

Volume 30, Issue 2, Fall 2016

A PUBLICATION OF THE JEFFERSON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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The Jeffersonian is published three times each year. **Submissions are always** welcome and should be directed to Ken Burkett c/o the History Center.



Scripture Rocks Park Grand Opening

The grand opening for the Scripture Rocks Heritage Park was held on Saturday June 11th with over 200 people attending.

Guest speakers included Andy Masich, President of PHMC and the Executive Director of the Heinz History Center in Pittsburgh; Carrie Fischer Lepore, Pennsylvania Deputy Secretary for Marketing, Tourism and Film, Commissioner Jack Matson, Senator Joe Scarnati Mike Wennin, Director of the Pennsylvania Lumber Heritage Region,



and Representative Chris Dush. Bob Hughes, one of our volunteers, cut the official ribbon.

The final construction was completed through grants from DCNR for the trailhead,

parking lot, trail markers, and the Pennsylvania Lumber Heritage Region and the Jefferson Hotel Tax Committee for the 20 interpretative panels.

In the first month over 2,600 visitors entered the park. Our marketing strategy includes recent articles in state and regional travel publications, internet, Facebook posts, television interviews and a new rack card for distribution regionally by the PA Great Outdoors.

Projects yet

to be completed include a Boy Scout Eagle Project to construct a picnic pavilion near the parking lot. We also hope to install electric outlets and a charcoal grill at a later date. The parking lot will soon have pole lighting, and in the future plans are to install permanent restroom facilities. All of these will need additional grant funding and matching donations.

We sincerely wish to thank the Humphrey Land Trust and Winner Global LLC for permitting the property to be developed, every donor who contributed financial or in-kind support to this pro-



The park was recently covered on the ABC -WATM 23 Kaleidoscope program.

ject, and lastly the many volunteers who have worked so hard to create the park and help to maintain it for our visitors.

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2016 Events Calendar

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

Friday & Saturday October 14, 15, 21, 22, 28 & 29 6-10 pm
Dr. McKnight's
Escape Room
Advance Tickets Required

Saturday, October 29 6 - 8 pm Brookville's Eerie Tales Tickets in advance or at the door

Saturday, October 15 JCHC Annual Dinner 6 pm Heritage House Reservations Required

Friday, December, 2 Light Up Night 5 pm

Friday, December 17 Victorian Christmas 5 pm

Please check the
website at
jchconline.org
for an upcoming
listing of JCHC events
during Victorian
Christmas

JCHS NEWS

Alyssa Snyder

Alyssa Snyder has been with us this summer as our Clarion University Intern. Alyssa will be graduating in December from the Strategic Communications program and while at the JCHC has helped with TV productions on the Twyford and Scripture Rocks Heritage Park, She has also helped with the newsletter, social media and other types of marketing and she also helped as co-editor of the Jeffersonian Journal.





John Ellis recently completed building the Orange Trail at the Scripture rocks Heritage Park as part of his Eagle Scout project. As part of the project, John raised funds to pay for the gravel to line the trail, and oversaw volunteers and scouts who helped with the construction down a steep slope to past the Whistle Pig Mine test and Curse Rock. This trail is significant for us to help tell the story of Scripture Rocks

JCHS Annual Awards Nominations

The JCHS Board of Directors is seekis nominations for the 2016 annual awards that will be presented at the upcoming JCHS membership dinner on October 15th.

If you would like to suggest a nomination, please submit it in writing or email Ken Burkett at kburkett-jchc@windstream.net. A complete listing of past recipients is available in the Hodge Podge section of the JCHC web site at jchconline.org.

- □ **Arthur Altman Award** is presented to a **JCHS member** who has contributed significantly in any way to preserving Jefferson County history.
- ☐ **Kate M. Scott Award** is presented to **any person** who has contributed significantly to the preservation of Jefferson County history.

PHMC Grant

The Jefferson County Historical Society recently received a grant of \$4,000.00 from the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (PHMC). The goal of this 2016 grant program is to strengthen Pennsylvania's museum community by supporting the general operations of eligible museums and official county historical societies that are not supported by other state agency funding programs. The JCHS uses this income to help defray costs of operating the History Center and maintaining staff.

