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JCHC IN THE NEWS

Bowdish Birthday Bash & New Exhibits Opening

The magic continues to enchant both young and grown-ups at the Charlie Bowdish Model RR & Miniatures Diorama Show

(continued on pages 4-7)



The Jeffersonian is published in March, June, and October. Submissions welcome. Mail to Kat Lyons, Editor or email klyons-jchc@windstream.net

This little guy even found a pet Sabertooth he wanted to take home in the Stones N' Bones Exhibit

JCHC In the News

JCHS New & Re-Elected Officers, New Board Member

At the November Board meeting on Nov. 12th, 2020, officers were elected as follows:



Tracy Zents, President



Larry Anthony, VP



Arthur McKinley, Treasurer



Colleen Cooney, Secretary

New Board Member: Pete Lindemuth, already a member of the Bowdish Crew, is our newest Board Member. He takes the seat of Vickie Storey who recently retired from the Board (but she is still the “Bowdish Boss!”)

New CUP Intern:

Our new Clarion University of Pennsylvania intern is Lauren Slauchaupt from Knox. She is a Junior at CUP and active in the Golden Eagle Marching Band and Tau Beta Sigma, and on the Honor Roll. She is majoring in History, with a goal to work in the Museum Field as an Archivist. She is shadowing our Pathstone archive assistants, learning how objects are “processed.” In addition to her education to receive her Bachelor’s degree in History, she has also been accepted into the Masters of Library Science program as a Local and Archival studies major through the accelerated Bachelors to Masters program by taking graduate level courses.

In her own words: “Being here has been an eye opening experience for me. I love looking at old documents, pieces of art work and artifacts. If I could sit in that building and read any of the old court documents, I would read every single case. I love being in the archives and I really love being in the background of the operation and doing things out of hind sight. I am so excited to have been given this opportunity and I would love to come back for another semester. "This has been a great experience and I look forward to what is coming!”



New Pathstone Staff: New to JCHC is Linda Heriger-Smith and Mike Benigni, who both started in late fall 2020. Mike was also working here in 2015 through mid 2016 and was part of the Scripture Rocks Volunteer Crew.

Additional Pathstone staff are: Faye Williams, Gift Shop and Research Library Projects.

Jack Neale, Research Library and Genealogy. Mike has teamed up with Jack, researching various topics.

Cyndi Morrison, Archives Assistant and Gift Shop. Linda has teamed up with Cyndi, assisting with archives and shop.

Annual Giving Campaign a Success !

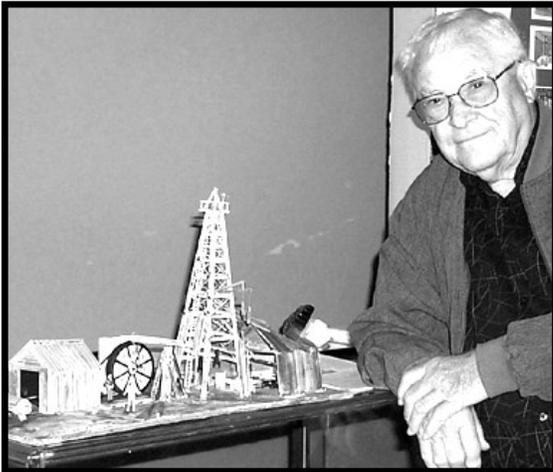
Thanks to ALL who gave to our Annual Giving Campaign, helping to keep our doors open ! The total was \$20,745 by mid-February. Remember to subtract up to \$300 cash donation on your 2020 tax return due to the CARES Act Special 2020 Tax Deductions for Individuals Donating to Non-Profits (those who don’t itemize). If you gave in January or February—or even later this year—you’ll have that deduction for your 2021 taxes, so it’s never too late to give!

In Memoriam

In Memoriam: Harry Neuhard (1926—JAN 2021)

From Rosalee Pituch (former Rebecca M. Arthurs Librarian)

We lost a wonderful man last night when Harry Neuhard passed away. Many in the Brookville community know him as a music teacher and band teacher. Others may have enjoyed his work at the History Center as part of the Bowdish Railroad. I knew him as a volunteer, board member but mostly a blessing and friend to me and to the library. Whenever I needed something around the building or had something to figure out, Harry was there giving generously of his time and talents. He used his artistic talent when our children's librarian wanted to brighten up the



Harry with his oil rig model. He designed it from a postcard depicting an oil rig in the Sigel area, of all places!

children's area. He continued to add pieces over the years. Anytime he could share his projects with young people who were volunteering for school or community service, he was happy to do so. He was a kind, generous man with a brilliant mind. May his memory be eternal.



