

Volume 32, Issue 1, Spring 2018

A PUBLICATION OF THE JEFFERSON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

In This Issue

2

2

3

4

5

6

8

9

10

10

1

Spring Internship
New Board Members
David Alsobrook
Scripture Rocks Park
Peggy's Notes
Remembering WWI
New Exhibits
Bowdish Schedule
Curator's Corner
Bowdish Birthday
Military Show
Rest of the Rocks
Salamanca Bus Trip

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.

Message from the President

2017 has been a great year for your Historical Society and we feel it's justifiable to do a little horn blowing and mention some of our accomplishments. During our 50th anniversary year we received two state, one local, and one national award for Scripture Rocks Park.

We finished the park picnic area with a pavilion, constructed as an Eagle Scout project by Airen Kelso and made possible by a generous donation from Jack and Jean Parker. We also installed a kiosk to use for merchandise sales and guides to local attractions. The kiosk was



Eric Armstrong

donated by Cypress Clocks. Finally, we finished excavation of the Indian rock shelter area and installed informational signage. We had over 7,000 visitors to the park last year.

We welcomed two new board members in 2017. Tracy Zents started last spring to fill a vacancy and was elected to a full term in October. Pat Steele reached the end of her term last year and Chuck Williams was elected to replace her. We thank Pat for her years of service on the Board and all the contributions she has made (and will make) to our society.

We're currently working on exhibit changes that will be ready for the annual Bowdish Birthday celebration on February 24th. Several of the main gallery exhibits are being changed and, of course, we'll be featuring the Brookville made freight wagon that we acquired last Summer. The upstairs galleries will feature a revised Parlor, a "Poetry in a Picture" exhibit in the Great Hall, a "Who Knew" exhibit in the Skylight Room, which describes little known facts about the County and, of course, a remodeled Bowdish Railroad display. We also have some big plans for the other upstairs galleries that will be announced soon.

We have put together great committees to plan and execute our various 2018 programs. Watch for some new and really exciting events that will involve the History Center, the park and a couple of trips to interesting destinations. We'll have more information as plans are completed. We will also, of course, continue with our Spring Military Show, Antique Rifles and Indian Artifact show, Halloween events and the escape Room.

We also continue our relationship with county schools with some new programs and ideas. Using our resources to develop an interest in local history at the elementary and high school level is one of our most important missions.

Jefferson County is the epitome of "small town America". We have architectural, physical, and social ingredients that are unique, timeless, and worth preserving and communicating.

In the News

Spring 2018 <u>Events Calendar</u>

Bowdish Birthday Celebration Saturday, February 25 11 AM - 4 PM See page 9

Military Collectibles Show Saturday, March 10 Jefferson County Fairgrounds

Salamanca Casino Trip Saturday, March 17 See Page 11

The Rest of the Rocks Scripture Rocks Hike Sunday, April 22 See Page 10 To help accomplish this we are favored with an active and dedicated staff and board of directors. We also rely on the continual support of the community and our extended family who are scattered across the country, but hold fond memories of their home towns.

Please remember to renew your membership and to contribute to our annual giving campaign. As always, these funds are needed to help us maintain your award-winning and active Jefferson County Historical Society for the next 50 years, and beyond.

Eric Armstrong JCHS President



Spring Internship

My name is Emily Tyson, I am a fourth year geology and geoscience student at Clarion University.

I am passionate about geology and environmental science along with the research behind it. During the spring semester I will be at the History Center conducting research on the geology, paleontology, environment, and history relating to this area in preparation to help develop an upcoming exhibit

Newly Elected JCHCS Board Members



Tracy Zents-Jefferson County's Emergency Services Director . Tracy has many years of involvement in Fire, EMS and Emergency Management. He is on the JCHC Finance and Building and Grounds committees.



Chuck Willams-Owns and operates Ecological LLC. He is a retired professor at Clarion University and currently heads the JCHC Scripture Rocks Park committee and also sits on the Buildings and Grounds committee.

