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A PUBLICATION OF THE JEFFERSON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

In This Issue

Events Calendar	2
Authors Wanted	2
Building & Grounds	2
PHMC Program	2
Brian Leach Visits	2
ANF Projects	3
What Did You Learn	4
Collections Connections	5
105th PA Wildcats	6
Curators' Corner	7
Col. Amor A. McKnight	7
Cemetery Torchlight	8
Laurel Festival	8
Night of the Living Dead	8
Fall Bus Trip	9
Antique Firearms Show	10
Annual Rifle Raffle	11

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

From the Director

Managing an organization that depends on admissions, donations, events income grants, and shop sales is very challenging. The JCHC Board is always working on projects and events that help provide sustainable income to cover operational costs.

Recently our members enjoyed our well-attended bus trips. We are currently planning four that will include a museum trip during the winter, our normal Casino trip in March, a two day event in early summer and a one day excursion to a his-



Recent group at the Gettysburg Pa Memorial Photo by Joe Bonfardine

torical location each fall. These along with our programs such as the annual rifle show, cemetery tours, house tours and other programs all take time away from running the museum but are a vital part of our public education mission and a

significant part of the annual income.

The JCHC recently installed 3 new historical signs at the main office of the Allegheny National Forest in Marienville

Our special projects such as the Archaeological Survey contracts which we have been able to conduct annually with the Allegheny National Forest have been a unique partnership that helps them conduct resource evaluation and management and brings us some needed funding.

Recently we were notified about the possibility of losing our Pathstones employees due to continued federal funding cutbacks and changes. So far that hasn't happened and we certainly hope that our relationship

continues which provides the JCHC. This program provides five funded part time employees over the age of 55 as part of a job retraining program. They are vital to the museum operation from helping to manage the gift shop, completing data entry, working with collections, helping patrons with genealogy research and completing a lot of the daily maintenance, cleaning and repair projects that are needed to keep all three of our buildings operational and collections secure. Without these employees the daily operations of such a large facility would indeed be hard to manage.

Page 2 The Jeffersonian

2013 Events Calendar

June Sat., June 2 Bowdish Railroad 12 –3 pm

Cemetery Torchlight Tour

July Sat., July 6 Bowdish Railroad 12 –3 pm

August Sat., August 3 Bowdish Railroad 12 –3 pm

Sat., Aug. 31 9 am - 4 pm Antique Rifles and Indian Artifact Show Jefferson County Fairgrounds

September Sat., June 2 Bowdish Railroad 12 –3 pm

Sat. Sept. 14 Pittsburgh on the River Tickets Available NOW

October
Sat., June 2
Bowdish Railroad 12 – 3 pm

JCHC Annual Dinner Oct. 19, 2013 Heritage House

Mark YOUR
Calendar NOW

JCHC Annual Dinner and Awards Ceremony

October 19, 2013

WANTED - Authors for JCHC Journal

Would you like to be an author? Beginning this fall we are plan to creating an annual journal publication to be included as part of your JCHC membership benefits. Each issue will be a compilation of articles based on current research, genealogy, photography, local stories and legends, people, communities or other topics that relate to the history of Jefferson County.

We are currently inviting your submissions for the first issue or future issues. Submission deadline is August 31st. For more information or publication guidelines please contact Ken Burkett at the JCHC or at jchconline.org.

Building and Grounds

The Building and Grounds committee was extremely busy with projects this spring. With the help of Pathstones worker Doug Davis we repaired the walkway and steps, complete painting of the porch, install eleven interior storm windows and create additional cedar lined storage space for our clothing collection at the Brady Craig house. At the History Center we will soon repaint the patio walls and ramp and entrance deck and several interior galleries along with numerous other small maintenance and repair projects throughout all of our buildings. Later this summer if funding is available there are plans to tar and chip the rear parking lot.