Harry with the miniature Nathan Edelblute-Pearsall Building that he built in the winter months of 2010, which is a model of JCHC. The building used to be the Edelblute Clothing & Dry Goods Store.

Here at JCHC, we feel the same way. Harry built the model of the building that now houses JCHC (above). He also built the merry-go-round, the Wilson Printers building, the Summerville Train Station, the Blacksmith Shop (Brockway) and the Reynoldsville Foundry, the Sigel oil rig (left) as well as repairing the Bowdish Ferris Wheel.

Harry was the Music Teacher and Band Director, Audio-Visual Director and Art Instructor at Brookville Area High School from 1952 until his "retirement" in 1993. But he never actually retired, as he kept on making art—like the mural in the children's room at the library—and as a Bowdish Crew Member, building all those miniatures!

Jane Matson Hetrick (1937—OCT 2020) Long-time patron, neighbor and friend. Jane let us use her garage many times for various projects, the most recent being taking apart the Brookville Wagon so we could get it in the door. Jane and husband Bob donated tons of items over the years. We recently received more items from their estate, including a vase that was a wedding present for her grandmother, Bonnie McKnight Matson, in 1894. Jane's great-grandfather was William J. McKnight, M.D.

Joan Swartz Swigart (1930—DEC 2020) Originally from Sharon, PA, Joan arrived here in 1965 and had quite a career. Another long-time JCHC member, Joan was a talented journalist self-taught photographer, and artist. We hosted an exhibit of her creative works in her honor in 2017, and the same year, an article in our Journal showcased her career.

Ed Kaufman (1942—FEB 2020) Ed was a long-time Board member and past President of JCHS from 2010-2011. He was also past President of North Fork Chapter #29 of the Society of PA Archaeology, our long-time partner organization. Ed worked with Ken Burkett on his Fishbasket Archaeological Excavation.

Brian Leach (1951—JAN 2021) Brian helped acquire rhododendrons from the David G. Leach Research Station at the Holden Arboretum in Madison, Ohio and made a donation for our Rhododendron Garden Exhibit. Brian would drop by the museum to say hello in his round-the-world trips back to Brookville to visit his classmates.

Exhibits

Bowdish & New Exhibits, continued...



**PITTSBURG &
SHAWMUT RR
EXHIBIT**

**“IT DOESN’T GO TO
SHAWMUT &
IT DOESN’T GO TO
PITTSBURG”**



P&S Steam Locomotive #200 at the Brookville Yard



P&S Steam Locomotive Bell #200 at home in the Pittsburg & Shawmut RR



Diesel Locomotive loading Coal at Coal Tipple



Exhibits

New Parlor Panache !

The Parlor has a new make-up do-over! From needlepoint and embroidery accompanied by Victorian music by day to Racy red evening gowns for out on the town at night....

We painted the floors brick red to match the drapes, "new" vintage Victorian rugs, "new" Gramophone recordings, and a self-tour video of the portraits and paintings and curious trappings of a Victorian parlor...And maybe you will experience what hair-raising eccentricities this particular parlor harbors...



A medium in a séance painted this portrait of a young lady who died in childbirth. He supposedly had never met or seen a portrait of her before.

Exhibits We're "Still" Here ! Window Exhibit

DISTILLERIES ON THE PENNSYLVANIA FRONTIER:

“OLD FASHIONED, FIRE COPPER, POT STILL WHISKEY.”

by JCHC Staff, Kat Lyons

The first stills made were simple pots with a neck and were not very efficient. The addition of spiraled tubing to the pot resulted in a higher proof alcohol. Pot stills were made from anything and everything a settler had, from metal buckets and boilers and later on, canners.

Fancier stills were made of copper, which is easy to mold, transfers heat efficiently, and removes sulfurous flavors from distilled spirits. Although steel pots were also used, copper was the metal of choice. These stills were heated using wood fires and produced alcohol from excess fruits and grains.