JCHC 50th Anniversary Pins



Available in the Gift Shop

David Alsobrook Visits Scripture Rocks Heritage Park

Since it opened in 2016, Scripture Rocks Heritage Park has attracted thousands of visitors from near and far to wander through its trails and admire the landscape, the geology, the birds and the many rock engravings done by one of Brookville's most enigmatic figures, Douglas Stahlman. However, recently, the park had a very special guest, Douglas Stahlman's great grandson, David Alsobrook.

David grew up in the Atlanta suburbs and has lived there for most of his life. He graduated from Florida State in Tallahassee and married his wife, Debbie, with whom he has four boys. Alsobrook has worked most of his career at Cisco Systems in product management and business development.

Until recently, he knew nothing about the mystery behind his lineage. In fact, it wasn't until Brian Fritz, co author of The Scripture Rocks: Why Douglas Stahlman Carved His Legacy in Stone, called David one day offering a manuscript copy of the book, that James' grandson ever heard of Douglas Stahlman. "I will say it was really cool when Brian called me on the phone," Alsobrook said. "It was completely out of the blue. Most people don't get that kind of insight into something like that."

Alsobrook's grandfather was Stahlman's younger son, James. It was shortly after giving birth to James that Stahlman's wife, Marion, died of blood poisoning. According to the local newspaper, Stahlman had dismissed his wife's doctor in favor of the practices of faith healing to cure his wife. He was arrested on charges of being insane and dangerous. His wife's brother, James Alsobrook, ultimately won custody of Stahlman's two sons, Glen and James. Soon after that Stahlman returned to Brookville and began to formulate his "rock plan."

Today, Scripture Rocks Heritage Park has had thousands of visitors, and was recognized with the American Association of State and Local History's 72nd Annual Leadership in History Award. Fritz had told Alsobrook about the plans to build the park and the History Center updated him with its progress, but once he saw his great grandfather's work on a Roadside America's list of travel destinations in Pennsylvania, he decided it was time to take a tour for himself.

The History Center's Director, Ken Burkett and the JCHS Board President, Eric Armstrong, guided Alsobrook and his wife on their tour, explaining their process for uncovering the rocks, as well as piecing together from their extensive research the context behind each of Stahlman's engravings in the park. Alsobrook and his wife noted with admiration the size and spacing of the lettering and the beauty of the landscape. "You read about the extent of it, but it's different when you actually see it," he noted. "This was a lot of work. The fact that he did all of this in about two years, it's amazing the amount of intense focus and effort."

Alsobrook added that despite the dismissive language that many people have used in describing Stahlman as "crazy", his commitment and faith in his work and in God was evident. "Most people don't have a masterwork, but you can definitely say this is a masterwork," he said. "I think people appreciate it more now. He is like an awful lot of people throughout history who were not appreciated until after they died."

Although Stahlman seemed to be very troubled, David says he connected with his great grandfather's ability to find spiritual understanding through the contemplation of the natural world. "I'm a Christian and have usually felt my strongest connection to God when I'm out in nature," Alsobrook revealed. "So I certainly appreciated and enjoyed taking advantage of the opportunity my great-grandfather wanted to create for me and many others during this week in Brookville."



By Jess Weible

David and his family enjoy travelling across the country and around the world. Every time they visit an area, he likes to find museums or hiking trails to learn about the geography and history of the area. However, he admitted that he'd never seen anything quite like Scripture Rocks Heritage Park. "This is unique," he said. "I've been around the U.S a lot and many other places in the world and this is pretty unique. And it's even more incredible when the history is also connected to you."

His experience visiting the park sparked his curiosity to know the rest of the story, particularly how Stahlman lived out the rest of his days at the Dixmont Hospital and how Ella Alsobrook raised Alsobrook's grandfather, James, and his older brother, Glen, on her own after the passing of her husband in 1909. "How did she end up going to Nashville and then Atlanta?" he wondered. "I assume part of it was trying to get away. How did she do that? I would love to hear that part of the story. A lot of people have their bootstrap stories. They, effectively, start a new life. My grandfather and great uncle both did well for themselves. So, it struck me, how did they do that?"