PHMC Program at the JCHC

The Jefferson County History Center in partnership with the Pennsylvania State Archives recently co-sponsored an **Archives Without Tears** seminar here in Brookville. Attended by 25 museum and collections staff from various institutions across western Pennsylvania. The program provided by Josh Stahlman, Joanne Gerdner and Joe Burns offered practical advice, sample forms, policies and basic practices used for collecting, preserving and assisting researchers with an organizations records and documents collection.



Brian Leach Visits

Brian Leach son of Dr. David Leach recently visited the History Center on a return trip to Brookville to help review our plans for the Leach Rhododendron Exhibit.

Numerous donations have been for the purchase of plants which we will begin planting in June. Over the summer months interpretative signs will be developed describing Mr. Leach's world famous work and individual plant markers. Donations for the project are still being accepted with those donating over \$50 to be acknowledged as a donor or in memorial to or in memory of someone on the permanent signage.

Check out the latest updates and more on our web site at jchconline.org

Page 3 The Jeffersonian

Sand Plant Mapping Project - Brian Fritz

Much of our industrial heritage is rooted in the forests, hills, and streams of our rural landscapes. Evidence of this industrial legacy can be found throughout the Lumber Heritage Region. One such example is a place known to the residents of Forest County as the "sand plant". Hidden along a steep hillside in Spring Creek Valley are the ruins of a sand making operation formally known as the Standard Silicon Spring Creek Glass Sand Works. In this remote location, the Standard Silicon Company of Ridgeway, Pennsylvania quarried silica rich sandstone from pits along the top of the valley slopes. The quarried stone was hauled down a steep incline plain to a very large crushing facility located along the valley bottom. In the 190 foot long facility the quarried stone was reduced to nearly pure silica sand. The sand was washed, dried, and shipped to market over the Tionesta Valley Railway. Standard Silicon's customers were the numerous small glass works located in small towns throughout the region. The sand was the principal raw ingredient for making glass products of all kinds. Standard Silicon operated the sand works from 1914 to 1926.

The old sand works is today part of the Allegheny National Forest (ANF) and managed by the USDA Forest Service. The Forest Service's primary mission is to manage the vast timber resources within the ANF, but its mission also includes the development of recreational opportunities and the protection of heritage resources. One recreational opportunity is an extensive network of horse trails that were constructed within the Spring Creek Valley. This horse trail passes through the quarry pits and near the sand works. As part of the horse trail construction the Forest Service initiated the Standard Silicon Spring Creek Glass Sand Works Archaeological Mapping Project as part of an effort to protect and enhance cultural resources located along the Spring Creek Horse Trail System. The project was organized as a cooperative effort between the Forest Service, Jefferson County Historical Society (JCHS), and Quemahoning LLC.

The field project was coordinated by Brian Fritz, Principal Investigator of Quemahoning LLC. Dense patches of brush were removed to expose the concrete foundations and piers of the sand works. The ruins were photographed and precisely mapped using electronic surveying equipment. Thirteen quarry pits were mapped, including a network of narrow gage railroad trams that connected the quarry pits to the incline plane and sand works. Also documented within the quarry is a powder magazine where dynamite was stored.



Concrete piers that supported the machinery and sand storage bins inside the 190 foot long and 40 foot wide sand

This powder magazine is a small room that was literally carved into the center of a house-sized rock. Evidence of the different kinds of explosives and drilling machines can be seen on the quarry walls which preserved a record of the quarry operation's evolution and development. The field mapping was completed in the fall of 2012. The project is in its final stages of historic background research and report writing which includes a detailed description and history of the sand works. The project will conclude with the placement along the horse trail of three interpretive signs that tell the story of the sand works and explain the importance of the region's contribution to our industrial heritage.

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Page 4 The Jeffersonian

And What Did You Learn Today?

Carole Briggs

As the History Center Curator and Educator, I learned a lot of what I know while visiting museums: how Chippewa women carried their babies, the size of a wooly mammoth, and what it's like to descend into a coal mine. Good museums are good teachers.

