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**FFERSONIAN** 

Volume 30, Issue 1, Spring 2016

#### A PUBLICATION OF THE JEFFERSON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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The Jeffersonian is published in February, June, and October. Submissions are always welcome and should be directed to Ken Burkett c/o the History Center.

#### An Appeal From the President

Thanks to the heartwarming response of the community last year, enough money was raised to bring the Scripture Rocks Heritage Park Project to its final stages of completion. This is an ambitious project on our part and has been successful due to a dedicated volunteer crew and the financial support from businesses and individuals. I'm sure we all look forward to the grand opening planned in June.



**Eric Armstrong** 

Projects like Scripture Rocks Park and most of our exhibits are underwritten through specific grants and donors, and not from our general operating budget. That budget for non-profits like the History Center is dependent upon admissions, member support, county government, and state government; so like most Pennsylvanians, we are anxiously following the on-going budget negotiations in Harrisburg.

In 1991 when the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission established a line item for county historical societies, the requirement was a dollar for dollar match from the county. Our commissioners stepped up and matched those grants through the years as they gradually increased from \$1,125 to \$10,000. When the commission received no state money in 2011, our county commissioners continued to grant us \$10,000 each year—an action for which we are very grateful.

Fortunately, PHMC funding was restored in 2014 but at a significantly lower level—\$4,000. It is not rocket-science to figure out that the bottom line of our general operating budget is suffering.

We are now in the planning stages to finish the park, open several new exhibits, and keep the doors open and lights on, each of which require funding now. We do need your help.

If you were planning to contribute to our Annual Giving Campaign later in the year, would you consider making that contribution now so that we can have working capital to fund what is underway or donate specifically to help open the Scripture Rocks Park? We want to keep and continue operating as a premier attraction in Jefferson County while we work to preserve your heritage and history.

Eric Armstrong, JCHS President

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#### 2016 Events Calendar

Saturday, February 27 12- 4 pm Bowdish Birthday Celebration

Saturday, March 5
9 am - 4 pm
Military Collectibles Show
Jefferson County
Fairgrounds

Saturday, March 12
7 pm
"Cèilidh" An Evening with
Titchner and Scott
Holy Trinity Episcopal
Church
Tickets at the door

Tuesday April 19
7 pm
American Towns At War
Community Preview
Heritage House

Saturday, June 11
1 pm
Grand Opening
Scripture Rocks Heritage
Park

Saturday, September 3
9 am - 4 pm
Antique Rifles and Indian
Artifact Show
Jefferson County
Fairgrounds

Friday, September 23
JCHS 1st Annual
Golf Tournament
Pinecrest Country Club

Mark Your
Calendar
Scripture Rocks
Heritage Park
Grand Opening
Saturday, June 11

#### **JCHS NEWS**

#### Cara Stockdale

Cara Stockdale has been hired as the new Executive Director for the Venango County Historical Society. She received her bachelor's degree from Indiana University in history and in 2015 she received her master's degree in both public relations and journalism from Clarion University. While serving as a volunteer at the Jefferson County History Center in Brookville, Stockdale accepted a position first as graduate assistant and then as outreach coordinator upon graduation with her



master's degree. Stockdale's focus as the executive director for the Venango County Historical Society will be completing the move to the historical society's new head-quarters, the Egbert-Mullins-Koos House, which is scheduled to open in May. We wish Cara all the best as she moves into her new leadership position.

#### **Volunteers Wanted**

The JCHS always has an ongoing need and opportunity for you to participate with the organization. New volunteers are always welcome for a day or a set schedule that accommodates your time and interest. Some of the areas that our volunteers are helping with include:

- Bowdish Model Railroad
- Planning and helping at Events
- Building and Grounds
- Exhibits planning and installation
- Gift Shop retail planning and management

A lot of work needs yet to be completed at the Scripture Rocks Park including a general cleanup, preparing the engraved rocks, installing markers and signage and some light brush removal. Crews work at the park on Friday, Saturday and Monday.