Though Alsobrook wishes he had the opportunity to ask his grandfather these questions, he remains grateful for the information he has gotten due to the efforts of Ken Burkett, Brian Fritz, Eric Armstrong, and many others who made Scripture Rocks Heritage Park possible. "Most of the time when you see a big park like this, you think the state runs it. But this is a small town effort to put this together. Someone just said, 'We're going to go do this.' And then a bunch of people took their time to do it. It's really cool."

Scripture Rocks Park

The Scripture Rocks Heritage Park gates will reopen to the public as soon as the weather breaks and spring clean-up is completed.

This year we have two new Eagle Scout projects that will install a permanent flag pole near the pavilion and a marker project that will help identify various species

of trees along the pathways. Once again there will be weekly guided programs on Sunday afternoons at 2:00 pm beginning in May. This year we intend to additionally conduct some special Saturday programs with experts on specific subjects that include archaeology, geology, environmental science, and birdwatching.



Tom Glover (right) guides a tour group

If your groups wants to reserve the picnic pavilion or schedule a private guided tour contact the JCHC or emailing Ken Burkett at kburkett-jchc@windstream.net

JCHS Board of Directors

President Eric Armstrong-2018 earmst@windstream.net

Vice-President Larry Anthony-2020

Treasurer Vickie Storey-2019

Secretary Jamie Barger-2020

Randy Bartley-2019 Jon Noonan - 2018 Jamie Popson-2019 Ray Puller-2018 Amy Salsgiver-2019 Jessica Weible-2018 Chuck Williams- 2020 Tracy Zents-2020

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

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Kat Lyons, Research Assistant / klyons-jchc@windstream.net

STUDENT INTERN

Emily Tyson

PATHSTONES

Peggy Baughman, Shop & Projects Janet Buchheit, Scripture Rocks Park Manager Kris Scott, Projects Fay Williams, Shop Beverly Yeany, Shop & Projects

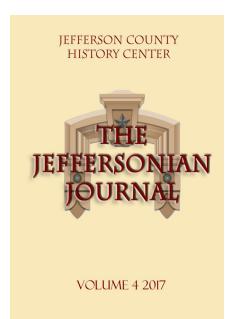
VOLUNTEERS

Jack Burkett Austin Fields Ray Hannold Carol Hollobaugh Mark Kerr Pete Lindenmuth Bill McCracken Harry Neuhard Faye Noonan Sandy Noonan Art Schreckongost Judy Shirley

JCHS Seeks New Writers for The Jeffersonian Journal

The history of Jefferson County is full of peculiar events, exceptional people, and notable places. Many of the most interesting stories about the county have yet to be told. The Jefferson County Historical Society is looking for writers and researchers who can contribute to the body of published work on Jefferson County, particularly with aspects of local history that may have been previously overlooked.

The JCHS is now accepting submissions for Volume 5 of *The Jeffersonian Journal*, which will be available in the summer of 2018. *The Jeffersonian Journal* is a yearly publication where writers and researchers present their work, showcasing various topics related to the history of Jefferson County. The publication is just one more way that the JCHS strives to engage and educate residents of the county and beyond. This year, in particular, the organization is committed to bringing in new authors with fresh and unique perspectives on the history of Jefferson County.



Last year's journal included articles on the 50th Anniversary of the JCHS, history of the Jefferson County Home, the development of several communities along the Redbank, the life of local journalist and photographer, Joan Swigart, and the archaeology of a Native American rock shelter at Port Barnett. The JCHS distributes the journal to its members and provides copies for sale at the museum gift shop.