America started distilling alcohol by 1640 in the eastern colonies. As pioneers



moved into western Pennsylvania and Kentucky in the 18th century, they took their pot stills with them. Some even made their stills out of hollowed-out logs. Most of the distilleries were part of small farms, making the whiskey that was in demand. They used their distilled products as a substitute for currency, as hard currency was rare on the frontier. A pioneer would barter a quart of whiskey for a yard of cloth or other items they needed.



they were smaller farm distilleries. Change was looming. In the Confederate States there was Prohibition. It was illegal to distill whiskey or brandy, as the government needed the grains and fruits to feed the soldiers and the copper for war supplies. Everything from brass buttons for uniforms to brass cannons used copper to make, so if you owned a still, the government came and took it.

President Lincoln passed a tax on distilled spirits to pay for the war, like the tax that paid for the War of 1812, but Congressmen from distilling states like Kentucky, Pennsylvania and Maryland revolted. As whiskey was an aged product and the barrel absorbed whiskey, distillers would be taxed on whiskey that would never be sold. A compromise was reached to store the whiskey in warehouses for a year before the tax was paid on what remained in the barrel.

The war increased the popularity of bourbon in America. Before the war, bourbon was most popular in the South and West. Rye was the spirit of choice in most Northern States. As Union troops marched through the South, they developed a taste for the whiskey.

Steam locomotives now brought grain in from other areas, and distilleries became a larger manufacturing industry. They were no longer dependent upon local farmers to provide the huge amounts of grain needed to make the beer to feed a huge column still. Alcohol production increased dramatically by the end of the 19th century.



Copper Still, 19th century

Archaeology Corner

The small farm distillers couldn't compete with the larger distillers who made whiskey cheaper and still made a profit. Most of them stopped making whiskey and made brandy instead. Brandy is only a seasonal product made when the fruit is ripe, whereas whiskey could be made all year long. So the small farmer still had a hard time competing.

After the Civil War, farmer-distillers who survived this changing industry advertised their whiskey as "Old Fashioned, Fire Copper, Pot Still Whiskey."

The Civil War changed the Whiskey Industry forever. The war finally achieved Alexander Hamilton's dream of large, industrial distilleries, forcing the small producers out of business. Hamilton introduced the unpopular first Whiskey Tax under President Washington, resulting in the Whiskey Rebellion of 1791-1794 in Pennsylvania. Prohibition would finish this process 65 years later as legal farm distilleries became extinct.

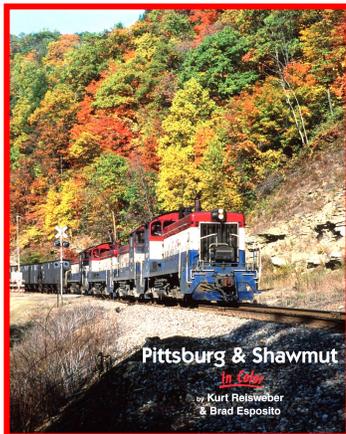
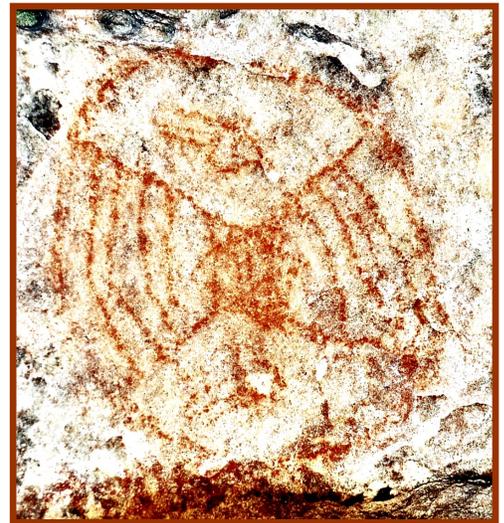


Archaeology Corner: The Chickaree Hill Pictograph

This is the title of a new article by Ken Burkett to be published in the Pennsylvania Archaeologist Journal Fall 2021. The small pictograph is near Ebensburg on the ceiling of a small rock overhang and is thought to be a type of Native American "Thunderbird." Ken was asked by Dr. Kurt Carr, Senior Curator of Archaeology at the PA State Museum to examine this pictograph, due to his prior work with petroglyphs at Parker's Landing.