We are planning the 1st Annual JCHS Golf Tournament for Friday, September 23 at Pinecrest Country Club and need help with the planning and operations of this important new fund raiser.

#### **Pathstones**

For the past 4 years, Judy Shirley and Alice Miller have been familiar faces in the office and gift shop. Both will be leaving the Pathstone program and we congratulate Alice on her new job and Judy, who will still be occasionally volunteering at the History Center when she isn't working on her book.

Shirly Rhodes and Peggy Baughman recently started with the History Center through Pathstones. Shirley will be doing data entry and assisting with researchers working on genealogy and Peggy will be helping to manage the shop.

If you know of anyone who is over age 55 and is interested in a part-time position at the JCHC or another non-profit organization in Jefferson County through the Pathstone program, please contact us. Participating individuals must be over age 55 and meet income eligibility guidelines.

### **JCHS Annual Awards Recipients**



Rob (left) receiving Kate Scott Award from the JCHC Executive Director Ken Burkett

#### Kate M. Scott Award

This award is presented in recognition of a person or group who has significantly contributed to preserving Jefferson County History for future generations

The 2015 award was presented to Mr. Rob Keith. Rob lives in Brockway and teaches chemistry at the Dubois High School. Rob currently serves on the Board of Directors at the Brockway Historical Society and is editor of that organization's Saga publication. He is known throughout the area as an expert on the early history and settlement of the Toby Valley with a special interest in logging and

railroading. Rob's efforts to help record the local history are included in a recent book he authored titled *Brockway and Little Toby Valley*.



Betty Elza receiving Arthur Altman Award from JCHS President, Eric Armstrong

#### **Arthur Altman Award**

This award is present to a member of the Jefferson County Historical Society who has significantly contributed to preserving the History of Jefferson County for future generations.

The 2015 award was being presented to Betty Elza who resides in Corsica, PA.

Since 2006, Betty has published 13 books of which 12 explore regional history and one for a change of pace is on flowers. Included in her accomplishments is *A History of Corsica 1802* – 2010; *A Little Book of Remembrance*; and a record of The Immaculate Conception Ceme-

*tery in Brookville.* She is the Honorary Past Reagent with the Clarion County DAR regent for 6 years and serves as the Executive Assistant at Clarion County Historical Society.

If you have someone you would like to nominate for the 2017 annual awards, please contact Eric Armstrong at earmst@windstream.net

#### Jeffersonian Journal

JCHS members - Due to our spring funding crunch the 2016 edition of the *Jeffersonian Journal* will be published a little later this spring. This is a benefit of your annual membership and we are proud to present a number of articles annually about the history of Jefferson County from a variety of authors.

We are always looking for writers to contribute interesting articles for this publication and welcome anyone to submit. Please refer to your journal for manuscript guidelines. If you have questions, contact Mike Benigni at mbenigni-jchc@windstream.net.

#### JCHC Board of Directors

President

Eric Armstrong-2018 earmst@windstream.net

Vice-President Dick Beck-2017

Treasurer Tom Glover - 2018 Secretary Ed Kaufman - 2018

Larry Anthony - 2017

Cathy Dinger - 2016

Diana Farley - 2016

Joan Hillard - 2017

Joni Kerr - 2016

Jon Noonan - 2018

Pat Steele - 2017

Jerry Thompson - 2016

#### **STAFF**

Kenneth Burkett
Executive Director
kburkett-jchc@windstream.net

Carole Briggs

Curator cbriggs-jchc@windstream.net

#### **PATHSTONES**

Research Kat Lyons jchc@windstream.net

Peggy Baughman Mike Benigni Barb Marsteller Shirley Rhodes

#### **VOLUNTEERS**

Jack Burkett
Austin Fields
Ray Hannold
Carol Hollobaugh
Mark Lussky
Bill McCracken
Harry Neuhard
Sandy Noonan
Art Schreckengost
Judy Shirley
Vickie Storey

