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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.

Scripture Rocks Park

The JCHS recently hosted a series of well attended roll-outs for the Scripture Rocks Heritage Park to inform the public about the history of the location, the plans for construction and the start of our capital funding campaign for the project.

Currently, the parking lot and picnic grove location along Route 28 have been cleared of brush and the highway access permit has been submitted.

From the southeast corner of the parking lot, the trailhead will extend along the hillside bench to the Port Barnett rocks location where 67 inscribed rocks exist, including the site of the Alter rock where Douglas Stahlman had one of his outdoor chapels and later a cabin where he penned his journals.

The park is scheduled to be finished by spring of 2016 and will contain markers at each of the rocks, interpretative signage at both the trailhead and scattered throughout the park to provide information about Stahlman's story, and also various other topics such as geology, forestry, and local history. Plans include benches at convenient locations for resting and a covered pavilion that can be used for many functions.

The JCHS has initiated a Capital Campaign to help fund this endeavor and is currently approaching area businesses for contributions to assist in adding the park as another interesting layer of historical preservation to make Brookville a more attractive community.

If you would like to personally contribute to the Scripture Rocks Heritage Park fund, donations are being accepted through the JCHS. Amounts over \$1000 will include permanent acknowledgement of the donor on our main park signage, but any amount is appreciated. For more information, contact Ken Burkett at the History Center or go to the JCHC website at jchconline.org. For an overview of the park and the Stahlman story go to scripturerocks.com.



Crew building trails at the park

Volunteers are always welcome at the Scripture Rocks Heritage Park. Contact Ken at the History Center to volunteer.

2015 Events Calendar

Sat., June 6
Bowdish Railroad
12 - 3 pm

Thursday, June 18
Bowdish Railroad
5 - 8 pm

Saturday, June 27th
Meadowcroft Bus Trip
(see page 9)

Saturday, August 1st
Bowdish Railroad
12 - 3 pm

Saturday, August 8
Old Economy Bus Trip
(see page 11)

Saturday, September 5
Bowdish Railroad
12 - 3 pm

Saturday, September 5
Antique Rifles & Indian
Artifact Show
Jefferson Co. Fairgrounds
9 am - 4 pm

Saturday, September 19
Porch Party
(see page 9)

Saturday, October 10
Shaker Woods Bus Trip

Save the Date
JCHS Annual Dinner
Saturday, Oct. 17
Heritage House
6:00 pm

JCHS NEWS

Cara Stockdale

We are happy to announce that Cara graduated with her masters degree from Clarion University in May. She has worked with the JCHS during the past two years as a Graduate Assistant and has now accepted a position with the JCHS as Outreach Coordinator. Her duties will continue to revolve around aspects of marketing, coordinating events, exhibit development, and assisting with collections management.



AASLH Award

Brian Fritz and Ken Burkett have been recently named as recipients of the American Association for State and Local History (AASLH) 2015 Leadership in History Award for the publication: *Scripture Rocks: Why Douglas Stahlman Carved His Legacy in Stone*.

The AASLH Leadership in History awards are the nation's most prestigious recognition of achievement in state and local history. The AASLH bestows this award to acknowledge historical preservation and interpretation that changes peoples lives by connecting them to the past. It's goal is to establish and encourage standards of excellence in the collection, preservation, and interpretation of state and local history in order to make the past more meaningful to all Americans.

The award will be formally presented in September at the AASLH annual meeting in Louisville, KY.



Military Show

The first annual Military Collectibles Show, held the last weekend in March, was a big success with over 50 tables of vendors and exhibitors displaying all types of military-related items including paper documents, weapons and uniforms.

We are already making plans to expand the show which is scheduled during March, 2016.



2015 JCHS Awards Nominations

The JCHS is now accepting nominations for the **Arthur Altman** and **Kate M. Scott** awards to be presented at the society's annual dinner in October.

The **Altman Award** is presented in recognition of a JCHS member, and the **Kate M. Scott Award** is presented to a person or group (not a JCHS member). Both awards are presented for contributing to the preservation of Jefferson County History. A list of past recipients for both awards is posted on the History Center website at jchc-online.org/hodge-podge.html.

Nominations must be received by August 31st to be considered for the 2015 award.

"That's a Wrap!"

We are finally on the last stages of finishing and editing the *American Towns at War* production.

Winter scenes were shot at Clear Creek State Park during February to tie in with the Union Army occupation of Falmouth and hardships of the home front during the Civil War.

Director Russ Streiner notes that "this is not a typical Civil War production as it focuses on the personalized stories of the home front hardships that were created in the wake of significant numbers of men leaving their mothers, wives, and children behind and is as devastating as the direct casualties of the war itself. The home front hardships were real throughout America's small towns both North and South".