Although others had recorded the site, no one had undertaken a scientific study of the image. Ken enlisted archaeology graduate students at IUP to conduct a scan of the figure using an X-ray spectrometer that analyzes minerals and ores. He researched the mineral hematite, an iron ore with a red-dish pigment used to inscribe the pictograph. Iron ore converts to hematite at high temperatures. Hematite is found at many other archaeological sites.

After extensive research, consulting with North Fork Archaeological Chapter #29 members, conducting an iron ore to hematite campfire conversion experiment, and comparisons with other pictographs found throughout the Northeast and analyzed by well-known archaeologists, Ken has determined that the figure is one of the only known apparently authentic pictographs known in all of Pennsylvania.



Gift Shop New & Restocked Books:

Pittsburg & Shawmut: A beautifully done, full color photo book takes you through the interesting history of the coal-carrying P&S, from its early days as a leased subsidiary of the Pittsburg Shawmut & Northern RR, originally known as the Brookville & Mahoning RR, to the independent Pittsburg & Shawmut with its own locomotives.

Our Gift Shop also has children's' books, games and toys, JCHC logo'd polo shirts and fleece jackets, Bowditch Model RR tees, women's Peruvian jewelry and lots of fossils for sale!

JCHC Scripture Rocks Heritage Park In the News

SRHP Officially Re-opens for 2021 on April 1st.

2021 Projects & Events

Our Native Plant-Pollinator Pond Project is in its 3rd year and this spring will be Phase III of installing the 3rd round of Native Perennials, Grasses and Shrubs. We have recently received a CUP Community Fellows Grant in order to complete our plant and soil additive purchases, and will utilize our new CUP student intern, Lauren Slauchaupt, to assist in completing our project. As we saved some money on the repaving of the parking lot and ADA accessible area hard surfacing, we have received permission from the Christopher Reeve Foundation Grant to re-allocate some funds for plant purchases and educational materials. Green thumb volunteers welcome!

Our Ecology Program at the ADA Accessible Native Plant-Pollinator Pond Habitat located at the trailhead also begins this Spring. We are planning on having professional educators in the fields of ecology/biology as speakers throughout the year. This program was put on hold last year due to Covid19 restrictions.

We plan to have presentations for School, Scout and other groups by appointment on Birds, Pond Life, Native Plants and Plant Pollinator species presented by experts in their fields. Look for announcements for the general public in the local papers, on our website and facebook page

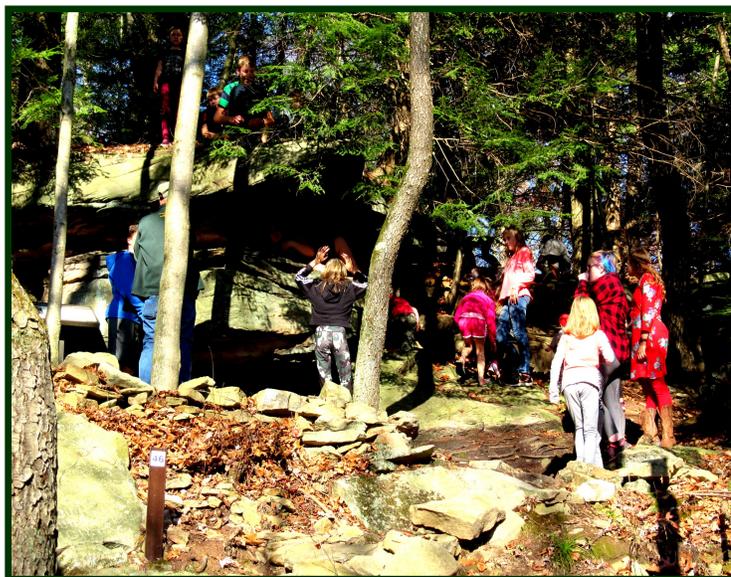
jchconline.org; scripturerocks.com;
facebook.com/JCHCOnline



Young students having fun at the Native Plant Pollinator Habitat (above) and at the Rockshelter (below) in 2020.



