

Volume 25. Issue 3. Fall 2012

#### 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** 

# **Annual Giving Campaign**



Beverly and Richard Smaby while visiting the History Center

October marks the beginning of the Jefferson County Historical Society's Annual Giving Campaign with Beverly Smaby serving as Honorary Chairperson. Although no longer living in Brookville, Beverly was instrumental in setting the organization on the path to purchasing and renovating the Edleblute-Pearsall building as a more prominent place on Main Street for the organization. Unfortunately she had to make the difficult decision to move away in 2003 before the renovations were complete and her vision unfulfilled. On a recent return visit she noted: "Imagine my happy astonishment when I returned to Brookville this past spring and found the Jefferson County History Center has become a treasure among small museum with an award winning exhibit telling thought-provoking stories about the people who have lived in Jefferson

County and how they have used our natural resources to make a living, an exquisite Bowdish model railroad created and maintained by local enthusiasts, an attractive, high quality gift shop (without the usual kitsch), a pleasant, light-filled research room for genealogists and other historians and knowledgeable staff and volunteers who welcome visitors and answer their questions. "

Along with most non-profits, the JCHC continues to face tough challenges as a result of hard economic times and continues to run with slightly reduced hours and staff and has faced some additional unforeseen expenses in the repair of the fover floor and installation of chair lifts for our interior stairs. This coming year, funds will be needed to host and advertise three excellent traveling exhibits on various aspects of the Civil War in Pennsylvania and continue an already exceptional schedule of exhibits, events and programs.

Each member is invited to join with Beverly and the JCHC Board in support of the History Center with a tax deductible donation to help reach the 2012 campaign goal of \$25,000. These donations are critically important to helping the JCHC thrive in spite of these challenges not only because it provides direct financial support, but also because a strong commitment by our members helps to leverage additional grants from outside funders.

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#### **Events Calendar**

#### October

Oct. 1 - 27 The Civil War in Pennsylvania Special Exhibit

Sat., Oct. 6 Bowdish Railroad 1-3 pm

Sat., Oct. 20 Bowdish Railroad 1-3 pm

Sat., Oct 27 JCHS Annual Dinner 6:00 PM Pinecrest Country Club

November Sat., Nov. 3 Bowdish Railroad 1-3 pm

Fri., Nov. 23 Bowdish Railroad 5-8 pm

#### **December**

Sat., Dec. 1 Bowdish Railroad 12-3 pm Through Their Eyes Special Exhibit

Fri., Dec. 7 Bowdish Railroad 5-9 pm

Sat., Dec. 8 Victorian Christmas House Tours 5:30 pm (Advance Tickets Only)

Fri., Dec. 22 Bowdish Railroad 5-8 pm

Make YOUR
Reservations NOW

JCHS Annual Dinner

Saturday, October 27th PInecrest Country Club

#### A Note From Nathan



Please allow me to express my gratitude to each and every person involved with the JCHC throughout my work experience. You have all provided me with the needed support and motivation to get me to where I am today. As I venture on to the next phase, my thoughts will always come back to the wonderful time that I spent with the JCHC. Each one of you has had a great impact on my life, and for that I am blessed.

Best wishes to you all - Nathan Pearce

Note - Nathan was at the JCHC for two full years as a graduate assistant through a scholarship endowment established at Clarion University in 2004 through a National Endowment for the Humanities grant matched by Brookville Equipment Corporation and Matson Lumber Company. He has now accepted a full time teaching position in Virginia Beach, VA. During his time here he was instrumental in helping with our social media and computer technology advancements and we wish him the best of luck in all regards.

HBI president Kathy Lynch recently presented the JCHC with a check in the amount of \$30,000 as part of a reimbursement through the Saving America's Treasurers project. The matching funds were used over the past several years to repaint the History Center façade, replace 2nd floor windows, install 2 new stairlifts and install interior storm windows throughout the building.