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## Scripture Rocks Heritage Park



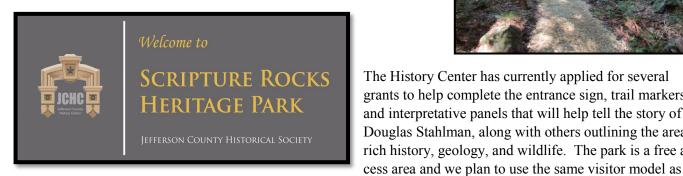
Michael Chapaloney PA Executive Director of Tourism and John Stratiff, Executive Director of PA Great Outdoors visited the JCHS to learn about the about the Scripture Rocks project

Scripture Rocks Heritage Park was recently designated as one of the top 10 places to visit in Pennsylvania during 2016 by uncoveringpa.com, and was also featured in the current issue of Welcome Pennsylvania Great Outdoors Region magazine.

Throughout the fall of 2014 and all of 2015 volunteers have been busy preparing the park by clearing underbrush and establishing 1.4 miles of trails that are now finished with over 160 tons of gravel. The parking lot is currently under construction with fill donated by Jefferson County as part of their new Jail Construction project and will be finished graded with a limestone surface cover and guard rail barrier later

this spring.

There is a long list of private and corporate donors who have graciously provided funding through our ongoing Scripture Rocks capital campaign which has enabled us to complete the work to date. Currently \$24,000 of the \$50,000 needed to complete the project has been raised. Persons or groups with donations of \$1000 or more will have their names included on the park's permanent signage.



The History Center has currently applied for several grants to help complete the entrance sign, trail markers and interpretative panels that will help tell the story of Douglas Stahlman, along with others outlining the area's rich history, geology, and wildlife. The park is a free ac-

many of the National Parks by placing a donation box at the trailhead where voluntary fees are collected in exchange for a booklet detailing the self-guided trails and a transcript and additional information about each of the 67 inscribed

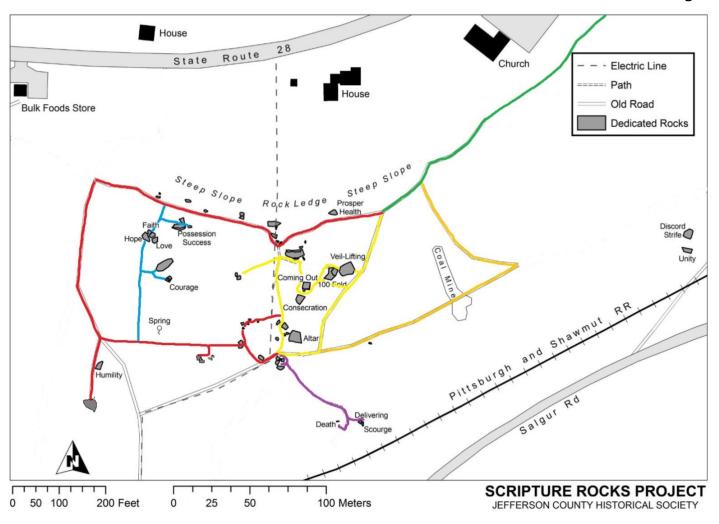
rocks. Income from the donations will be used to help defer costs and help maintain the park which will be open from early spring through late fall.

Other funds are still needed to help us complete the parking lot and other aspects of the park. Long term we are also looking for a sponsor to help provide a picnic pavilion and are currently accepting donations of \$250.00 for the purchase of a memorial trailside bench. If you would like to purchase a bench or make a donation to the park, please contact Ken Burkett at the History Center.

We plan to have the park open to the public this spring. A formal grand opening ceremony and guided tours event is being planned for Saturday, June 11th.



Cypress Clocks recently provided a donation of a storage shed permitting us to keep tools and supplies at the park.