The Jefferson County Commissioners also provide an annual contribution which is required as a match in order for the grant to be accessed.

In Memory of William Dale "Daisy" Gilbert, Co-Founder and Emeritus Member Extraordinaire

By Kat Lyons



The JCHS lost an exceptional citizen this past April—A history teacher, a baseball coach, a co-founding member and president of Jefferson County Historical and Genealogical Society (JCHGS). He was also a former president of the Clarion County Historical Society, and advisor to the PA Federation of Junior Historians, Cook Forest Chapter, North Clarion High School. I might add that this was all in the same year—1967.

Although the first organizational efforts for the Jefferson County Historical Society were circa 1930, a new County Historical Society was formed in 1967 with the

election of Board Members and approval of by-laws. Daisy was on the board of directors and the nominating committee then, and was elected VP soon after the 1967 organizational meeting, and elected president in 1968-1969 due to his many talents. In 1970, he was elected as one of four executive directors. Daisy was actually president again from 1984—1991, vice-president in 1992, president again from 1994-1996 and from 2002-2003 he was on the board of directors. When he wasn't president, he was always on the board and chair of one of the committees.

Although Daisy retired from teaching in 1988, for over 25 years he was also active in the PA Historical Association, the Historical Foundation of Pennsylvania, the Pennsylvania Federation of Historical Societies (serving as president, chair vice-chair and treasurer for the State Advisory Council of the PA Federation of Jr. Historians. He was also known as "Mr. Baseball," being president of the Brookville-Sigel Oldtimers Baseball Association, and baseball coach for the Sigel Teener League (Sigel Cubs). Due in part to his leadership and efforts, the Society first opened its doors in 1971 when JCHGS acquired the "Brady-Craig" building and erected the plaque for the "Jefferson County Historical Museum" on Jefferson St. Daisy was there for the Society in the tough years of formation, growing the membership with Arthur Altman and finding funding.

He was the first JCHGS president to receive a \$5K grant from the PA Historical Museum Commission (PHMC) in 1988 to renovate the deteriorating Brady-Craig building. He noted that "We [the Society] have been struggling since we lost the support of the county a few years ago" [when the block grant funds dried up]. "This will help us to make some badly needed repairs." He then asked the County Commissioners to reserve \$1500 for JCHGS in the 1989 budget. He, along with Arthur Altman, was instrumental in obtaining funding from sources available, to keep the Society financially afloat and growing its membership. Member dues were \$2.00 annually back then!

As president in 1989, the Society, along with HBI, received a nearly \$3000 PA Local History Grant. (HBI and JCHGS formed the Brookville Historic Trust that year to work together).

Continued next page

In 2002, he was selected as one of two "William Penn Ambassadors" for the PA History Symposium in Harrisburg, sponsored by the PHMC. In that year, he was a campaign fund drive member for the JCHGS for the newly acquired Edelblute-Pearsall

JCHC Board of Directors

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Treasurer

Tom Glover - 2018

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Larry Anthony - 2017

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Jerry Thompson - 2016

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building, site of the current location of the Society, and was awarded \$40,000 from the PA Development Commission. In 2005, Daisy "retired" from the board and was presented at the Annual Dinner with a Special Recognition Award for his 38 years of service on the Board. In 2007, Daisy received the Arthur Altman Award for making a significant contribution toward the goals of the Society. In 2010, Daisy was Honorary Chairman of the JCHS Annual Giving Campaign when JCHS was cut from the state budget. For Daisy, "The news of our financial plight is not a new story..." and "The good news is the History Center will continue to thrive..." and he asked Jefferson County residents and businesses to "Please give what you can...as every donation will work toward keeping an important program or exhibit from closing."

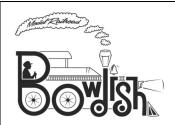
Daisy is also remembered in our *Greatest Generation* exhibit this year in the Grand Hall of the History Center. He was aboard the USS Hornet CV-VIII from 1943--December 1945 as Radioman 2nd Class/Technical. The Hornet was instrumental in our defeat of the Japanese Imperial Navy, and there are many past *Jeffersonian Democrat* newspaper articles of his war stories. We called Daisy's house prior to the opening of the exhibit to see if he could participate in "All Hands on Deck" to tell stories of his WWII service. His son answered the phone and said he was just bringing his dad home from the hospital, and although he was sure his dad would like to be there, it just wasn't possible. He said he knows it will make his dad happy that we wanted him as a speaker. (Daisy was a past WWII Vet speaker at JCHC).

