist papers, the *Labor Argus* and the *Socialist and Labor Star* reported on the coal fields and the Paint Creek mine wars.

Two papers were considered to be of the utmost importance. The African-American newspaper, the *Pioneer Press*, was founded by J. R. Clifford, a Civil War veteran, civil rights activist, co-founder of the Niagara Movement, and the first African American attorney in West Virginia. *La Sentinella del West Virginia* was the state's first and only Italian language newspaper and as such, documented the growing significance of West Virginia's Italian population, many of which resided in Clarksburg.

To provide a seamless thread of continuity from the first cycle, two Clarksburg papers were also included in this cycle.

Labor Argus 1906 May – April 1913 (Socialist party)	Charleston
Clarksburg Telegram 1892 – 1912 (Republican)	Clarksburg
Daily Telegram 1902 – 1922	Clarksburg
Fairmont West Virginian 1904 Apr – 1922 (Republican)	Fairmont
Socialist and Labor Star 1913 May – 1915 Jan (Socialist)	Huntington
Pioneer Press 1884/1888 – 1911/1917 (African – American)	Martinsburg
American Union 1863 (Union)	Martinsburg
La Sentinella del West Virginia 1911 Feb – 1912 May (Italian language)	Thomas

2015 CYCLE:

The newspapers digitized for the third grant cycle looked at developments that impacted the United States as a whole: the burgeoning oil industry as it developed in West Virginia and the Temperance movement. Several oil field newspapers reported on the new industry, while two Temperance papers proclaimed the importance of this struggle with great success in West Virginia.

The Civil War in West Virginia is of perennial interest. Military Camp newspapers from this period are few and far between, reflecting the movement of troops, the availability of soldiers skilled as newspapermen, and the proximity of a usable press. These papers document the continuing flux of the developing state as it searches for statehood and its independence from Virginia.

List of Titles to be digitized in the 3rd Grant Cycle for 2016

West Virginia Journal Oct. 1864 – Sept. 1877	Charleston
Calhoun Chronicle 1884 – 1896 – 1905 - 1906	Grantsville
McDowell Times 1913 May – 1918 Nov (African American)	Keystone
Greenbrier Independent 1860 May – 1917 May	Lewisburg
Greenbrier Era Jan. 1854 Jan - Aug	Lewisburg

Greenbrier Weekly Era – 1854 – 1861	Lewisburg
Volcano Lubricator 1871 Oct - 1873 Aug – 1874 Mar (oil field)	Parkersburg
West Virginia Freeman 1881 Feb – 1886 Apr (Temperance)	Parkersburg
South Branch Intelligencer – Feb. 1861 – Dec. 1880	Romney
Knapsack (Union) 1863	Gauley Bride
Old Flag (Union) 1869	Phillippi
Guerilla (Confederate) 1862	Charleston
Shepherdstown Register 1859, 1861, 1880	Shepherdstown
Sistersville Oil Review 1898	Sistersville
Sistersville Daily Oil Review 1895, 1896, 1901, 1902	Sistersville
Walking Beam 1880 (oil field)	Parkersburg
Wheeling Daily Register 1864 Dec - 1878 Nov	Wheeling
Wheeling Daily Intelligencer 1901 – 1911	Wheeling
Temperance Star 1874	Charleston
Ceredo Crescent (Anti-Slavery) 1859	Ceredo
Ceredo Squedunk 1899	Ceredo
Ceredo Advance 1885-1915	Ceredo
Ceredo Enterprise 1881-1885	Ceredo
Charleston Advocate (African-American) 1894	Charleston
Family Visitor 1860	Pruntytown

2017 Cycle:

The proposed papers for the 4th grant cycle will follow the development of the railroad across West Virginia, its impact on the state including the development of towns and cities to support miners and railroad workers, and service as export stations for ferrying coal outside the state. Newspapers of importance for this cycle include the *Huntington Advertiser*, the *Huntington Dispatch*, and the *Huntington Herald*, three newspapers of note that held close standing with the *Wheeling Intelligencer* in state prominence. The *Huntington Advertiser* continued to be published until it closed in 1979. The *Huntington Herald* and the *Huntington Dispatch* merged into the *Huntington Herald-Dispatch* in 1909 is this paper is still published today.