Writers and researchers who are interested in submitting an article for publication in *The Jeffersonian Journal* should consider the following guidelines:

- Articles must be based on primary sources or original analysis of current or historical events.
- Feature articles range from 3,000 to 4,000 words.
- The thesis or main idea of the piece should be clear.
- All articles must have endnotes, footnotes or a detailed list of sources.
- Electronic images of photographs and illustrations are welcomed, though they should be submitted via email or on a CD and include a proper captions and credits.
- The JCHS retains the right to reprint articles in any format or media.

For more information contact call the History Center at (814) 849-0077 or email *The Jeffersonian Journal* Editor, Jess Weible at jweible44@gmail.com.



Peggy Baughman

Working at the JCHC

Peggy Baughman

I was one who never knew the Jefferson County History Center existed until I began looking for a part time job. I was advised to go to JCHC, and I did. There I met Ken Burkett who had me call the Pathstone program manager. Two days later I had an interview and was hired to work in the gift shop. At that time some volunteers were cleaning and rearranging the room, so I was there to help. That made me familiar with some of the books and other items for sale.

If you are interested in the past or present, come in. The books provide a lot of information. Many of the books are by local authors such as Ken Burkett, Carole Briggs, Randy Bartley and Pat Steele. There are also toys for children, T-shirts. Punxsutawney Phil souvenirs, jewelry, water bottles, puzzles, crafts and information for tourists.

In this position I get to meet many people from all over. I recently met someone from Spain who came just to see the Twyford motor car. It is a fun day near the end of the school year when all of the 3rd graders come to tour and have a scavenger hunt. It is fun to meet and greet people who travel from all over sometimes to see the Bowdish Model Railroad and others who are just curious or want to learn about history. The exhibits change, people change, but it's the guests who make JCHC what it is and such a rewarding place to work.

Remembering WWI

By Randy Bartley

Residents of the Brookville area knew war was coming in 1917. War had been raging across Europe for three years and the unrestricted submarine warfare coupled with the infamous Zimmerman telegram inflamed American public opinion. All that was required was a declaration of war. The declaration was passed when Congress began the new session in April. The news was flashed across the nation. In Brookville a town meeting was held in support of the war but no one knew just how involved America would become.

The *Jeffersonian Democrat* thought it would primarily be a naval war. "What part the United States will take in the war, and how we will react has not been disclosed. It does not seem likely now that we will send soldiers over to Europe to engage in the fighting. The opinion among the people is that we will do our fighting on the ocean. However, the matter is in the hands of the President and he will doubtless give it careful consideration."

The newspaper may have been uncertain but the people soon took matters into their own hands. A Home Guard Company was formed in Brookville with each member having the "right and privilege of entering the service of the United States." In May, Congress had adopted the Draft Bill which was designed to build the U. S. Army into a fighting force of nearly a million men. The draft was to include men from 21 to 31 years of age.

By the summer of 1917, a "good sized body of the United States regular army was on French soil and in practical readiness for action." In truth, the Americans in France were far from ready for action.

As in previous conflicts, the soldiers wrote letters home and the *Jeffersonian Democrat* printed those letters in its columns. A solider who signed his letter "Cork" wrote from Fort Bliss, Texas. He served in Company C of the 64th Infantry and, like soldiers before, was concerned over the quality of his officers. "In proportion, very few of the officers in the army are West Pointers now. Most of them are fellows who were privates and some of them were privates not more than a year ago. This is how fast men are being promoted now."

On July 12, S. S. Henderson gave 21 of the newly minted soldiers a farewell dinner. For two of them, it was indeed a farewell dinner. On hand was Capt. S. A. Craig, a wounded veteran of the Civil War who attended in the uniform he wore during that conflict. Attending were: Lt. George Rodgers, who spoke about his participation in the action along the Mexican border, John Shields, Stanley Sherman, Joseph Heasley, Frank Brown, Charles Wilson,, Cad Haugh, George Senet, Cary Marsh, Floyd Evans, John Sherman, George Schreckengost, Ernest Black, Corsie Jones, Charles Heller, John Sheafnocker, Clair Thompson, Wendell Harsh, Bruce Gordon, John Shively and Forest Steinbrook. Rodgers and Haugh died in France.