Daisy was the organization's president in August 1995, involved the JCHGS, local VFW and American Legion to sponsor a week-long community event to honor WWII Vets. JCHGS hosted a WWII Commemorative Exhibit for the 50th anniversary of V-J Day (August 1945).

I, for one, am sad I never got to meet Daisy—he was in the Navy Aircraft Carrier Group that my dad was a part of (on sister-ship Yorktown), and I wonder if they knew each other. I know my mother knew him, as Daisy and my mother, Ila (Perrin) Lyons (as Genealogist/Family History recruiter in 1981 for Warsaw Township for the 1982 Jefferson County PA History book) were both on the board of directors in 1982. That makes me feel like I almost knew him.

Member and past president Randy Bartley has a great story passed down from Don McMurray. During the war, the Navy ships in the Pacific Theatre would dock at remote atolls to hide out and let the servicemen off on the beach "on leave" where they could have "refreshments" and not get into trouble. Meanwhile, his friend Bruce McMurray was halfway around the world near Paris in charge of quarters. When D-Day came, neither was in a locale to celebrate, Gilbert being even more isolated. It just so happens that Don McMurray was one of the servicemen ashore on the atoll and here comes a guy who was having some fun, shouting "Hi! I'm Daisy Gilbert, and I'm from Sigel, PA!" What a memory that is!

Daisy, we will miss you.



Bowdish Model Railroad Schedule

Saturday, September 24 12 - 3 pm

Saturday, October 29 12 - 3 pm

Friday, November 25 5 - 8 pm Light-Up Night

Friday, December 2 5 - 8 pm Victorian Christmas

Saturday, December 17 12 - 3 pm

We are looking for items associated with local fire companies, WWI and communications (early Radio, TV, Telephones) for upcoming 2017 Exhibits.

If you have items from Jefferson County and would be willing to loan them for a 1 year period, please email cbriggs-

jchc@windstream.net or contact Carole at the JCHC

Proposed changes to the Bylaws To be voted upon by the general membership at the October 17. JCHS Annual Meeting.

Article IV. Officers

Section 1.

On odd numbered years the Board of Directors at their next regular meeting after the Society's Annual Meeting shall elect a President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer from among the Board of Directors.

Proposed revision:

The Board of Directors will, biennially, at their next regular meeting after the Society's annual meeting elect a President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer from among the Board of Directors.

d. Duties

3. The Secretary shall record the minutes of each meeting of the Society and of the Board of Directors, and shall make arrangement for the maintenance of an accurate mailing list of all members and the notification of members of coming events. The completed minutes will be kept in the Business File in the History Center, and may not be removed without permission of the Curator.

Proposed revision:

3. The Secretary shall record the minutes of each meeting of the Society and of the Board of Directors. The completed minutes will be submitted and published to the Board of Directors at least two weeks prior to the next regular Board meeting. Minutes will be kept in the Business File at the History Center, and may not be removed without permission of the Curator.

Article V. Board of Directors

Section 1.

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

Proposed revision:

Members of the Board of Directors shall serve a term of three years beginning on the first of January of the year after Being elected. Members will be limited to two consecutive terms and must then leave the Board for one year before being eligible for re-election. The following exceptions apply:

If there are insufficient candidates for election to the Board, a member will be eligible for an additional term if approved by the Board. He or she would also be eligible to fill the remaining time of a Board member who resigns, if approved by the Board. He or she must then leave the Board for one year before being eligible for reelection. A new member appointed to fill the term of a resigned Board member would be eligible for two full terms.

A Nominating Committee of three (3) members of the Society shall be selected by the Board of Directors prior to the Annual Meeting. This committee shall present a slate of nominees to the general membership through publication in the newsletter prior to the annual meeting. Additional nominations from the floor may be made at the meeting providing the nominee has previously agreed to have his or her name placed in nomination.

