

# Legacy

“Collecting, Preserving, and Communicating Family, Local and Regional Histories in a Variety of Venues.”

The Legacy Program is a community development and historic preservation initiative of Vandalia Heritage Foundation. Learn more about Legacy at: [www.vandalia.org](http://www.vandalia.org)



Vandalia Heritage Foundation  
701 Benoni Avenue  
Fairmont, WV 26554

304.368.1555 (P)  
304.368.1566 (F)  
[www.vandalia.org](http://www.vandalia.org)

January 2006  
Edition

## Legacy Charter Sites ‘Focus on Preservation’

Historians and genealogy buffs converged upon the historic High Gate Carriage House in Fairmont on Saturday, October 29, 2005 for the first annual “Focus on Preservation” workshop. Sponsored by Vandalia’s Legacy Program, this seminar brought together individuals from throughout northern West Virginia to focus on the conservation of the region’s invaluable heritage and material culture.



“Vandalia was delighted to host the ‘Focus on Preservation’ workshop, as part of its continued commitment to the preservation of the ‘unbuilt’ environment,” stated Executive Director Laura Kurtz Kuhns. “We were pleased to have some of the local leading experts in this subject matter, Christie Venham and Larry Sypolt of West Virginia University to take part in this event. Christie and Larry worked with Vandalia’s Manager of Heritage Programs, Dusty M. Hibbs, to present key information to Legacy sites.”

## Hibbs Named Manager of Heritage Programs

Vandalia is pleased to announce the arrival of Dusty M. Hibbs, Manager of Heritage Programs, effective June 2005. Dusty is a 2005 graduate of East Tennessee State University (ETSU) with a Masters of Arts degree in Archival Management. At ETSU, Dusty received the Graduate Studies Capstone Project Excellence Award for her museum exhibit “Mining a New Life,” and corresponding support paper titled “The Immigrant Experience: Russians in the Coal Camp.” She presented the paper at the 2005 Appalachian Studies Association annual conference.

During “Focus on Preservation,” attendees learned first-hand about the methods used to preserve loose paper, books, photographs, negatives, oversized documents, scrapbooks and museum artifacts. The event boasted thirty attendees including Legacy site members as well as the public.

As a result of the workshop, Dusty visited the Calhoun County Historical & Genealogical Society to

further assist in the preservation of their paper documents and photographs. The Legacy program hopes to continue its preservation education and offer another workshop in the spring, focusing again on preservation and providing the Legacy sites with additional archival materials and resources.

Currently, Vandalia is planning for future Legacy events and activities. Interested parties may receive technical assistance at the Legacy Project Headquarters, located in the historic High Gate Carriage House at 830 Walnut Avenue, in Fairmont.

Dusty brings a wealth of hands-on experience to her position at Vandalia. While at ETSU, she worked in various methods of preservation and conservation of materials.

At Vandalia, Dusty is charged with advancing the Legacy Project and developing the Grafton B&O Railroad Heritage Center, which will be completed in 2006.

To learn more about Dusty’s expertise and accomplishments, please visit our website at [www.vandalia.org](http://www.vandalia.org).

## Coming Soon to Your Inbox...

### *The Legacy E-Newsletter*

Look for this exciting publication in February 2005.

Contact Dusty Hibbs at [dhibbs@vandalia.org](mailto:dhibbs@vandalia.org) to sign-up for your copy today.

#### Legacy Charter Sites:

- o Aurora, Preston County
- o Glenville, Gilmer County
- o Grantsville, Calhoun County
- o Keyser, Mineral County
- o Kingwood, Preston County

#### Headquarters:

- o High Gate Carriage House, Fairmont

## Aurora Site Opens, Community Pioneer Remembered

The Aurora Area Historical Society (AAHS) held a ribbon cutting ceremony on July 23, 2005 to celebrate the opening of the Aurora General Store. This event makes the AAHS the first of the five Legacy charter sites to officially open to the public. With structural renovations complete, the 1850 Aurora General Store offers a reconstructed view of a general store complete with period house wares and goods. The Aurora General Store also serves as a Legacy charter site, housing both the technology and library additions given to the AAHS through Vandalia's Legacy Program. "The center creates a place to assemble and organize community pride, history, archival items, and genealogy from the communities of Union District to be shared with the public," stated AAHS President John Adams.



Congressman Alan B. Mollohan attended the ribbon cutting, offering words of encouragement and support for the AAHS and

the Legacy Program. Vandalia staff members as well as other Legacy site members were present to show their on-going commitment to the Legacy Program and the AAHS.