Learning all about the rocks (and climbing them) at Scripture Rocks Heritage Park



We are also hosting the entire Hickory Grove Elementary School Grade 4 in May at the Park, complete with tour guides, educators and kids' activities. One of our tour guides that day will be Dale Luthringer, Environmental Education Specialist at Cook Forest State Park.

To book a SRHP tour for your school, email klyons-jchc@windstream.net or kburkett-jchc@windstream.net or give us a call at 814-849-0077.

Events

6TH ANNUAL MILITARY COLLECTIBLES SHOW

We have moved our show this year from March to June in response to ongoing Covid19 indoor event concerns. This is our new Annual weekend and many vendors and exhibitors are already lining up.

6TH ANNUAL MILITARY COLLECTIBLES SHOW

SATURDAY
JUNE 5, 2021
9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

JEFFERSON COUNTY
FAIRGROUNDS
RT. 28, 1/4 MILE NORTH OF
INTERSTATE 80, EXIT 81



**FEATURING MILITARIA FOR SALE, SHOW AND
TRADE FROM THE CIVIL WAR TO THE PRESENT**

ADMISSION: ADULTS - \$7.00 CHILDREN UNDER 16 - FREE

FOR TABLE RESERVATIONS OR INFORMATION: EMAIL: kburkett-jchc@windstream.net

Tele: (814) 849-0077 OR VISIT WWW.JCHCONLINE.ORG

BENEFFTS THE JEFFERSON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Name That Artifact

The Model 1860 Light Cavalry Saber

by Mike Benigni

Among Jefferson County History Center's more prized artifacts is a saber (right) which belonged to Norwood G. Pinney, of Revolutionary War stock. Pinney enlisted in 1862 as a Private in the 15th Regiment, Pennsylvania Cavalry and was discharged in February 1865.

The Pinney ancestors were from Connecticut. Norwood's father came west and settled in Kittanning. His obit states he was born in Mahoning, Armstrong County in January 1839. He grew up in Kittanning and after the war returned to work in his father's carriage business there and later settled in Brookville in 1878, where he resided until his death on Oct. 3, 1904.

Pinney made his living first as a carriage maker, and then in 1880 began operating a very successful insurance agency located in the Marlin Opera House Block. He was an active member of the Grand Army of the Republic, and his wife had taken a leading part in the affairs of the Womens' Relief Corps and other charitable organizations. According to McKnight's history "*Jefferson County Pennsylvania: Her Pioneers and People*," Pinney "was regarded as a man of unimpeachable character, one who held upright principles and practiced them in daily conversation with his fellows." One of his daughters, Rebecca, married Samuel B. Arthurs and established Brookville's first public library.

The 15th Regiment, Pennsylvania Volunteer Cavalry, also known as the Anderson Cavalry (or the 160th Volunteers), was formed in the summer of 1862. The regiment consisted of 1100 men in ten companies and was led by Colonel William Jackson Palmer. The Cavalry was an independent unit reporting directly to the headquarters of the Army of the Cumberland, performing escort, scouting, courier, and other details for the commanding general. Composed of hand-picked men, it became the favorite unit of General William S. Rosencrans and General George H. Thomas. The regiment participated in the battles of Antietam, Stones River, and Mossy Creek, among others.

The Model 1860 Light Cavalry Saber (also known as the M1862 as this was when the first 800 were issued) is a long sword made of steel and brass, used by U.S. cavalry from the Civil War until the end of the Indian wars. The saber is 41 inches long with a 35 inch by 1-inch blade and weighs over 3.5 pounds in its scabbard.

The M1860 Light Cavalry Saber received its name to distinguish it from the larger and heavier Model 1840 Heavy Cavalry Saber – also known as "The Wristbreaker" – that it replaced. Like its predecessor it had a brass guard, leather-wrapped grip and steel scabbard, but unlike the M1840, it was smaller with a thinner blade to reduce the weight and thus easier to handle. By the end of the Civil War over 300,000 had been produced. Staff & Field Officers had to privately purchase their own swords. Many high-ranking officers, such as Union General George Custer and Confederate General J.E.B. Stuart, had their swords ornately engraved with gilding and foliage.



This is the sword typically used in movie Westerns, many being original antiques purchased by the movie industry in the 1920s when surplus Civil War equipment was inexpensive as compared to today.