Proposed revision:

A Nominating Committee of three (3) members of the Society shall be selected by the Board of Directors prior to the Annual Meeting. The Nominating Committee shall not include members whose term is expiring. This committee shall present a slate of nominees to the general membership at the annual meeting. Additional nominations from the floor may be made at the meeting providing the nominee has previously agreed to have his or her name placed in nomination.

Article VII. Meetings

Section 1.

Unless otherwise ordered by the Society, a meeting of the general membership shall be held annually in October in a location within Jefferson County as determined by the Board of Directors, with elections taking place at these meetings on odd-numbered years. Other general meetings may take the form of historic tours, special Open House exhibits and lecture programs or seminars, to be decided on by the Program Committee and the Board.

Proposed revision:

Section 1.

Unless otherwise ordered by the Board of Directors, a meeting of the general membership shall be held annually in October at a location within Jefferson County as determined by the Board of Directors, with elections taking place as required.

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Curator's Corner

Carole Briggs

Putting Pen to Paper

Students today learn about many styles of writing. In fact, one website lists sixty genres or different kinds of writing. It was a surprise to me that writing history was not on the list.

The shelves in the research room at the History Center are full of histories—some better than others, so we might ask, what makes the difference between a well-written history and one that is not so well-written?

First, a person needs to understand the difference between documenting history and writing a history. Many folks document. They collect information about a singular topic from other sources and create a "history," but actually they are simply documenting a person, place, or event.

To write a good history takes time and preparation. Decide who your readers might be. It's helpful to put yourself back in time. There is evidence to consider and various viewpoints. It is helpful to find a focus, too. Sometimes it becomes necessary to change that focus as well. Finally, do more than simply restating others' ideas. Analyze what you've uncovered and draw some conclusions.

I write for several audiences. Monthly columns are for the typical newspaper reader, someone with at least an eighth-grade reading level. The biography of Kate M. Scott was academically written with an analysis, conclusions, and end-notes.

When reviewing a large quantity of documents from the Woman's Relief Corps, I had to ask myself what those documents meant to Scott, to the WRC officers, and to several other groups of people.

Finding the focus for monthly columns is relatively easy. Am I writing about a person who made a difference? A place that has changed over time? Or identifying what a particular event meant to a group of people?

It's a disappointment when a writer recognizes that the focus needs to be changes. That happened when I was at a university. I'd selected a topic—the non-public non-Roman Catholic elementary schools that were popping up in western Pennsylvania in the 1970s. When I discovered that non-public Christian schools were emerging, too, I had to broaden my topic.

The journey taken in researching and writing history is an interesting one, full of twists and turns along the way. There are lots of good resources available, including the staff at the History Center, so we encourage our members to think about what interests them. We'll be more than happy to help you locate resources, to review your drafts, and even to do that final editing, so that you, too, may have your book on the shelf.

Diplomas

We've recently reviewed our collection of diplomas earned by Jefferson County people. Big Run, Brookville, Corsica, and Reynoldsville High Schools are represented. Brockway, Eldred Township, Falls Creek, Punxsutawney, Summerville, Sykesville, Washington Twp VOTECH, and several other township high schools are not. If you have such a diploma, consider donating it.

Along with diplomas representing all the county schools, we are looking for diplomas from the 1870s, 1880s, and 1950s and those from academies, colleges, universities, and the grammar schools that once dotted the county. If you have diplomas gathering dust in your attic, consider donating them. Look too, for a photograph of the graduate!

THE JEFFERSON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

INVITES YOU

TO JOIN THEM FOR THE

2016 ANNUAL DINNER MEETING AND AWARDS PRESENTATION SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2015

AT THE

HERITAGE HOUSE

4 SYLVANIA ÄVE. BROOKVILLE, PÅ 15825

HOSPITALITY 6:00 PM DINNER 6:30 PM

AFTER DINNER PROGRAM
RON LUCKENBILL

A HISTORICAL PROSPECTIVE OF THE AMERICAN LONGRIFLE

DINNER CHOICES

PRIME RIB, CRAB STUFFED COD.