We want the History Center to be a good teacher to people of all ages, but particularly to students. Our Hands-On-History program for fourth-graders began many years ago when we worked with teachers to align a museum visit with Pennsylvania history. We've worked with fifth graders learning about the Underground Railroad, and high school students examining the Civil War.

Recently advanced placement students from Brockway spent a day here viewing the exhibits from the perspective of the twelve themes they'd been studying: American Diversity, American Identity, Culture, Demographic Changes, Economic Changes, Environment, Globalization, Politics and Citizenship, Reform, Religion, Slavery and Its Legacies in North America, War and Diplomacy. For extra credit, they could write a review.

After the Brockway AP day last week, their teacher offered extra credit for feedback and shared them with me. Dominique Martina wrote that the museum was organized and covered some topics quite well. However, she thought there could be more about women. "As a student, AP classes talk about women and woman's suffrage a lot. Women were an important part of history all around the world and definitely in Jefferson County." Hanna Levinson noted "I believe that your museum did an amazing job showing how much diversity, or the lack there of, and American identity there was in Jefferson County. We saw that Americans in Jefferson County were just like Americans everywhere else. Your museum also did a very good job at showing us culture and demographic changes over the years. By showing things from as early as the Native



When Brockway students recently visited the History Center, local re-enactor Randon Bartley was there to dress one of the students in the clothing of a typical union recruit

American times all the way up to planes and automobiles. We were shown population growth, changing climate, and birth records for Jefferson County over the years. "

After reading a new book *Teaching History with Museums*, I came away with the knowledge that pre- and post-visit experiences are very important. The critique's of Dominique and Hanna are evidence of a good post-visit experience.

We're working hard to get teachers involved in those pre- and post-visit experiences. This May we've offered teachers and their families free admission so they can look around. We've Emailed back and forth prior to a visit, so that time spent here is not simply "time off from school." And we've had a pre-visit tour with two kindergarten teachers. We talked about how the visit will support Pennsylvania's Education Standards.

So if you meet a rising first-grader this summer, you might ask them what an artifact is. And when they tell you, they just might describe a photograph and document, too!

Contact the JCHC for information on how your school can arrange a visit

Collections Connections

Artifacts, photographs, documents and books help us show the stories of the people, places, and events of our country. Those pictured here helped us show the story of Nathaniel Greene Edelblute, the man who built seventy-five percent of the building now known as the Jefferson County History Center.



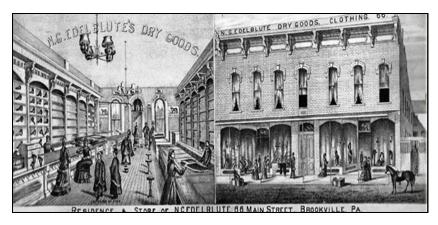
A Document

Sometime after 1938, someone researched and prepared a genealogy chart of the Edelblute family that measures 42" x 120". It begins with the birth of Christian Edelblut in the 11th century and ends with Kay Edelblute who was born in 1938 in Dubois.

A Photograph

Nathaniel Greene Edelblute arrived in Clarion with his parents, three sisters and three brothers in 1847. When his parents moved to Kansas in 1855, he was clerking in Brookville and love with Rosetta Frank. They married and their first child, John, was born in 1859. Three more children were born by the time Nathan bought a small building on this property.





A Book

Nathans growing business and his racing trotters made possible additions on the front for his sister-in-law's millinery shop and west for his goods store. The family lived on the second floor. Caldwell's Atlas (1877) included sketches of the façade and interior. Today N. G. Edelblute Dry Goods and Clothing is the History Center's main Gallery, LIVING ON THE LAND.

An Artifact

The society purchased Nathan's building in 2001. Heirs had removed much of the contents, but some things remained. One artifact was a small sculpture created by John Rogers (1829-1904).