The illusion that Americans would not be fighting in France dissolved when the list of men drafted from Jefferson County completely covered the front page of the July 26 edition. In the first draft 472 men were summoned for physical examinations.

In an army that was rapidly expanding, the old forts were incapable of housing all of the new recruits as Private S. O. Chesnutt found out when he arrived at Kelly Field in San Antonio, Texas as part of the new 65 Aero Squadron. "The tents are about 12 by 15 feet and there are some 12 men in a tent. There is not enough room to turn around unless one stands on a cot and then the cot gets dirty."

Chesnutt was not overly fond of the food, either. "This morning for breakfast we had a cup of coffee, a bread crust, beef stew and corn flakes with lots of milk and sugar. What we get fills us up." One of the first local boys to make it across the Atlantic was Roy Truman who was with the 5th Regiment, U. S. Engineers. In a letter dated July 10, he recounted the perilous journey across a sea infested with German submarines. The "Baltic" was not part of a convoy but did employ a zig-zag course to confuse the Germans. "Now we have to wear our life belts, guns, and canteens filled with water. It is a great game, trying to keep from getting sunk. The trip has been a pleasant one. We have had exceptionally fine weather."

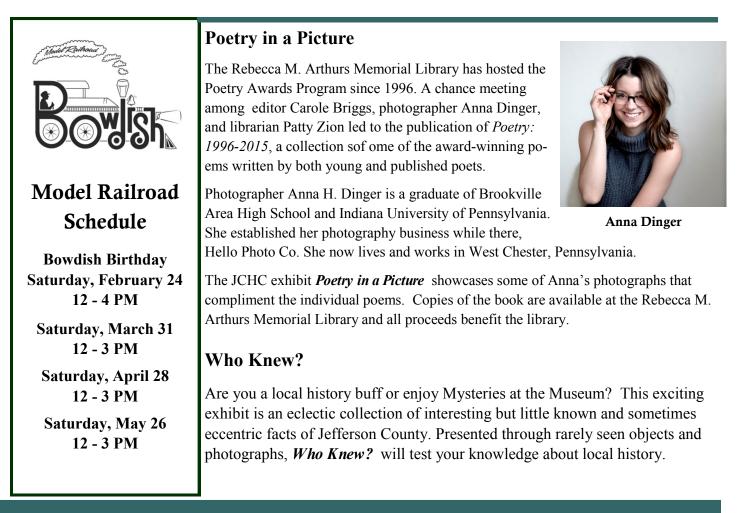


The trip was not pleasant for all of the Americans crossing the Atlantic. Lyman H. Hammond was on board the U. S. Ticonderoga when it was sunk by German submarine U-152 on Sept. 30, 1918. The Ticonderoga was in a convoy but fell behind making it easy prey for the sub.

The U-152 was armed with two deck guns which it employed in a surface engagement with the American ship. On board were 115 members of an artillery unit and a crew of 122. The life boats were damaged in the barrage and a number of the crew and passengers were killed. The Germans finished the ship off with a torpedo which left the estimated 50 survivors struggling in the water. Lyman slid down a rope and into one of the few remaining lifeboats. The lifeboat picked up a number of survivors including two officers.

The German submarine tied onto the lifeboat and removed the officers. The other survivors floated in the heavy sea for four days with a daily ration of two spoonfuls of water and a biscuit. After four days the 22 survivors were picked up by a British freighter. Hammond was returned to New York where he suffered from exposure making a full recovery.

To be continued next issue:



Planning Programs for 2017–2018?

If you or your organization are interested in having us present a history-based program, visit jchconline.org for more information about our many programs and speakers.