**Gun Show Winners** 

1st Prize Judy Kubas - Verona, PA Reproduction Rifle

2nd Prize

Jerry Schickling - Clearfield, PA

Possibles Bag/Powder Horn

3rd Prize
Ralph Paterson, Smicksburg, PA

Be sure to visit the newly installed Historic Signage at 14 various locations along Main Street in downtown Brookville

Jchconline.org

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#### Rhododendron Exhibit

Thanks to the construction crew of Jim Zimmerman, Wayne Kocher, Dick Beck, Jeff Carrier, Bob Moss and Doug Davis, the terrace walls, new brick sidewalks and ground cover has been installed for the David L. Leach Rhododendron living exhibit at the rear of the History Center.

We hope to obtain approximately 12 examples of David's hybrid plants over the fall and early spring and along with installation of interpretative signage to provide background history of this interesting man and his enduring work.

If you would like to make a donation directed to the purchase of plants or signage please contact Ken at the History Center.





# **Proposed 2012 By-Law Change**

Amendments to the JCHS By-laws must be made at the annual meeting by a two-thirds (2/3rds) vote of members present, provided that said amendments were previously presented to the general membership at an earlier meeting or by means of publication in a newsletter or other form of written communication prior to the annual meeting.

#### ARTICLE V. BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Section 1. The business of the Society shall be set and administered by the Board of Directors. The Board shall consist of 12 individuals who are at least eighteen years of age and members of the Society in good standing.
  - A. Election of Board Members will be held at the Annual Meeting with four Directors to be elected each year
  - B. The Board of Directors shall serve for a term of three years beginning on the date of the next regular meeting after being elected.

#### **Proposed Change:**

B. The Board of Directors shall serve for a term of three years beginning on January 1 after being elected.

# JCHC Board of Directors Dick Beck -2014

President
Melanie Darrin -2014
Vice-President
Jon Noonan - 2012
Treasurer
Pat Steele - 2014
Secretary
Jeff Carrier - 2013

Diana Farley - 2013 Tom Glover - 2012 Carol Hollobaugh - 2013 Joni Kerr - 2013 Ed Kaufman - 2012 Jim Zimmerman -2012

Craig Coon - 2014

STAFF
Kenneth Burkett
Executive Director
kburkett-jchc@windstream.net

Carole Briggs
Curator
cbriggs-jchc@windstream.net

#### **PATHSTONES**

Mark Lussky Assistant Curator jchc@windstream.net

> Helen Lockard Judith Shirley Alice Miller

#### **VOLUNTEERS**

Jack Burkett
Vickie Storey
Harry Neuhard
Herman Eisenga
Art Schreckengost
Ray Hannold
Bill McCracken
George Miller
Sandy Noonan
Jo Schreckengost
Sandy Simchak
Quinton Boroi
Andrew Byerly

### **JCHC Annual Dinner Meeting**

The JCHC Annual Dinner and Membership Meeting will be on Saturday evening, October 27th at the Pinecrest Country Club. The hospitality reception begins at 6pm and dinner is served at 6:30.

Dinner choices include Traditional Stuffed Chicken Breast, Char-Grilled House Sirloin or Pinecrest Super Lump Crab Cakes along with salad, potato, vegetable, desert and beverages.

Following a brief annual meeting and elections of the Jefferson County Historical Society, Ken Burkett will provide the after dinner program "Douglas Stahlman and his Dedicated Rocks".

Legends grow in part from facts, and many versions abound about the Scripture Rocks scattered throughout the woodlands surrounding Brookville.

It was exactly 100 years ago that Doug Stahlman began inscribing these rocks with dedications, Bible verses, versions of local and national events and sometimes personal viewpoints of various topics. His activity was not unnoticed in the community and went through several interesting levels of public acceptance and rejection before abruptly coming to an end in 1913.



During the past three years a joint project conducted by the Jefferson County History Center and North Fork Chapter 29 of the Society for Pennsylvania Archaeology rediscovered, formally recorded and interpreted the Scripture Rocks. This program will provide an overview of the venture and offer a personal insight of Mr. Stahlman and his perception of religion with a slightly different twist.