All that attended the event kept alive the memory of a true community pioneer. The leadership and hard work of the late Alice McGinnis Penzo led not only to the successful completion of the Aurora General Store, but to the development of the Aurora Area Historical Society and the Aurora Project as well.

Donations may be made in Alice's memory to the Aurora

Project at: [www.auroraproject.org](http://www.auroraproject.org) or to the Aurora Area Historical Society at P.O. Box 100, Aurora, WV 26705.

To learn more about the General Store project or the Aurora Area Historical Society, please visit the facility, located on Route 50 in Aurora.

## News from the Charter Sites

The Calhoun County Historical & Genealogical Society (CCHGS) has been active in completing the enormous task of numbering and preserving all of their archival and museum artifact holdings. Dusty recently led a workshop at the CCHGS storage site to educate members on numbering and preservation methods for their holdings. At the workshop, Dusty and Robert H. Mollohan Family Charitable Foundation intern Julie Powelson delivered a number of preservation supplies, a workshop information handbook, and forms to the CCHGS. The workshop was attended by four CCHGS members, each optimistic that they will be able to continue to number and preserve their holdings.

A similar workshop was held at the Mineral County Genealogical Society (MCGS) in October. This workshop focused on preservation and was attended by 10 members of MCGS and the public. This workshop afforded attendees the opportunity to bring family heirlooms, including paper, photographs, and museum artifacts so that Dusty may offer suggestions for the most effective preservation methods for each specific media type.

Vandalia's staff continues to assess the needs of the Legacy charter sites and is currently planning programs and other initiatives for 2006.

Please visit our website, [www.vandalia.org](http://www.vandalia.org), for additional information.

## Scenes from the Sites...



**Above: (top left) Congressman Alan B. Mollohan addresses attendees at the Washington, D.C. premier of *The Appalachians*; (top right) Dusty Hibbs and Helen Morris 'Focus on Preservation'; (bottom left) Aurora Area Historical Society members during the Aurora General Store Grand Opening**

## Don't Let Your Artifacts Become a 'Disaster'

Given the number of recent natural disasters that have plagued parts of our country, many museums and archival institutions have brought disaster preparedness to the forefront. These are some steps to take to ensure that your organization is disaster ready:

1. Have current staff phone numbers,
2. Update the evacuation procedures at least twice a year,
3. Create plans in case of fire, flood, winter storm, or any other disasters your organization feels may pose a threat,

4. Have an updated listing of conservation resources, including phone numbers and current pricing.

**For more information about disaster plans, visit the Stanford Conservation online web site:**

**[http://  
palimpsest.stanford.edu/bytopic/  
disasters/](http://palimpsest.stanford.edu/bytopic/disasters/)**

### Legacy Program:

- o Glenville State College Archival Management Program
- o Coal Miners Oral History Project
- o Grafton B&O Railroad Heritage Center
- o *The Appalachians*
- o *The Dulcimer Man: The Russell Fluharty Story*

# Steam Builds for Grafton Project

## The Grafton B&O Railroad Heritage Center

[www.vandalia.org/grafton.htm](http://www.vandalia.org/grafton.htm)

Memorial Day and Grafton—Many find these two terms synonymous, given the popular annual parade and presence of the West Virginia National Cemetery and Grafton National Cemetery. However, this year visitors will have an added attraction on the corner of Main and Bridge Streets—the Grafton B&O Railroad Heritage Center.

Located in the 1909 Beaux Arts Grafton B&O Station, the Grafton B&O Railroad Heritage Center will be open in preliminary stages for the Memorial Day Weekend (May 26-29, 2006) festivities. During its first phase of development, the Center will include a visitors center with museum

galleries, the Taylor County Legacy site, and various other programmatic components.

“Vandalia continues to develop the archives, museum exhibits, and other elements of the Grafton B&O Railroad Heritage Center,” stated Dusty M. Hibbs, Manager of Heritage Programs. “We look forward to expanding our presence in Grafton, pending completion of the Grafton B&O Railroad Station in 2006.”

For more information about the Center, please visit our web site or contact Dusty at: [dhibbs@vandalia.org](mailto:dhibbs@vandalia.org).

**Have you purchased your copy of *The Appalachians*?  
Buy the DVD, music CD, and companion book today—**

[www.mountainmade.com](http://www.mountainmade.com).

The Legacy Project Headquarters,  
located in the historic High Gate  
Carriage House in Fairmont, is open  
to the public, Monday-Friday. Please  
contact Dusty Hibbs at 304.368.1555  
for more information.

Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Fairmont, WV 26554  
Permit No. 238

Vandalia Heritage Foundation  
701 Benoni Avenue  
Fairmont, WV 26554

