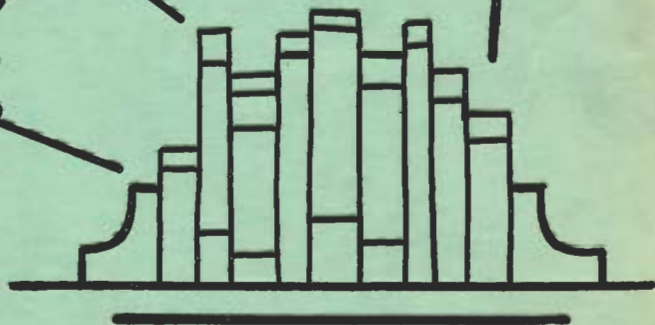


West Virginia Libraries

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FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

As this will be my last opportunity to greet you as President of the West Virginia Library Association, I want to say Thank You to each member for your help and support during my term of office. Whatever progress has been made by libraries in West Virginia has been through your individual efforts and not those of your president. I know you will give Mr. Reynolds, your incoming President, the same loyalty and support you have given me and that the coming year will be bigger and better for libraries in West Virginia.

The meeting of the West Virginia Library Association at the Middle Atlantic Regional Library Conference will be held Friday, October 18 at 10:00 a. m. This will be an informal meeting when members attending can get together to meet the officers for the coming year, hear year-end reports of committee chairmen and discuss some plans for the future. So I hope each of you will make a special effort to attend the meeting in Atlantic City.

I hope each member had a good summer and returned from vacation refreshed for the beginning of the fall activities.

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A Year's Work Collecting West Virginiana

by

Charles Shetler
West Virginia University Library

The West Virginia Collection of the University Library acquired some 59,500 pieces of manuscript material during the fiscal year ending in June. Representing 87 manuscript accessions, each ranging in size from a few pieces to several thousand items, these papers add significant new materials in many areas.

The Civil War is still with us, feeding the presses of every state and extending the lines of books about the war on library shelves throughout the nation. Additional source materials for the study and documentation of the conflict in West Virginia were added during the year. The participation of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad in the Civil War is reflected in a collection of documents compiled by the company's agent in Cumberland and Wheeling, J. B. Ford. Microfilm copies were acquired of a significant series of letters of Lieutenant Colonel John J. Polesley of the 8th West Virginia Infantry (later 7th Cavalry). These letters reflect Polesley's service with Fremont in the Shenandoah Valley, his career in West Virginia with William W. Averell, and his experiences in Libby prison where he was held by the Confederacy between December 1863 and September 1864. Other letters from members of the 11th Infantry came to hand, as well as a record book, 1862-1869, of the 18th Militia Regiment.