We are planning on installing 10 trailside benches at various locations throughout the park. If you would like to purchase one as a memorial to someone or just have your family name or business inscribed please complete the form below and return to the JCHC.

Scripture Rocks Heritage Park Memorial Trailside Bench Form					
Your Name	Phone:				
Email:	Address:				
·	State Zip:				
Name to be engraved _					
Please enclose your check of	f \$250 made out to the JCHC and mail to: Jefferson County History Center P. O. Box 51 Brookville, PA 15825				

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#### Curator's Corner

**Carole Briggs** 

We've a long list of exhibits in our database here at the History Center. When we operated from Brady Craig House, even though exhibits in a house museum are somewhat problematical, we managed to show what life was like *Before TV* by arranging the rooms there to show our visitors that folks played bridge, did needlework, and enjoyed music. One season, to illustrate military life, we used photographs and a clothesline hung with khaki underwear!

There are multiple purposes to each and every exhibit, but the primary purpose is to stimulate memory—to aide visitors in recalling their lives at a particular time in the past. Teaching about people, events, and places is important, too, so we had exhibits at Brady Craig about folks who earned the Brookville Chamber of Commerce's Person of the Year Award, about a lawsuit between the PA Memorial Home and the school board that reached the PA Supreme Court, and about kitchen equipment that folks don't use today.



Then in 2004 we moved into the Edelblute Building and worked with designer John Strawbridge to plan exhibits, both permanent and temporary. Visitors from all over and of all ages come to learn about Jefferson County, so *Living on the Land* shows them how the county evolved from prehistoric times to the present. The small exhibit on the landing before entering the research room shows the changes in our lovely and well-preserved courthouse.

About half our visitors come from outside Jefferson County, and want to earn about this place, so we don't change much in *Living on the Land*, just a case or two periodically, and the kinds of things we show in the log house.

Our temporary exhibits upstairs are targeted to our repeat visitors, those of your who live in the county. Our Bowdish Railroad volunteers clean, rearrange, and add new models during the winter months. Art in the Grand Hall is changed, and new exhibits are opened in the other galleries, each open to visitors for about 10 -12 months.



Back in 2001 when we began to think about the new History Center, we held focus groups throughout the county to learn what a museum could mean to our citizens. In summary, Dr. Todd Pfannestiel told us that dealing with our history of economic downturns; addressing the isolation of rural citizens; using the history center to educate people of all ages; contrasting negative stereotypes with actual people, places, and events; and telling the many stories that abound here are specific actions the History Center can take.

Today in designing exhibits, we work from Todd's summary and from a long-range plan that projects well into the future proposed exhibits we will research, design, build, and finally, install.

Now it's your turn to let us know what you want to see when you visit the History Center. Think about it and email <a href="mailto:cbriggs-jchc@windstream.net">cbriggs-jchc@windstream.net</a>. We'd love to add your ideas to our Exhibit Planning Chart.

#### **Upcoming Exhibits (Opening Feb. 27)**

#### **Greatest Generation**

Located in the Grand Hall and Gallery A, there are some of Jefferson County's WWII military service men and women in photographs and personal artifacts. Come explore who they are and

learn some interesting facts about our local heroes.



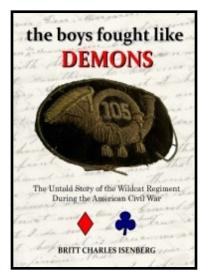
## The Toy Story

Gumby, Barbie, Slinky, Mr. Potato Head, G I Joe, Hot Wheels and so many other names of popular toys from the 1940s, 50s, '60s and '70s capture the craziness, the joy, the sheer fun of being a kid. But beneath those nutty names are rich veins of nostalgia, memory and history. Our newest exhibit in the Skylight Gallery showcases some of our favorite toys and demonstrates how children's playthings changed and sometimes endured during four decades of growing up.