ALL SERVED WITH SALAD, BAKED POTATO, BROCCOLI,
COFFEE, TEA OR ICED TEA AND DESERT

PLEASE MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS NOW!

2016 JCHS ANNUAL DINNER				
PRIME RIB CRAB STUFFED COD				
RESERVATIONS ARE \$25 EACH TOTAL ENCLOSED PLEASE RETURN BY SATURDAY, OCTOBER 1ST	Return with your check Payable To:			
Name's	JCHS			
Address	P. O. Box 51 Brookville, PA 15825			
CITY ZIP PHONE	Credit Card Reservations Call 849-0077			

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Annual Gun & Artifact Show

The Jefferson County Historical Society and North Fork Chapter 29 of the Society for Pennsylvania Archaeology will present the 11th annual Antique Firearms and Indian Artifact Show from 9 am – 4 pm on Saturday, September 3rd at the Jefferson County Fairgrounds. This event consists of two buildings with over 100 tables of vendors and exhibitors with items for show and sale.



The Antique Firearms building features all types of firearms, weapons and accouterments through 1898 with an emphasis relating to western Pennsylvania gunsmiths. It also includes modern gunsmiths and artisans who continue the flintlock and percussion muzzle loading tradition with their craftsmanship in rifles, knives, powder horns, leatherwork and other period items.

The Archaeology building includes exhibits and items for sale from throughout Pennsylva-

nia and adjoining states ranging from historic to prehistoric artifacts, archaeological materials, publications and other objects relating to the collecting hobby. Modern flintknappers will demonstrate how arrowheads and other stone tools were crafted and experts will be on-hand to help identify and evaluate artifacts for the public.

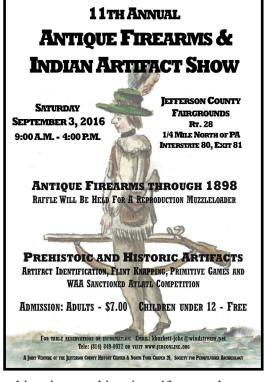
Other activities throughout the day will include an atlatl (spear throwing) competition sanctioned by the World Atlatl Association. Instructors will be on hand inviting everyone to try their hand at this hunting weapon which is thousands of years old and a more modern use of the tomahawk.

Several raffles will be held on site that include a free door prize drawing and a

custom built reproduction 50 caliber flintlock created in the style of Abraham Burkett from Jefferson County made by Ron Luckenbill, who recently provided the rifles for the movie *The Revenant*.

The fairgrounds are located on route 28 just ½ mile north of exit 81 on Pennsylvania interstate 80. Adult admission is only \$7 with children under 12 free.

For more information, contact the Jefferson County History Center at (814) 849-0077 or email kburkett-jchc@windstream.net







Ron Luckenbill of Emporium is our nationally known gunsmith who annually builds the custom JCHS rifle for our Antique Rifle and Indian Artifact show in September. Ron recently received a different kind of fame when he built two special rifles that were used by Leonardo DiCaprio during filming of "The Revenant," which was released to the general public on Jan 8, 2016. and recounts the tale of frontiersman and fur trapper Hugh Glass in the year 1823.

This year Ron has created a stylized rifle similar to those made by Abram Burkett in Jefferson County between 1888 and 1902 While the original 50 caliber 1'2 stock rifle would have been fired with a percussion cap. This model has been made in the flintlock style in order to be used by modern hunters during muzzleloader season.



The patchbox has an engraved eagle and the flower like inlays on both toes and lock plate are attributable to the



Burkett style. Like the original, this rifle bears two examples of the iconic Brookville Eye oval decoration which distinguished the craftsman as a Jefferson County Rifle Maker

The drawing will be held at 4 pm on Saturday, September 3rd and tickets for the rifle are \$5 each or 5/\$20 and can be obtained in the History Center Gift Shop or at the show. The winner need not be present for the drawing.

Abraham Burkett (1862-1943) lived with his wife Lydia and their 10 children in Burkett Hollow just outside of Markton in Oliver Township, Jefferson County, PA. He attended school in the hollow and never left for any sort of training or apprenticeship but taught himself the blacksmith and gunsmith trade possibly with the help of Solomon Harriger. His trade in the late 19th century included building wagons, farm implements, and of course rifles, while also managing a farm.