The Jeffersonian Page 6

New Exhibits

105th Pennsylvania Volunteers "Wildcat Regiment"

Now open the 105th Pennsylvania Volunteers exhibit features a selection of over 100 photographs, portraits, documents, artifacts and memorabilia identified to individuals from this regiment, and includes a selection of 19th century musical instruments and select items belonging to the original regimental brass band.

The 105th Regiment was raised mainly in the counties of Jefferson, Clarion and Clearfield but also had a company incorporated from Westmoreland. It mustered at Pittsburgh in September 1861 for a three year term. Among the early recruits was future United States Congressman Albert. C. Thompson.



The 105th distinguished itself during its first action at Fair Oaks setting a precedent for the regiment as hard fighters. At the Battle of Chancellorsville in May 1863, the troops were warmly engaged, and 21 men were awarded the division's Kearny Medal of Honor. At the Battle of Gettysburg, the regiment lost many men, and, after the return to

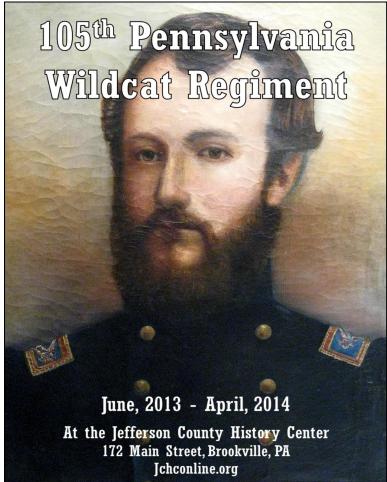
Virginia, engagements followed at Auburn, Kelly's Ford, and Locust Grove in the Mine Run campaign late in November. At the end of that campaign, the regiment returned to winter camp at Brandy Station

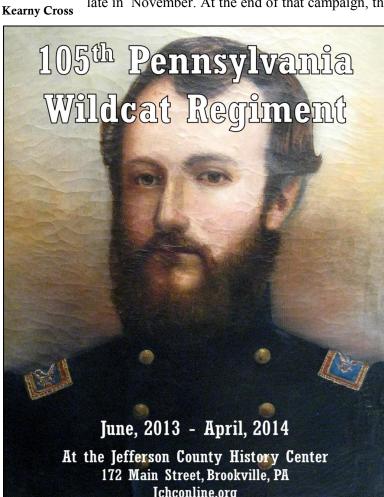
and on December 28, 1863, nearly the entire regiment re-enlisted.

The regiment fought at the battles of the Wilderness and Spotsylvania in May 1864 and then moved to Petersburg with the army, where it took part in the operations of the X Corps in August and the movements upon the Wilmington and Weldon Railroad in October and December. On September 5, the remainder of the 63rd Pennsylvania was added to the depleted 105th. On February 20, 1865, the 105th also absorbed Company C of the 2nd United States Sharpshooters, and in March 1865, about 300 new recruits were received. At Sailor's Creek, the regiment was actively engaged, after which it returned to Alexandria. It participated in the Grand Review at Washington and was mustered out in that city on July 11, 1865.

Out of a total enrollment of 2,040, the regiment lost 309 men by death from wounds or disease, and 199 soldiers were reported as missing.

First Lieutenant Alexander H. Mitchell of Company A, received the units only Medal of Honor at Spotsylvania, Va., 12 May 1864 for the capture of flag of 18th North Carolina Infantry (C.S.A.), in a personal encounter with the color bearer.





McKnight Portrait Restoration

Joanne Garrett noted that "If he were alive today, I think I'd be interested!" Her comment was directed at Amor McKnight, a dashing and very handsome fellow from Jefferson County.

Like many Civil War soldiers, Colonel Amor Archer McKnight had his image recorded by a photographer. It was from such an image that painter John Kahill Coxson painted the portrait that was presented to the Jefferson County Historical and Genealogical Society when it first formed by William and Mary McKnight. William was a descendent of Amor's brother, county historian William J. McKnight.