# The Boys Fought Like Demons

#### The Untold Story of the Wildcat Regiment During the American Civil War

**Authored by Britt Charles Isenberg** 



During the American Civil War, more than two hundred regiments were supplied by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for Federal service in the suppression of the "Great Rebellion." Of all those Pennsylvania units that served through the long conflict from 1861-1865, only one suffered a greater loss of life during their term of service than the 105th Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry. Hailing from the lumber region of Western Pennsylvania, the regiment would carry the sobriquet of "Wildcats" into action on nearly every battlefield in the eastern theater of the war. Their patriotism, leadership, courage and perseverance were tested to the utmost in a horrible gauntlet

that included four years of deadly battles. Many of these men never survived to tell about their experiences at places like Fair Oaks, Gettysburg, the Wilderness, or Petersburg. This is their remarkable story.

**About the author:** Britt Charles Isenberg is a 2008

graduate of Millersville University of Pennsylvania. He currently resides in Gettysburg, PA with his wife Snezana. Britt is a Licensed Battlefield Guide/Historian at Gettysburg National Military Park and has been studying the American Civil War since he was just a young boy. His research centers around the role of Pennsylvania troops during the war.

The Boys Fought Like Demons is now available at the Jefferson County History Center Gift shop. Britt will be our special guest to personally sign books at the Military Show on Saturday, March 5th. (Reserve your book now)



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#### **Bowdish Birthday**

Charles Albert Bowdish was born in Brookville on February 28, 1896. Beginning in 1919 and continuing most of his adult life, Charlie maintained an interest in mechanical things and model building. His miniature railroads and dioramas were a hit in his hometown for many Christmas visitors, and ultimately at the time of his death in 1998 the Miniature Railroad and Village at the Carnegie Science Center would become a legacy.

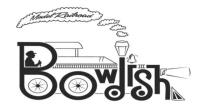
in 2000 the Carnegie Science Center and the Jefferson County Historical Society entered into an agreement so that Bowdish models not being used by the CSC could be exhibited in Brookville. When the Jefferson County Historical Society began the preservation of the Edelblute Building and its adaptation as the new Jefferson County History Center in 2001, one room was set aside for the Bowdish exhibit and a model railroad layout.

Today a dedicated group of volunteers operate and maintain the Bowdish Model Railroad Exhibit, which is a layout about twice the size of the plan Charles first built for Buhl. Unlike Charles, however, the Brookville volunteers do not start from scratch each season. Instead they move, remove, and add models and animations, as they reconfigure the layout to show and tell the stories of Jefferson County.

The railroad is operated during the Christmas season and during special festival events in Brookville. Our newly remodeled layout debuts the last Saturday in February in recognition of Charle's Birthday. Make plans to visit the History Center on February 27, and help us celebrate this exciting exhibit and bring a friend.

# You are invited!

**Annual Bowdish Birthday Celebration** 



Jefferson County History Center Saturday, February 27, 12 - 5 pm

#### **FREE ADMISSION**

Members: bring a friend and sponsor a free 2015 JCHS membership for first time members

#### **Events Include**

Special running of the newly redesigned Bowdish Model Railroad

#### **Opening of New Exhibits**

The Greatest Generation The Toy Story



# Bowdish Model Railroad Schedule

Saturday, February 27 12 - 4 pm

Saturday, March 26 12 - 3 pm

Friday, April 30 12 - 3 pm

Friday, May 28 12 - 3 pm

Friday, June 25 12 - 3 pm

#### **Special Events**



In honor of the St.

Patrick's Day holiday, Mark
and Bekki will take you on a
musical journey through the
Celtic lands.

There will be songs from the Renaissance to today, with stops in Ireland, Scotland, Canada, the Appalachians, and even a story or two.

Price includes St. Patricks

Day fare and drink

# **Climbing your Family Tree**

With Pat Steele & Andy Byerly Saturday April 9 1:00 - 4:00 pm Jefferson County History Center

Have you ever wanted to research your family history?