The *Bluefield Daily Telegraph*, the newspaper of record for the coalfields, has been publishing since 1896 and is still publishing today. The *Bluefield Evening News* and Princeton newspapers, just outside Bluefield, will round out the coverage for the southern coalfields.

Newspapers in the next grant cycle will also include continued coverage of Civil War events as the state itself is a direct result of this conflict. Newspapers reporting on the traumatic events that led to the separation of West Virginia from Virginia will continue to be added as reporting

on the Civil War is in high demand and we will strive to continue our coverage of the Civil War newspapers that recorded the events that led to statehood. A newspaper of note for this cycle will be the *Kingwood Chronicle* and its coverage of the Civil War.

List of Newspapers under consideration for the 4th Grant cycle:

Huntington:

Huntington Advertiser: 1874, 1876, 1877, 1879, 1894, 1880, 1881, 1882, 1883, 1884, 1885

Herald Dispatch: 1918, 1922

Huntington Herald-Dispatch: 1923, 1925

Daily Press: 1872

Huntington Argus: 1872, 1880, 1882, 1883, 1884, 1885, 1888

Cabell Democrat: 1872

Daily Advertiser: 1889, 1892, 1893, 1897, 1899

Huntington Gazette: 1887

Daily Herald: 1892, 1893

Huntington Herald: 1896

Huntington News: 1872, 1882, 1883

Daily Times: 1892

Evening Times: 1888, 1890

Sunday Advertiser: 1922 - 1925

Herald Advertiser: 1926, 1927, 1929 singles

Huntington Republican: 1884 single

Baptist Banner: 1890 single

Evening Journal 1918

Huntington Times Weekly: 1920

Civil War Era Newspapers:

Kingwood Chronicle: 1861

Point Pleasant: Eleventh Ohio: 1862 Published for the Regiment

Martinsburg: Weekly Gazette: 1863 Published by order of the Headquarters, Defenses of the Upper Potomac Gen'l B.S. Roberts.

Lewisburg: The Yankee: 1862 44th Regiment Ohio Vol. Inf.

Bluefield:

Bluefield Daily Telegraph: 1896 – 1922

Bluefield Evening News: 1906 – 1910

Princeton:

Mercer Republican: 1911-1912

Princeton Evening News: 1912-1923

Princeton Gazette: 1912-1913

Princeton Press: 1914-1915

Princeton Progress: 1915-1915

TECHNICAL ASPECTS:

WVDNP vendor Image Data Conversion (IDC), of Saline, Michigan, has significant expertise in microfilm storage, duplication, and scanning and has contributed to NDNP projects prior to working with LVA and WVU. IDC has a long and excellent working relationship with WVU and was already in possession of WVU's master negatives at the onset of this project. Using a top of the line Sunrise scanning system, IDC is responsible for scanning the film, loading the TIFFs on a durable hard drive and forwarding them to the Library of Virginia for inspection. After inspection, the Library of Virginia ships hard drives to Apex CoVantage, of Herndon, VA, the content conversion vendor. Apex has extensive experience working on NDNP projects and with that added experience come opportunities for new ideas to assist in streamlining processes as well as offering added methods for insuring that deliverables are valid and properly formed. These vendor relations will continue as they have been excellent choices.

Today the process has continued as successfully as it has since its inception in 2011. Sample reel selection and title authority files were completed and submitted to the vendors along with microfilm reel barcodes. Work continues on the development of the WVDNP website which was recently revised in advance of a redesign of the WVU Libraries website.

Work on film duplication and scanning continues. Progress was also made during the fall both in researching and preparing title histories. In December 2012, a revised production schedule for the remainder of the present grant period was submitted to the Library of Congress. The new schedule indicates the WVDNP's plan to deliver 10,800 pages per month beginning in January 2013 for the remainder of the present cycle. It is fully anticipated that all goals of the current cycle will be met by the conclusion of the present grant period.