Curator's Corner

Carole A. Briggs

When working on any exhibit, publication, or program, a look at our photograph collection is part of the process. "What do we have related to wheeled transportation?" became important when we received the wonderful Brookville Manufacturing Company wagon. "What images are in the collection about the Baxter area?" was important for the *Jeffersonian Journal*. "What photographs are available to help interpret the lives of *A Baker's Dozen* of county personalities with relationships to Pittsburgh?" is our most recent inquiry as we prepare a program to be presented this spring to a Pittsburgh audience.

Many years ago we invested in Past Perfect Software, a program that provides the opportunity to digitize and describe the images in our collection. Funded by a PHMC grant in 1997, graduate intern Jennifer Landry digitized the 800+ photographs of Frederick L. Knapp. Taken between 1895 and 1945, these images show us the faces and places of our past in an exquisite way.

We have shelves of glossies taken by photographers who worked for the *Jeffersonian Democrat*. Due to the enormity of the collection, the images are digitized as needed, as are the graduation photographs taken by Cecil McCool.

We have a collection of framed photographs—large ones measuring greater than 36" of athletic teams and Brookville High School graduates, mediumsized ones measuring between 12" and 36", and small ones, measuring less than 12", like that of the Henderson parents and their five sons, four of whom served in the Civil War.

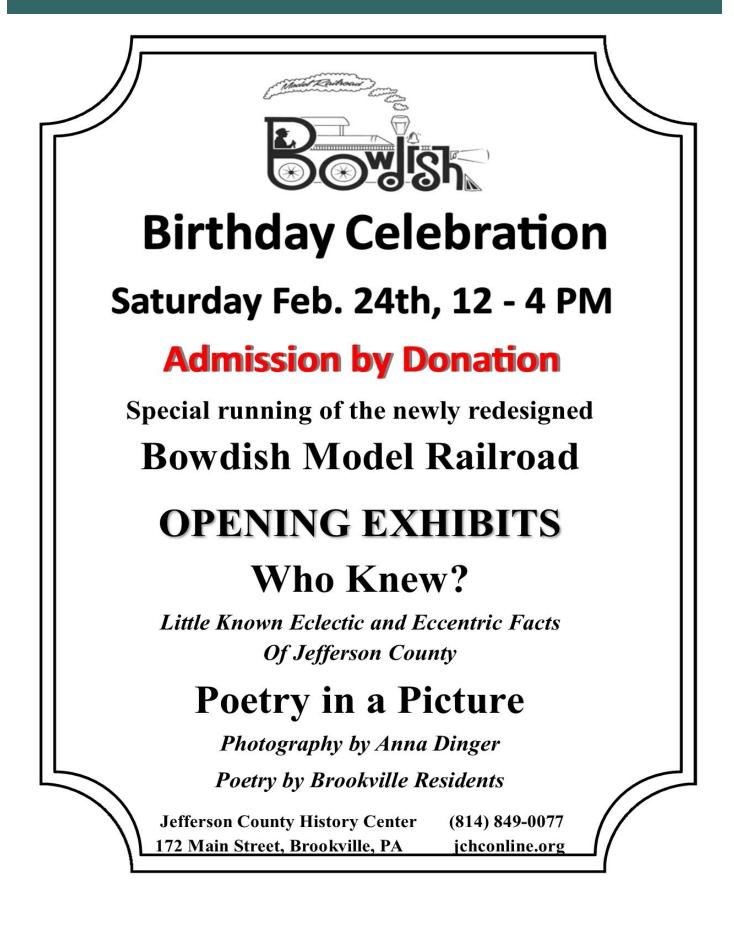


The largest framed photograph in the JCHS Collection is the 10-foot panorama of the Jefferson County Fairgrounds, taken between 1904 and 1911. Former board member Jeff Carrier provided the shelf and help in mounting in.

Then there are the photographs that someone discovers in a home they've purchased or in a trunk when settling a parent's estate. We're pleased when folks donate those photographs which show us so much about our past. We are fortunate that these photographs are preserved in our temperature and humidity-controlled archives building and that we have the capability to also preserve them digitally. It is good to have both the originals and the digital images of these priceless artifacts of our past.