Between 1971 and 2004 the painting hung on an inside wall of Brady Craig House on Jefferson Street. It was moved to the Adda Edelblute Pearsall Parlor in the History Center in 2004. Time had taken its toll on the portrait.

When we began to think of our series of Civil War exhibits, we knew the Colonel should be exhibited with the 105th PA Regiment, so we invited conservator Joanne Garrett, Punxsutawney, to provide restoration recommendations to us and solicited funding for the project.



Joanne with McKnight Portrait after Restoration

Last fall, the Colonel moved to Joanne's studio where she removed him from the frame and canvas stretcher. She discovered that Coxson had used a combination of Pink Plaster of Paris, fine black sandy grit mixed with an organic animal-based blue to adhere the painting to the stretcher. This was an unstable procedure that caused the painting to pull away and buckle, a process that caused surface cracking.

Joanne cleaned the portrait, removing dirt and varnish, and the Colonel's glowing countenance gradually emerged. His sickly blue gray pallor warmed. After the final cleaning, she protected the portrait with two coats of matt finish acrylic varnish. Reinserting the canvas into the frame required the advice of a carpenter and a new inner frame of gold leaf. In addition, Joanne used plexiglass on the reverse, allowing us to view the information about Coxson.

The Colonel returned to the History Center in early May and is now part of the 105th PA Regiment exhibit. He is indeed handsome! We are grateful to Molly Hutchins, Mary Coyle, Andrew and John Briggs, and Gretchen Briggs Dinger for their support in this conservation project.

Colonel Amor A. McKnight

Amor served as Captain of the Brookville Rifles at the beginning of the war and responded with the company at the first call to arms with the 8th Pennsylvania during an initial 90 days enlistment. Upon returning to Brookville he immediately organized the 105th Pennsylvania which was mustered in Pittsburgh on September 9, 1861 for three years service.

McKnight spent the winter of 1861 training the regiment and led the unit at its first engagement at "Fair Oaks" Virginia in 1862. Soon thereafter he was stricken by fever and was given a furlough to return home for two months.

After returning, he led the regiment in every battle until killed in action at age 31 while leading a charge at Chancellorsville, May 3, 1863. Because of heavy fire by the rebels, the regiment was unable to remove his body from the field and he remains today in an unmarked grave somewhere on the battlefield.



Page 8 The Jeffersonian

Upcoming Events

Cemetery Torchlight Tours Highlight Local Civil War History

Torchlight Cemetery Tours sponsored by the JCHC are again returning to the Brookville Laurel Festival this year. The event has moved to the New Brookville Cemetery on Cemetery Road near the Brookville High School . The first tour will begin at 7:00 pm and groups will continue to depart until 9:30 pm. on Thursday, June 20th. (Friday June 21st will be a rain date in case of cancellation by weather on the 20th).

The tour will include eight torchlight graveside visits where re-enactors will share the Civil War stories of veterans and their families.

Tickets will be sold only at the event location and are \$10 for adults with children age 12 and under admitted free.

TORCHLIGHT CEMETERY TOUR THURSDAY, JUNE 20TH 7:00 - 9:30 PM NEW BROOKVILLE CEMETERY (CEMETERY ROAD NEAR BROOKVILLE MIGH SCHOOL) ADULTS - \$10 CHILDREN UNDER 12 - FREE TICKETS AT THE EVENT SPONSORED BY JEFFERSON COUNTY HISTORY CENTER (814) 849-0077

Laurel Festival

The 2013 Brookville Laurel Festival theme is: A Civil War Anniversary; 150 years. Friday June 21st is the Brookville Sidewalk Sale. Be sure to stop by the History Center for sales items and to visit the Bowdish Model Railroad from 12 - 3 pm.