Steps to publicize the West Virginia Digital Newspaper Project have occurred throughout the duration of the grant cycle periods. Distinct articles about the project have appeared in a variety of WVU publications including both the West Virginia and Regional History Center and WVU Libraries newsletters and WVU Today. News releases have also appeared in newspapers across

the state. Presentations and exhibits have included numerous activities and programs at the WVU Libraries and a presentation and exhibit in the West Virginia State Capitol building as part of West Virginia History Day in February 2012 and 2013. Although the 2014 event was cancelled due to inclement weather, additional presentations are planned for the spring of 2015.

In March 2015, the WVUL program will sponsor a panel presentation focusing on Appalachian newspaper content available on *Chronicling America* at the Appalachian Studies Association Conference at East Tennessee State University. Organized by Stewart Plein, WVUL NDNP managing director, the panelists for this presentation are administrators from four NDNP program institutions including Errol Somay, Library of Virginia, JoAnne Deeken, University of Tennessee, Kopana Terry, University of Kentucky, and Stewart Plein, West Virginia University. Each panelist will give an individual presentation on their institution's NDNP project and provide information on the newspapers, their histories, articles, and stories, with an emphasis on the Appalachian Region.

B. Methodology and Standards

The project co-directors and advisory board have determined that that the grant cycle 2015 proposal will focus on the digitization of West Virginia newspapers of the 1860s through 1922. This period is of considerable historical significance for West Virginia. These years witnessed dramatic industrial, transportation, and population growth as well as important political and labor movements. The coal, oil and gas, railroad, iron and steel, lumber, glass, and publishing industries thrived even as agricultural production rose to new levels. Immigration was triggered by the demands for industrial workers. Union organization and labor strife accompanied industrial expansion. Rapid population increases spurred the creation of African American, foreign language, and politically diverse newspapers. With the guidelines set by the advisory board, project staff have developed a list of potential candidates for this phase of the WVDNP. WVUL has access to master negative film for all titles. A list of potential titles is included in Appendix, section 5, of this proposal.

For each newspaper title selected and digitized, WVUL will provide a 550 word essay on the newspaper's history, an updated CONSER-level MARC record, and conformant title-level and issue-level metadata. Deliverables for each newspaper page will include 8-bit grayscale TIFF images, JPEG 2000 images, OCR text and associated bounding boxes, PDF images with hidden text, and properly formed structural and technical metadata. All digital assets will be validated and verified according to NDNP requirements and delivered to LC in a METS object structure. Duplicate silver negative microfilm used in this project will also be deposited as a preservation surrogate with the Library of Congress.

C. Work Plan

Microfilm duplication and scanning for the 2017 grant cycle will begin immediately after title selection has been completed by the project directors working in conjunction with the project advisory board in October 2017. Film duplication and scanning will be completed by the end of December 2017. The scanned images will be forwarded to an experienced vendor for full content conversion by January 2018.

The West Virginia Newspaper Project will deliver a sample reel in February 2018. Subsequent to approval of the sample, the Project will begin delivery of valid, properly formed batches of seven to ten thousand pages per month to the Library of Congress beginning in March 2018. Delivery will continue at this pace until the project goal of 100,000 has been reached.

All production schedules and work plans will be approved by the technical staff at the Library of Congress prior to implementation. Appropriate time is built into the schedule to permit for content correction, editing, or modification. Meeting production benchmarks is important to LVA, WVUL, and the Library of Congress. With that in mind, should the situation arise, the LVA will have the option to process small batches using docWorks, its in-house content conversion software, to provide valid deliverables to LC.

D. Staff Update

Stewart Plein, MLIS, continues in her role as managing director of the WV NDNP project, replacing the previous NDNP managing director, Harold Forbes, upon his retirement in December 2013. Ms. Plein is the Rare Book Librarian and the Assistant Curator of the West Virginia and Regional History Center. She will be responsible for co-directing all aspects of this project and will directly supervise the project student assistant. She will direct the effort to review existing microfilm quality, and lead the process for making title selections. Ms. Plein will be the primary point of contact between WVUL and LVA in all matters relating to the projects technical aspects. Ms. Plein will supervise the research and writing of the 550 word historical essays, and follow through with editing the essays for content and accuracy.