The Hilt of Pinney's saber consists of a wire-wrapped sharkskin handle with brass handguard and pommel at the top of the handle to prevent the saber from slipping out of the hand.

Upcoming Events

Board of Directors & Staff

2021 Events Calendar

Now that the COVID restrictions are lifting we are currently planning our 2021 Events.

Military Collectibles Show
Saturday June 5
9AM—3PM
Jefferson County Fairgrounds

2021 Ecology Programs
TBA
ADA Accessible Native Plant-
Pollinator Pond Project
Scripture Rocks Heritage Park

Wednesday, June 16
Laurel Festival Family Night
5PM—8PM

Friday, June 19
Laurel Festival Sidewalk Sale
9AM—3PM

Antique Rifles & Indian
Artifacts Show
Saturday September 4
9AM—3PM
Jefferson County Fairgrounds

Sunday, September 19
Family Bicycle Poker Ride
Depot St Trailhead, Brookville
To Summerville
11 AM—5PM

WATCH for MORE
FALL EVENTS
in our
SUMMER NEWSLETTER
or at jchconline.org



Model Railroad Schedule

Bowdish Birthday Bash &
New Exhibits Opening
Saturday, February 27
11AM—4PM

Saturday, March 27
12PM—3PM

Saturday, April 24
12PM—3PM

Saturday, May 29
12PM—3PM

Wednesday, June 16
Laurel Festival Family Night
Bowdish Trains
TBA

Saturday, July 31
12PM—3PM

Saturday, August 28
12PM—3PM

Saturday, September 25
12PM—3PM

Saturday, October 30
12PM—3PM

Saturday, November 27
12PM—3PM

JCHS BOARD of DIRECTORS

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Tracy Zents—2023
tzents@jeffersoncountypa.com

Vice-President

Larry Anthony—2023

Treasurer

Arthur McKinley—2023

Secretary

Colleen Cooney—2021

Zachary Ankeny—2022
Linda Benigni Barnes—2023

Lance Carrier—2022

Doug Davis—2021

Dave Gilbert—2021

Pete Lindemuth—2022

Amy Salsgiver—2022

Dave Taylor—2021

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Mike Benigni, Projects/Research
Linda Heriger-Smith, Collections/Shop
Cyndi Morrison, Collections/Shop
Fay Williams, Projects/Shop

VOLUNTEERS

Peggy Baughman	Carole Briggs
Jack Burkett	Jade Egelhoff
Austin Fields	Carol Hollobaugh
Pete Lindemuth	Bill McCracken
Jerry McGiffin	Joni Murray
Jon Noonan	Fay Noonan
Art Schrecongost	Jo Schrecongost
Eric Shugarts	Victor Stahlman
Mike Tattersall	Jack Theisen

The Jefferson County
Historical Society
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P.O. Box 51
Brookville, PA 15825

(814) 849-0077
jchc@windstream.net

<http://jchconline.org>
and scripturerocks.com

Museum Hours:
Wed - Sat
11 AM - 4 PM

Closed Sundays
Mondays and Holidays

We typically close when
our schools close due to
weather, and urge you to
phone before traveling
any distance.

**CALL AHEAD FOR
COVID19
RESTRICTION
UPDATES**

Exhibit Admission

By Donation
JCHS Members - Free

Genealogy
Contracted Research
\$25 /Hour

(1 Hour minimum)

In-House Assisted
Research
\$25/Hour
(after 1st 1/2 hour)

If you would like to
receive our
E-newsletter
and announcements
of events and
activities at JCHC ,
Please SIGN UP at
jchconline.org

**NONPROFIT ORG.
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Jefferson County Historical Society Annual Membership Application

Student \$10 Individual \$30 Family (Household) \$40 Life \$600.00

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Email _____

Phone: _____

Return with your check payable to JCHC at
PO Box 51
Brookville, PA 15825

Credit cards by phone or at jchconline.org

Our Mission

Our purpose is to engage people of all ages in the history of Jefferson County. We collect and care for relevant objects, images and documents and invite county residents and visitors to research our materials, interact with our exhibits, take part in our programs and read our publications, in order to encourage an understanding of our past and present and afford a vision for the future.