The Jefferson County History Center has been designated to receive the 2013 Laurel Award and also serve as Grand Marshall in the Laurel Parade. For a complete schedule of the 2013 Laurel Festival Events and activities visit the Brookville Chamber website at brookvillechamber.com

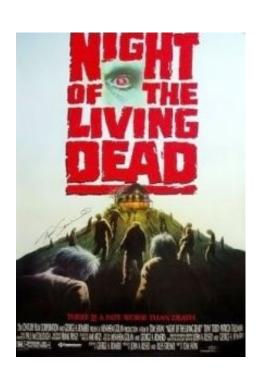
"Night of the Living Dead" Coming to Brookville

MARK YOUR CALENDARS For: Saturday evening November 2nd when the Jefferson County History Center will present "Night of the Living Dead" at the Columbia Theatre in Brookville. This unique fun filled evening will include a showing of the original 1968 movie *Night of the Living Dead*. This film directed by George Romero and filmed near Pittsburgh started the Zombie craze which emerged in popular culture during the past decade through television, movies and video games.

Attendees will also have an exclusive opportunity to personally meet and visit with some of the films original writers and actors who will also be available for autographs and photo opportunities.

There will be awards for best dressed zombies attending the event in several categories.

Tickets for this limited seating event go on sale at the JCHC on Saturday, September 7th and are \$15 each so get your best walking dead costume out and plan to join us for this fun filled event.



PITTSBURGH ON THE RIVER

WITH THE JEFFERSON COUNTY HISTORY CENTER



SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2013 Depart 9:00 am

Join us for a picnic luncheon scenic cruise aboard the Gateway Clipper for a great view of Pittsburgh from on the water. Enjoy a tasty lunch buffet inside the climate controlled vessel and then head outside for great views of "America's Most Livable City" on one of the open air decks.

Lunch Menu

Home Style Fried Chicken Breast Sandwich, Buttered Corn on the Cobb, Tri Colored Nacho's with Nacho Cheese Sauce, Salsa, Sour Cream and Jalapeños, Baked Potato Bar withShredded Cheddar, Bacon, Diced Ham, Broccoli Florets, Sour Cream, Diced Onion, and Butter, Garden Fresh Salad Greens served with your choice, of Buttermilk Ranch Dressing or our House Italian Dressing, Strawberry Short Cake, Coffee & Hot Tea

After the cruise you will have 3 hours on you own to take in the sights and shopping at Station Square or walk to the nearby Monongahela Incline built by John Endres in 1870 for a scenic trip to the top of Mount Washington. Bus boards at 5:00 pm for return to Brookville.

\$80 per person includes Bus and Gateway Clipper Lunch Cruise





	Pittsburgh On September 14		
Please Reserve	Tickets @ \$80.00 Each	Total Enclosed \$_	
Name's			Return with your check by August 31, 2013
Address			Payable To: JCHC P. O. Box 51
City		Zip	Brookville, PA 15825
Phone			Credit Cards Accepted Please Call (814) 849-0077

Page 10 The Jeffersonian

8th Annual Antique Firearms Show

It's only a few more weeks until the 8th annual JCHC Antique Firearms and Indian Artifact Show at the Jefferson County Fairgrounds . Join us this year for this great day of learning about some of the remaining important artifacts from Jefferson County's pioneer period. Between 1839 to 1898 at least 22 gunsmiths were located in Jefferson County with the majority in the village of Brookville. Among them were John Showalter, Anthony Bonnett, William McCullough, Daniel Long and Solomon Harriger whose rifles were the cornerstone of carving the homesteads out of the wilderness and many of these weapons traveled westward with trappers and settlers throughout the country's 19th century expansion. Today these are highly collectable rifles as each was custom made for the recipient and vary greatly on materials, style and decorations relative to the gunsmiths flair or what was requested by the purchaser. Take time at the show to check out the various rifles and discuss their history with the various displayers.

As always the firearms building contains of both exhibitors and vendors who in addition to having original rifles, artifacts and accouterments will present some of the best custom-made muzzle loading rifles available by modern day gunsmith's.