## Please mark you calendars now and confirm your plans to attend

2012 Annual Dinner Reservations	
Please reserve dinner's @ \$25.00 each	
Traditional Stuffed Chicken Breast Char-Grilled Sirloin (10 oz) Pined	crest super Lump Crab Cakes
Total Enclosed \$ Please Return by Saturday, October 15th	Return with your check by:
Name's	Saturday, Oct. 13, 2012
Address	Payable To: JCHC P. O. Box 51
City Zip Phone	Brookville, PA 15825  Credit Card Reservations accepted call 849-0077

### Oaks School Quilt

#### By Judy Shirley

We recently had a real treat at the Jefferson County History Center located on Main Street in Brookville when some ladies came to visit us. They were the former Geer sisters from what was called the "Reservation" between Sigel and Richardsville and had attended the one room Oaks School that served the children of that area. Betty Geer Lytle, one of the sisters now living in Brookville, had noted the Oaks School Quilt on exhibit on an earlier visit and made arrangements to bring her sisters together to view the quilt during their family reunion

The Oaks School Quilt is part of the JCHC collections and was created by the Wildwood Busy Bees who were a group of mothers who got together each Thursday in order to help one another out with various household group projects. The quilt was created for and

presented to Miss Vivian Martz, the teacher of the Oaks School. The families of the school were getting together for a school picnic at the end of the school year of 1933. Because this would be Vivian Martz's last time with the school since she would be leaving the area, many families took this occasion to present her with gifts. The group of mothers belonging to the Wildwood Busy Bees decided to present her with this quilt which included the names of each of their children.



Front Row: Faire Ellen Geer Silvis.

The quilt is made up of 20 large squares. One large square has "Oaks School" in it along with

Back Row: Betty Geer Lytle, Flossie Geer Grubbs, Jewell Geer Reese, Hazel

the years, 1930, 1931, 1932, and 1933. Each of the other nineteen squares was made by one of the mothers of a family that was not only a part of the Busy Bees but also had children in the Oaks School. Each mother made her own large square with the names of her children contained in it. These were then all put together to form the Wildwood Busy Bee quilt that would be their parting gift for Miss Martz. The quilting was done at the home of Ozie Haight. Some of the mothers involved were Ida Beer, Dara Brenneman, Sarah Cochran, Sara Geer, Gladys Gilmore, Dazzle Grubbs, Ozie Haight, Cloe Haight, Mary Himes, Becky Lindsay, Clara McManigle, Olive Oaks, Twila Silvis, Pearl Silvis, and Lillian Trayer. There were four other families named on the quilt but no one could remember the mother's first name. These were Becks, Hetricks, Saunders, and another Silvis family.

This quilt was not only a great gift for a much loved teacher. It has become a lasting memorial to a wonderful group of women who really knew what it meant to be a part of a caring community.

#### **New Members**

Mark & Elizabeth Adamson Paul Atland Alice Balest Linda Bollinger Joe Bonfardine Ken Butker Candis Chestnut Susan Condotta Marion Cramer Shelly Fremer John & Gail Hollenbaugh Deb Huffman Phil Hynes Dia Johnson John Johnson III Roy Katz Marlene Kerr Courtney Kelso Tara Kramer Thomas Mantag Tim McConville Jack & Wendy McFadden Mark Montgomery **Brad Myers** Joe Pranevich **Thomas Price** Beverly Renwick Margaret Riggs-Lays Lavada Riggins Diane Ross Nathan & Melinda Ryster **Daniel Schuckers** Pamela Speis Doyle & Carol Thompson Kathy Tomaswick Cynthia White Thomas White Ed Willis Richard Yeany Christy Weaver

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### **New Exhibits**

# The Civil War in Pennsylvania



# Civil War Traveling Exhibit Opens at the JCHC

*The Civil War in Pennsylvania* is a 500 square foot exhibit created by the Senator John Heinz History Center in Pittsburgh for its Affiliate Program members and presented by **Peoples Natural Gas** and supported by the **Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS)** will be on display as from **September 29 – October 27, 2012.** 

*The Civil War in Pennsylvania* exhibit features four life-like museum figures, plus a companion Dog Jack, along with artifacts, previously unseen photographs, and large museum panels describing Pennsylvania's contributions to the Civil War.