If you or members of your family have photographs that you treasure, consider bringing them to the History Center where we will add them to our digital file, thus assuring that in the case of some calamitous event (something we wish for no family) they will continue to exist in digital form and could be reproduced again. We will have a digital copy, you will have the original.

But first, try to identify them! For those of you who have ended up with a box or two of family photographs, we'd like to suggest you get them out at your next family gathering. Spread them out and listen as older relatives connect with the images they see. Then use a soft pencil to identify the image on the back or better yet, place the photograph in an envelope upon which you have written the information. We'll be happy you did, and think you will be happy, too.



JEFFERSON COUNTY

Page 10

Military Collectibles Show

The Jefferson County History Center's 4th annual Military Collectibles Show will be held on Saturday March 10, from 9 AM - 4 PM at the Jefferson County Fair Grounds.

This event features 100 tables of military collectibles including weapons, uniforms, insignia and medals, photographs, books and other items from the Civil War to the present.

Admission is \$7 for adults. Children 16 and under are free.



MARCH 10, 2018 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM FAIRGROUNDS RT. 28, 1/4 MILE NORTH OF INTERSTATE 80, EXIT 81

4TH ANNUAL

MILITARY

COLLECTIBLES SHOW

SATURDAY



Featuring Militaria for Sale, Show and Frade 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

BENEFTTS THE JEFTERSON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY





The REST of the Rocks Tour

Would you like to visit some of the other interesting rocks carved by Douglas Stahlman?

Join us for a leisurely guided hiking tour with Ken Burkett On Sunday April 22nd Beginning at 1 PM at the Brookville Dam

Cost is \$10 - (benefits the Jefferson County History Center)

This is a 2.5 mile round trip hike across uneven hillsides Bring water, bug spray, camera, good walking shoes

For more information contact the JCHC (814) 849-0077 or email kburkett-jchc@windstream.net

Seneca Allegheny Casino Trip

Saturday, March 17, 2018

Package Includes

Round trip bus transportation

Casino Bonus - \$25 for slot play \$5 lunch coupon

- 8 AM Depart from Evangelical United Methodist Church parking lot at 302 White Street, with Fullington Bus Company
- 10 AM Arrive in Salamanca Lunch and dinner on your own
- 5 PM Depart for home

\$45 per person

Event benefits the Jefferson County History Center



More information: (814) 849-0077

SEATING IS LIMITED - PLEASE RESERVE EARLY

S		NY CASINO BUS TRIP March 17, 2018	
RESERVATIONS		TOTAL ENCLOSED Y SATURDAY, MARCH 3	
Name (s)			Return with your check Payable To: JCHS
ADDRESS			P. O. Box 51 Brookville, PA 15825 Credit Card Reservations
Спу	Zip	PHONE	Call 849-0077

The Jefferson County Historical Society 172-176 Main St. P.O. Box 51 Brookville, PA 15825			NONPROFIT ORG. U.S.POSTAGE paid Permit No. 11 Falls Creek, PA 15840	
(814) 849-0077 jchc@Windstream.net				
http://jchconline.org				
Museum Hours				
Tues 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				
Exhibit Admission Fees JCHS Members - Free Non-members: Individual - \$ 5 Household - \$ 7 Students - \$1				
Genealogy Contracted Research \$25 /hr. (1 hr. minimum)	Jeffers	on County Historical Soc		
In-House Assisted Research	Annual Membership Application			
\$25/hr. (after 1st 1/2hr.)	Individual \$25/12 months	Family (Household) \$35/12	2 months Life \$500.00	
lf you would like to receive our E-newsletter	Name Mailing Address			
and announcements	City			
of events and activities at the JCHC	Phone	Email		
SIGN UP AT	Credit Card Type	Card #		
jchconline.org			j	

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.