In the second building the North Fork Chapter 29 of the Society for Pennsylvania will be display many prehistoric and early historic Native American artifacts from this region and be on hand to explain the age and importance of many of these relics and how they relate to the archaeology of western Pennsylvania. Flintknappers will be demonstrate how stone tools were created and the chapter will also have its popular Atlatl throwing area outdoors where visitors can try their hand at this thousands of years old hunting tradition which predates the invention of the bow and arrow.

A food court will be available throughout the day.





ANTIQUE FIREARMS & INDIAN ARTIFACT SHOW

SATURDAY, AUGUST 31ST, 2013 9:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.

JEFFERSON COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS
PA INTERSTATE 80, EXIT 81, 1/4 MILE NORTH OF THE EXIT

A JOINT VENTURE OF THE JEFFERSON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY & NORTH FORK CHAPER #29, SOCIETY FOR PENNSYLVANIA ARCHAEOLOGY



FEATURING ALL TYPES OF ANTIQUE FIREARMS THROUGH 1898 A RAFFLE WILL BE HELD FOR A REPRODUCTION MUZZLELOADER

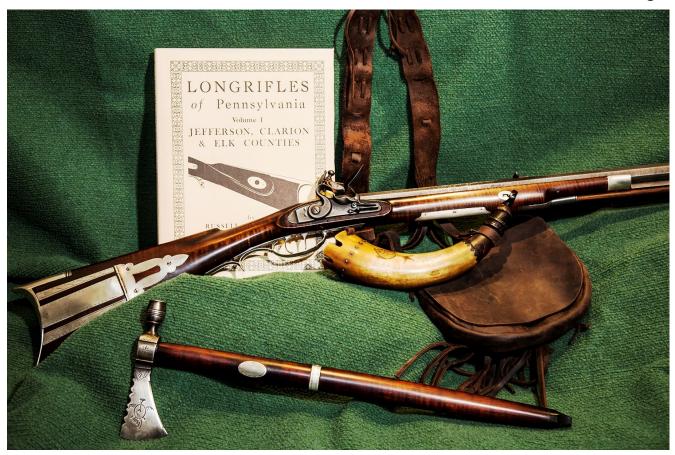
PREHISTOIC AND HISTORIC ARTIFACTS,
ARTIFACT IDENTIFICATION, FLINT KNAPPING, PRIMITIVE GAMES AND
WAA SANCTIONED ATLATL COMPETITION

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



Annual Rifle Raffle

Its time again for the JCHC annual raffle with prizes to be drawn at 4:00 pm on August 31st at the Antique Firearms Show.

- 1st Prize is a fifty-four caliber flintlock half-stock rifle custom built by Ron Luckenbill in the style of John Showalter. Showalter lived and manufactured rifles in Brookville (1850—1880) and is possibly responsible for creation of the distinctive *Brookville Eye* inlay used by many of the local gunsmiths to designate that their ware was from Jefferson County. In lieu of the rifle a cash prize of \$1000 is also offered.
- 2nd prize is an custom pipe tomahawk also by Ron Luckenbill engraved with native American designs from local petroglyph sites.
- 3rd Prize is a hand crafted powder horn and possible bag created by Mary Ann Unger
- 4th Prize is a Longrifles of Pennsylvania book autographed by Russell Harriger (deceased).

Tickets can be obtained at the Jefferson County History Center for \$5.00 each or 5 for \$20.00.

We always need help selling so if you would like to receive a few books to help out the History Center please call us at (814) 849-0077.



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 Enewsletter and announcements of events and activities at the JCHC

SIGN UP AT jchconline.org

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

NONPROFIT ORG.

Jefferson County Historical Society Annual Membership Aapplication

Individual \$20/12 months		Family (Household) \$30/12 months		
Name				
Mailing Address				
City		State	Zip	
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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