

# Pioneer America Society:

Association for the Preservation of Artifacts & Landscapes

41<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting

Pipestem, West Virginia • October 29-31, 2009

The Pioneer America Society will hold its annual conference at Pipestem Resort State Park, the “Year-round Crown Jewel of West Virginia State Parks,” in Pipestem, WV, on October 29-31, 2009. The conference will begin on Thursday, with registration, a reception, and the Mountaintop Removal Road Show. Papers will be presented on Friday, and Saturday will be devoted to a day-long field trip. An optional whitewater rafting trip, focusing on New River Gorge National River history, will be offered on Sunday for those interested.

Pipestem Resort Park is a fully modern facility that includes a nature center, hiking trails, horse stables, tennis and golf. Rooms have been reserved in McKeever Lodge, where standard hotel amenities exist.

Like the recent Baton Rouge meeting, this conference will be held in conjunction with the Eastern Historical Geography Association (EHGA).

The 2009 conference theme is: *Heritage Preservation in Appalachia*, but as always, papers on other topics of interest to the members of each organization are welcome.

The Saturday field trip will explore largely abandoned landscapes of coal mining. It will include a tour of the Pocahontas Exhibition Coal Mine, a National Historic Landmark, which was the first mine in the Pocahontas coal field, as well as a walking tour of historic Pocahontas, VA. Lunch will be provided at the Bramwell Café,

followed by a guided tour of Bramwell, WV, where more than a dozen coal millionaires once made their homes. The afternoon will be spent exploring Kimball, WV, with its company store and still occupied houses, the restored World War Memorial, the first and only remaining memorial in the United States built to honor African-American veterans, and Vivian, WV, a once proud mining community whose derelict company store and school provide a hint of better times in the past.

On Sunday, the optional rafting field trip heads northward on the New River Gorge National River (Class III Rapids), exploring extant mining landscapes.

The conference committee is now soliciting proposals for papers and special sessions relating to the conference theme. The deadline for the submission of abstracts is: **September 1, 2009.**

For further conference information, contact Dawn S. Bowen, Conference Chair, Department of Geography, University of Mary Washington, Fredericksburg, VA 22401; telephone: 540/654-1491; email: [dbowen@umw.edu](mailto:dbowen@umw.edu); or visit the Society's website at: [http://www.pioneeramerica.org/conference\\_information.htm](http://www.pioneeramerica.org/conference_information.htm).