4. BUDGET NARRATIVE

Salaries and Wages:

This project will be directed by Stewart Plein, Assistant Curator of the WVU Libraries West Virginia and Regional History Center, and John Cuthbert, Director and Curator of the WVRHC. The values of the percentages of the annual salaries and fringe benefits of these project participants as indicated in the budget will be used as cost share.

A student assistant budget of \$(b) (6) per annum is requested to hire a project student assistant at the WVU Libraries. The student assistant will perform project-related tasks including: 1) creating an inventory of each title and its publication pattern (pages per issue, publication frequency), 2) examining film for missing issues, missing pages, duplicated pages, changes in title and place of publication, misstatements of date, and other anomalies, 3) conducting research in secondary sources and in the newspapers themselves regarding the history of the newspaper titles selected sources and in the newspapers themselves regarding the history of the titles selected for digitization, and 4) preparing rough drafts of the title histories. The project directors will be responsible for creating the final drafts.

Consultant Fees:

No consultant fees are anticipated in this project.

Travel:

A travel budget of \$5,000 is requested to fund the costs of attendance for two project staff members at the annual NDNF meetings in Washington, DC, a site visit by Project staff to NEH as well as funding a site visit by an LC technical representative to the WVDNF. Expenses are estimated in accordance with State of West Virginia allowances for travel, lodging, meals, and incidental expenses for the Washington, D.C., and Morgantown areas.

Supplies and Materials:

In order to transfer the digital asset deliverables between subcontractors, the WVUL, and the Library of Congress, 20 one-terabyte external hard drives will be purchased with grant funds at a cost estimated at \$125 per unit. Server storage and maintenance costs are also requested at an estimated \$8,500, cost estimated at \$125 per unit. Server storage and maintenance costs are also requested at an estimated \$8,500.

All other supplies and materials will be provided by the WVU Libraries.

Services:

WVUL requests a total of \$164,200 to support services which will be subcontracted by the WVUL including Microfilm Duplication; Microfilm Digitization; Content Conversion; Content and Data Management and Technical Coordination of the project at LVA in order to produce deliverables in accordance with NDNF specifications.

Film Duplication and scanning will be performed by IDC (Image Data Conversion Corp) of Salines, MI, which presently maintains and preserves all negative WVUL microfilm in their microfilm storage facility in Salines, MI. Work included in the figure listed in the budget includes inspection, density readings, resolution readings and generation of approximately 135 reels @ \$35.00 duplication cost per reel.

IDC will digitize microfilm from rolls at 300-400 dpi, as is achievable, into raw, uncompressed TIFF files, 100,000 scans estimated @ \$0.12 per scan.

Content Conversion includes creation of derivatives images (JPEG2000 and PDF), OCR for searchable text and creation of metadata as mandated by project specifications @\$0.50 per page.

All project management tasks will be performed at LVA @ \$46,500 per annum (includes Technical/Project Coordinator position including salary and benefits) and will include review of raw TIFFs, project tracking and workflow management, content validation/verification, communication with subcontractors, shipping of hard drives and materials between contractors and libraries, and periodic progress reports.

Postage and Shipping costs of transferring hard drives and other materials between subcontractors and libraries will be borne by the WVU Libraries.

Other Costs:

General supplies for this project will be provided by the WVU Libraries.

Publicity costs including the preparation and publication of a project brochure and online updates and news will be underwritten by the WVU Libraries.

Indirect Costs:

Indirect costs are calculated according to West Virginia University's federally negotiated (DHHS) rate of 32.5%. According to WVU Sponsored Programs' standard practice, indirect costs are requested for only the first \$25,000 of subcontracts exceeding \$25,000. No indirect costs are requested on equipment purchases exceeding \$5,000 (For example, a server/storage system.)