The four museum figures represented in the exhibition include:

- **Strong Vincent**, a young attorney from Erie, Pa. who rallied Union troops in the fierce battle on Little Round Top with the phrase, "Don't give an inch!"
- Martin Delany, a Pittsburgh abolitionist who was one of the first African Americans admitted to Harvard Medical School and later, the highest ranking African American in the Civil War.
- **Kate McBride**, a young worker from the Allegheny Arsenal, who represents the women and children who toiled on the home front to support the Union efforts.
- Tillie Pierce, a 15-year old Gettysburg native who hauled buckets of water for thirsty soldiers, tore cloth into bandages to aid physicians, and comforted the wounded after Confederate troops overran her hometown.

In addition to the figures, the exhibit also features several artifacts that illustrate Pennsylvania's role on both the battlefield and the home front, including:

- A Civil War-era cannon ball cut in half to show its cross-section along with a Civil War-era Enfield rifle.
- Paper cartridges and a collection of minie balls similar to what was created at the Allegheny Arsenal.
- Local Artifacts from Jefferson County veterans.

The exhibit will cover a variety of topics, all told from a Western Pa. perspective. Issues related to slavery, the efforts on the home front, the importance of women, the role of Pittsburgh as the "Arsenal of the Union," and the impact of the Battle of Gettysburg will be addressed.

# "Through Their Eyes"

A collection of original Civil War photographs representing the regiments from Jefferson County

Presented by the Ronn Palm's Museum of Military Images Opens December 1, 2012

#### By Carole Briggs

#### **TRUTH SQUAD**

Here at the History Center we do our darnedest to dig out the truth when designing exhibits or writing columns. Other historians try to do the same. We look for primary sources—those documents, images, and even stuff from the time of a person's life, or of an event, or of a place.

When we designed *The Journeys of People of Color To and Through Jefferson County* we knew we wanted to document folks from the time of the Native Americans through the present. Fortunately, our executive director is very knowledgeable about Native American culture, so we could summarize their presence in the area.

McKnight, who was a boy in the days preceding the Civil War, wrote credibly about the presence of Black Americans, beginning with Fudgeon VanCamp. Fudgeon shows up in early census records, too.

We'd traced the escape of fugitive slaves in both Scott and McKnight's books and by obtaining the court documents from Judge Elijah Heath's trial in 1834. Captain John McMurray wrote his memoir of leading black troops during the Civil War. Historians debate among themselves about whether history books and memoirs are truly primary sources because they were written after an event occurred.

A Yale University website declares that "Primary sources provide first-hand testimony or direct evidence concerning a topic under investigation. They are created by witnesses or recorders who experienced the events or conditions being documented. Often these sources are created at the time when the events or conditions are occurring, but primary sources can also include autobiographies, memoirs, and oral histories recorded later, so we take Scott, McKnight, and McMurray at their word.

We interviewed people who are still living, too. That's important not only for the present, but for the future as well. Our growing collection of oral histories will someday provide the primary source material for future Jefferson County historians.

We've more than one hundred audio tapes and many need transcribing, so if you have keyboard skills and extra hours this winter, let us know. We'll give you a lesson on how to use our equipment, provide you with space, and show you how to make tea and coffee!

#### **JCHC Recent Accessions**

High chair & rocking chair - Salley Zinsser

Landscape Painting (Emma Slick) - Jack and Jean Parker

Brookville sports items and memorabilia - Walter Dick

WRC Badge - Kathy Smith

Vintage Clothing - Carol & Joe Java

Military items & vintage clothing - Kathleen Asel & Beverly Asel-Barker

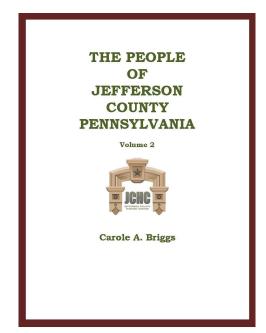
Military and other items - James Caldwell

Miners Light & Thermometer - Faye Noonan

Deemer Furniture Secretarial - Peggy Cummings

Specialized Footware - Sonja Leach

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### The People of Jefferson County By Carole A. Briggs

In 2006, the Brookville Mirror and County Neighbors newspapers began running monthly columns written by staff members here at the History Center. Columns from 2006-2008 were collected, bound, and made available in the History Center Shop as The People of Jefferson County – Vol 1, The Places of Jefferson County – Vol 1, and The Events of Jefferson County – Vol 1.