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Events

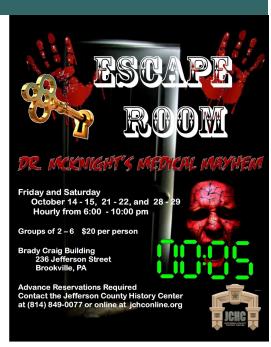
Get Locked In A Room For Fun

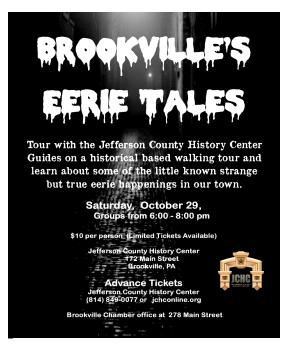
An escape room game is exactly what it sounds like: a live-action game in which a team of 2 to 6 companions are locked in a room, and you have to figure out how to get out within 1 hour.

The team must discover and solve hidden clues and puzzles in order to crack the codes to unlock the door and escape. These aren't braincrashing puzzles, but aren't childish riddles either.

The new JCHS Escape Room; *Dr. McKnight's Medical Mayhem*, will be operating on Friday and Saturday evenings beginning October 14th through October 29th.

Entry fee is \$20 per person and pre-registration for each group is required.





Haunted Halloween

Have you ever heard about the *Twice Hung Man* the *Boy in the Box*, or *The One That Got Away?* These are just two of the strange but true Brookville stories that our guides will be taking you to the locations and telling on our Brookville's Eerie Tales walking tour on Saturday, October 29th.

Tour groups will be leaving the History Center on 15 minute intervals beginning at 6:00 pm. Advance tickets are available at the JCHC and at the Brookville Chamber Office or at the door the day of the event.

Brookville is celebrating Halloween this year with many local events all day on Saturday, October 29th. For more information check out the Brookville Chamber website at brookvillechamber.com



Saturday, October 29, 2016 Downtown Brookville, PA

Around the County



2016 Fall Exposition & Swap Meet
October 13, 14, and 15, 2016
Single Day Adult Admission—\$7.00
Three Day Adult Admission Pass - \$14.00
Children under 12 and Members - Free
Seller's Fee - \$25.00
Hours - 7 AM -8 PM Daily



The Punxsutawney Weather Discovery Center will present an exhibition entitled "Weather & War" opening in early November. The exhibit will focus on uniforms worn in different wars and conflicts that reflect the weather and climate conditions members of the military had to endure. Along with the uniforms, related accessories and equipment, will be stories about when the uniforms were in use.

Veterans will be admitted free to the exhibit. A \$3.00 per person donation will be asked for general public admission. The Punxsutawney Weather Discovery Center is located at 201 N. Findley St. For more information, visit Weatherdiscovery.org. "Weather & War" is being funded with a grant from the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) and



with help from the Mahoning Valley VFW Post 2076 and the Punxsutawney Historical & Genealogical Society.

Spend an Autumn afternoon a the Punxsutawney Area Historical & Genealogical Society, Inc. located at 400 West Mahoning Street. Enjoy and Apple Harvest Tea and the music of violinist, Caryn Moore, who currently plays with the Altoona Symphony and the Erie Chamber Orchestra. After tea, view the works of Legacy Artisans from the Punxsutawney area in the Griffiths Gallery a the Lattimer House and stroll throughout the local history exhibits in the Bennis House Museum.

Menu includes traditional scones, season-specific savories and sweets in addition to a selection of fine teas. Seating is at 12:00 and 2:00 pm. \$20 per person with proceeds benefiting the Society.



Name:	Phone:		
E.Mail:	Address:		
☐ 12:00 PM Seating	Number of Guests	Amount Enclosed	
☐ 2:00 PM Seating	_ Number of Guests	Amount Enclosed	
Make check payable to: PAHGS	Mail to:	PAHGS P.O. Box 286 Punxsutawney, PA 15767	

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

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

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					
Mailing Ad	dress				_
City			State	Zip	_
Phone		Email			_
Credit Card	Туре	Card #			_

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.