#### **Class Includes**

Beginners introduction to Genealogy
Learning how to document your information
Basics of Local Genealogy Sources
Becoming familiar with the various online genealogical sources

Cost = \$15 for JCHS members \$20 non-members Register Early - Limited Class Size Page 10 The Jeffersonian

#### **Events**

#### Military Collectibles Show

The Jefferson County History Center will host our 2nd annual Military Collectibles Show on Saturday, March 5, 2016, from 9 am – 4 pm, at the Jefferson County Fairgrounds, Brookville, PA.

This event includes both vendors and exhibitors from across Pennsylvania. They will be displaying a wide range of interesting military collectibles from the Civil War, WWI, WWII, Vietnam, and Gulf Wars to the present. Items for show, sale and trade will include weapons, uniforms, accouterments, photographs, artifacts, publications, and other items of historical interest to both the beginner and advanced military collector.

There will be a series of local speakers talking about their military experiences and food will be available all day at the event.

The Jefferson County Fairgrounds are located on Route 28 approximately 1/2 mile north of Interstate 80 (Exit 81). The show will run from 9:00 am until 4:00 pm. Adult admission is \$5 and children under twelve are free. For table reservations or additional information, contact the Jefferson County History Center at (814) 849-0077 or contact kburkett-jchc@windstream.net.

The Jefferson County Historical Society Presents the Second Annual

# MILITARY COLLECTIBLES SHOW

A SHOW OF HISTORIC MILITARIA FOR SHOW, SALE, AND TRADE



SATURDAY, MARCH 5TH 2016 9:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.

Jefferson County Fairgrounds Pa Interstate 80, Exit 81, 1/4 Mile North of the Exit

FEATURING MILITARIA FROM THE CIVIL WAR TO THE PRESENT INCLUDING WORLD WAR I AND WORLD WAR II

ADMISSION: ADULTS- \$5.00 CHILDREN UNDER 12- FREE

FOR TABLE RESERVATIONS OR INFORMATION CONTACT:

EMAIL: KBURKETT-JCHC@WINDSTREAM.NET

TELE: (814) 849-0077

OR VISIT: WWW.JCHCONLINE.ORG

#### AMERICAN TOWNS AT WAR

Come and see the final cut version of the local documentary film *American Towns at War* at a special Community Preview at 7 pm on Tuesday, April 19th at the Heritage House located at 4 Sylvania Street in Brookville.

**Admission is FREE** 

Written by John Russo and Directed by Russ Streiner and John Russo, this 1 hour made-fortelevision production chronicles events on the home front for both Brookville, PA and Falmouth, VA prior to and during the American Civil War.

John, Russ and others will be here to also discuss how the film was conceived and brought to production.



#### **Around the County**

#### **JEFFERSON COUNTY LONGRIFLES** Brookville, Pennsylvania



#### 40th ANNUAL RENDEZVOUS

"Home of the 1st Eastern Primitive Rendezvous"

# WINTER RENDEZVOUS February 20<sup>TH</sup> & 21<sup>ST</sup> 2016

Hours: Saturday 9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Sunday 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon

- Paper, Mountain Man & Trail
- Aggregates
- Cash targets
- Food Available Camping available
- ♠ Traders Welcome
- · Camps Welcome, Camp Fees Apply Primitive & Modern (no hook-ups)

Hours: Saturday 9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Sunday 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon

Wood & Water available

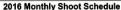
SUMMER RENDEZVOUS July 2<sup>ND</sup> & 3<sup>RD</sup> 2016

- Cash targets
- Men, Women, Juniors, Youth & Aggregate
- Paper, Mountain Man & Trail
- Trade Gun
- Saturday "Evening Shoot"
- Medallions First 75 registered shooters