Columns written from 2009-2011 will soon be available as a series of three soft cover books.

The People of Jefferson County – Vol. 2 The Places of Jefferson County – Vol. 2 The Events of Jefferson County – Vol. 2

Price is 12.95 for each.

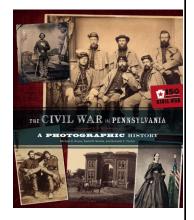
Pick up your copy at the JCHC Gift Shop

#### New Book on the Civil War

*The Civil War in Pennsylvania: A Photographic History* By Michael G. Kraus, David M. Neville, and Kenneth C. Turner presents a collection of over 400 rare and neverbefore-seen images highlighting Pennsylvania's role on the battlefield and on the home front. This 288 page heavy bound paperback features large images and detailed captions 4 color process throughout.

The publication of this book has been now pushed back until December by the publisher. We still hope to have copies available in time for distribution before Christmas.

 Purchase price is \$ 52.95 including tax with mailing for an additional \$5.00. Books may be reserved by contacting the Jefferson County History Center or by completing and returning the form below.



Only a limited number of books will be available through the gift shop so reserve yours now. Please NOTE that the publication Date has been pushed back until December 2012

The Civil War in Pennsylvania: A Photographic History					
Pre-publication Order Form					
Please Reserve copies at (\$49.95 + \$3.00 tax) = \$52.95 each Shipping \$ 5.00					
	(Make checks payable	e to the JCHC)	Total Enclosed		
Name:		Address: _			
City:		State:	Zip:	_	
Telephone:	Email :				
Credit Card Type	Card #		Exp. Date	3 digit code	
Pre-publication order accepted until 9/08/20			P. O	erson County History Center  D. Box 51  okville, PA 15825	

# Schedule of Events MANAGERS

Subject to change

Friday, December 7

11:30-8:00 p.m.

#### **Book Sale**

Rebecca M. Arthurs Library, Valley Street

1:00 a.m. -9:00 p.m.

#### **Christmas Tree Lane**

Jefferson County Courthouse, Main Street

5:30-8:00 p.m.

#### **Living Windows**

Main Street

Brass Ensemble Elementary Choirs

#### **BAHS Chamber Singers**

Jefferson County Courthouse, Main Street

5:00-8:00 p.m.

#### **Bowdish Model Train Show**

Jefferson County History Center, Main Street

8:00 p.m.

#### Live Nativity

Main Street, Ending at Presbyterian Church, Main Street

8:30 p.m.

#### Ghosts, Myths and Legends Tour\*

Starts at Scarlet Cord's Columbia Theater, Main Street
\*Tickets available at DeMan's, 195 Main Street
And the Brookville Area Chamber of Commerce, 100 Main Street

# Salurday, December 8

7:00-11:00 a.m.

#### Pancake and Sausage Breakfast

Grace Lutheran Church, Franklin Avenue

10:00 a.m. to Noon

#### A Walk through Bethlehem

Presbyterian Church, Main Street

10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

#### **Book Sale**

Rebecca M. Arthurs Library, Valley Street

10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

#### Craft Show and Sale

YMCA, Main Street

\* Tickets Required

# Saturday, December 8 cont.

10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

#### **Christmas Tree Lane**

Jefferson County Courthouse, Main Street

9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

#### Children's Shopping Mart

Brookville Volunteer Fire Company Social Hall Madison Avenue

11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

#### Carriage rides

Main Street

1:00-5:00 p.m.

#### Wine Walk\*

Brookville Area Chamber of Commerce
Various Main Street Locations
\*Limited tickets; call the Brookville Area Chamber of Commerce 814-849-8448
Or visit www.brookvillechamber.com

5:00 p.m.

#### "Jacob Marley's Christmas"\*

Featuring the music of Fieldstone and the Brookville Area High School Chamber Singers Marlin Opera House, Main Street \*Tickets available at DeMan's, 195 Main Street And the Brookville Area Chamber of Commerce, 100 Main Street

5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

### "Light the Night with Laurelbrooke Landing"

Bell Choir, Carriage Rides, Ornament Making, Cookie Decorating, Santa, Children's Storytime Laurelbrooke Landing, 1 Laurebrooke Drive

5:30-9:30 p.m.

#### House Tour\*

Jefferson County Historical Society
Begins at Grace Lutheran Church, Franklin Avenue
\*Limited tickets, call the Jefferson County History Center 814-849-0077

# Sunday, December 9

1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

#### "Jacob Marley's Christmas"\*

Featuring the music of Fieldstone and the Brookville Area High School Chamber Singers Marlin Opera House, Main Street \*Tickets available at DeMan's, 195 Main Street And the Brookville Area Chamber of Commerce, 100 Main Street Page 10 The Jeffersonian

#### **Events**





# Bowdish Model Railroad Schedule

Saturday, Oct. 6

12:00 - 3:00 pm

Saturday, Oct. 20

12:00 - 3:00 pm

Saturday, Nov. 3

12:00 - 3:00 pm

Friday Nov. 23

5:00 - 9:00 pm

Saturday, Dec. 1

12:00 - 3:00 pm

Friday Dec. 7

5:00 - 9:00 pm

Saturday Dec. 22

12:00 - 4:00 pm

Exhibit will be Closed January and February 2013

### **Victorian Christmas Family Portraits**

Biandi Photography & Art, in conjunction with the JCHC will again offer antiquestyle individual or family portraits taken in the History Center's Victorian Parlor during Victorian Christmas. We are expanding to 2 dates Saturday, Dec 1 from 1:00-4:00 and Friday, December 7 from 5:00-8:00 pm.

Families, individuals, or small groups will be supplied with Victorian Period clothing by the History Center and posed for a single seating photograph session. Photograph packages will be available for purchase in \$20 units along with a \$10 sitting fee to the JCHC.



The photographs will be available for pick up the following week at Biandi Photography & Art, 319 Main St., Brookville, or shipped for a small additional fee.

Please make advance arrangements by calling the Jefferson County History Center at (814) 849-0077 or emailing jchc@windstream.net

#### **Events**

#### Victorian Christmas House Tours Return to Brookville

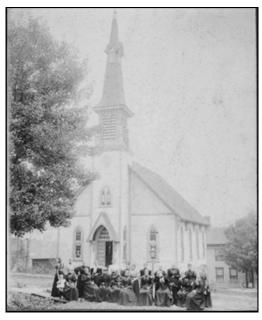
Last offered in 2007, the Jefferson County History Center is sponsoring House Tours, one of the most popular events in past years, during this years upcoming Victorian Christmas celebration. The itinerary on Jefferson Street will make it possible for participants to walk in small groups from home to home.

The tour begins for all groups at the Grace Lutheran Church at 5:30 pm where participants will receive a historically accurate description of each home provided by David L. Taylor. Assigned tour guides will escort the walking groups through each home.

Comfort facilities and refreshments will be available at the church and a limited number of special tickets will include transportation assistance between homes for those persons with difficulty walking. Please note, the Homes are not handicapped accessible.

Advance sale tickets are now available to JCHS Members using the attached form below until Saturday, October 27th. Only a limited number of tickets are available and the remaining unsold tickets will go on sale to the general public beginning on Thursday, November 1st.

Make your plans and reservations early to participate in one of Brookville's favorite Victorian Christmas events.



Grace Lutheran Church , the oldest church structure in Brookville, will be the beginning location for the 2012 Victorian Christmas House Tour

# All proceeds will benefit the Jefferson County History Center

# 2012 Victorian Christmas House Tour Reservations JCHC Members Advance Sale

Note - Limited availability sold on First Come Only.				
Please reserve	tickets @ \$20.00 each	Total Enclosed \$		
Name's		Return with your check by: Saturday, Oct. 27th Payable To:		
Address		——————————————————————————————————————		
City	Zip Phone	Credit Card Reservations		
		Accepted: Call 849-		

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. Noon - 5 pm

Closed Sun, Mon, Tue 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 \$25 /hr (1 hr minimum)

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

If you would like to receive our Enewsletters 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 Aapplication

	Individual \$20/12 months	Family (Household) \$30/12 months		
Name				
Mailing Addres	S			
City		State	Zip	
Phone	Email_			
Credit Card Type	Card #			
Exp. Date	3 digit code			

#### **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 we 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