#### PETS WELCOME & MUST BE ON A LEASH AT ALL TIMES

- TRADITIONAL GUNS ONLY
- NO ARTIFICIAL MUSIC
- NO FIREWORKS

For More Information -see us on Fa www.jeffersoncountylongrifles.blogspot.com

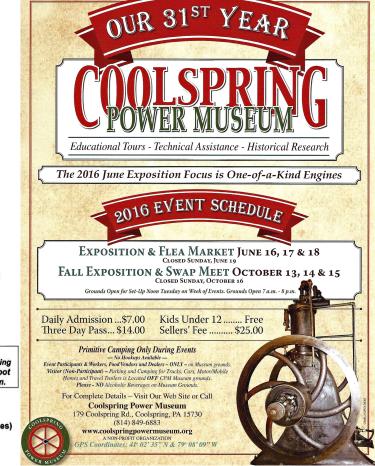


\*\*June 19, 2016 \*\* March 20, 2016 September 18, 2016 - JCL Members Annual Meeting \*\*July 17, 2016 \*\* April 17, 2016 Picnic & Blanket Shoot

\*\*August 21, 2016 November 13, 2016 - Turkey Shoot @ 11:00 a.m. \*\* May 15, 2016 \*\* All monthly shoots start at NOON

September: Annual Meeting & Picnic – Shoot @ 11:00 a.m. – Picnic @ 3:30 p.m. November: Turkey Shoot – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Month @ 11:00 a.m. (agg shoot – Meat prizes)

1000 HARRIGER HOLLOW ROAD, RAMSAYTOWN, BROOKVILLE PA 15825





The Punxsutawney Weather Discovery Center debuted a new exhibit and new technology on Friday, Jan. 22. The new exhibit, designed and built by Carnegie Science Center, is entitled "Ready or Not? Weather Emergency Shelter." The purpose of the exhibit is to educate the public about emergency weather situations. The exhibit does this through interactive quizzes and hands-on displays. The "Let's Get Packing" game tests visitors' knowledge of what items should be stored in a family's "Emergency Kit." The "Emergency Preparedness Supply Shelves" show items that should be stocked and flip panels ask questions about the types of items that should be stored in an emergency shelter. Other interactives round out the exhibit that is housed in one of the three vaults at the Weather Discovery Center that are left from the days when the building was a post office.

In addition to the exhibit, the Weather Discovery Center also debuted its new Smart Board technology in its theater. The Smart Board is an interactive, touch-screen projec-

tor that allows visitors and program participants to draw, write, and select items on the board itself. The board also allows access to the Internet and its vast supply of resources.

Both the "Ready or Not?" exhibit and the Smart Board are now part of the regular visitor experience at the Weather Discovery Center. The Weather Discovery Center is located in the beautiful former 1914 Federal Building and Post Office, now listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The museum is of interest to all ages and is open Monnday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday & Saturday from: 10am - 4pm. See http://www.weatherdiscovery.org

The Jefferson County Historical Society 172-176 Main St. P.O. Box 51 Brookville, PA 15825

(814) 849-0077 jchc@windstream.net

http://jchconline.org

**Museum Hours** 

Wed. - Sat. 11 am - 4 pm

Closed Sunday, Monday Tuesday, and holidays

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

**Exhibit Admission Fees** 

**JCHS Members - Free** 

Non-members

Individual - \$ 5

Household - \$ 7

Students - \$1

Genealogy Contracted Research

Assisted Research \$15/hr. (after 1st hr.)

\$25 /hr. (1 hr. minimum)

If you would like to receive our E-newsletter and announcements of events and activities at the JCHC

SIGN UP AT jchconline.org

NONPROFIT ORG. U.S.POSTAGE paid Permit No. 11 Falls Creek, PA 15840

# Jefferson County Historical Society Annual Membership Application

	Individual \$25/12 months		Family (Household) \$35/12 months		
Name					
	dress				_
City			State	Zip	_
Phone		_Email			_
Credit Card	Туре С	ard #			_

#### **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 a vision for the future.