We will keep you posted as the program moves forward to a possible television venue.



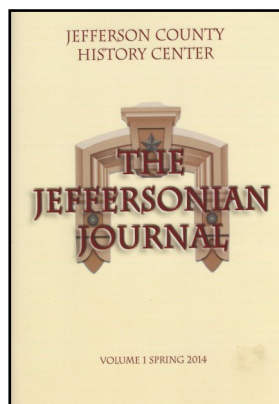
Authors Wanted

Do you have an interesting research project or story to share pertaining to the history of Jefferson County?

We are seeking authors for the 2016 edition of the Jeffersonian Journal. Articles should range between 3,000 - 4,000 words, be based on primary sources or an original analysis of current or historical events, and written to be enjoyed by a general audience. Submissions must be exclusive to the journal.

Articles should be submitted by September, 2015.

Please contact Cara Stockdale at cstockdale-jchc@windstream.net with your questions or to request a complete set of submission guidelines.



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earmst@windstream.net

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Upcoming Exhibits



The JCHS staff recently attended the Pennsylvania State Museums Conference in Harrisburg. One of our favorite sessions was titled *History Museum Vampires*. The topic explored the best ways to suck the life and fun from exhibits, facilities, and programs in order to help discourage museum visits before they begin, drive away annoying museum visitors, and keep those pesky history lovers on the run. This tongue-in-cheek program was a fun way of looking at best museum practices and exploring in reality what is being done right and what we might be overlooking in our efforts to provide a quality experience for our members and patrons.

The Jefferson County History Center is not just a museum. We collect and archive the history of Jefferson County, maintain a genealogy and research library, develop and provide public programs and publications, and create changing and fun exhibits to present various aspects of our past. The most important part of what we do, however, is strive to make you feel welcome and connected to our heritage while providing an enjoyable experience that you will be excited to recommend to others.

If you haven't visited the JCHC lately, we hope you will plan to do so soon and see what is new in history.

Patterns Exhibit

Patterns are all around us. From the wallpaper on our walls to the arrangement of petals on a daisy, we experience patterns every day. Our forthcoming exhibit, *Patterns in Baskets, Quilts, and a Coverlet or Two!* opens July 1st and will highlight the patterns found in the woven baskets of Jim VanSteenberg and his forebears, as well as the patterns in two of our quilts, and two coverlets.



Our Hanging Judges Plus Three

When visitors enter the exhibit area of the History Center, the very first exhibit shows the stories of the Courthouse itself and the nine judges who lived and served here, yet when those visitors enter the main courtroom of the Courthouse, they will find the portrait of only six judges hanging there.

When we prepared the *Welcome to the Seat of Jefferson County* exhibit, court administrator Patty Ellis, now retired, helped us locate images of the three missing judges.

We have been concerned about the missing judges and several years ago approached the Jefferson County Bar Association and the County Commissioners for help. Both groups concurred and have provided funding for the project. Photographer Kyle Yates prepared the large prints from the damaged portrait of Judge Clark, a photograph of Judge Corbet, and a newspaper photograph of Judge Reed. Chrissy Hoffman at the Copper Crown framed them. Now we are awaiting the appropriate time to "hang the judges!"



The History Center's outdoor exhibit showing the life and some of the work of world-renowned rhododendron expert David Leach looks better each spring. His hybrid *Solar Flair* was especially beautiful in late May.

We appreciate the assistance of Holden Arboretum in Ohio for their help in maintaining this exhibit.



Curator's Corner

Carole Briggs

How do exhibits grow? How does the seed of an idea expand to fill a gallery?

Periodically the board and staff review a long-range plan for exhibits. If a major exhibit is in the works, there is much to do, including finding the funds to underwrite it. Other exhibits are less expensive. We'd exhibited the baskets of the VanSteenberg family more than a decade ago, and Jim had reminded us that he would loan them again. So we had the seed for a low-cost exhibit.

That seed grew. A very old "Flower Basket" quilt had been given to the History Center in 2006, and that seemed a likely addition, and it got us thinking about patterns.

And that seed sprouted a new leaf when member Nancy Schlesinger read the list of proposed exhibits in our last newsletter, particularly the one tentatively called *Patterns (Baskets and Quilt)*. Nancy contacted us about a coverlet woven by Chloe Wolcott of Summerville some time prior to the Civil War. We hadn't planned on exhibiting a coverlet, but that was before we knew about the Wolcott Coverlet. Immediately the title became *Patterns in Baskets, Quilts, and a Coverlet or Two!*

Nancy arrived in April with a friend who had hand-carried the suitcase that held the coverlet all the way from California. Now that is a devoted member! She had done a thorough job of researching the coverlet and provided an original copy of the pattern "Chariot Wheels and Church Windows," as well as the hand-written notes that her ancestors had attached.

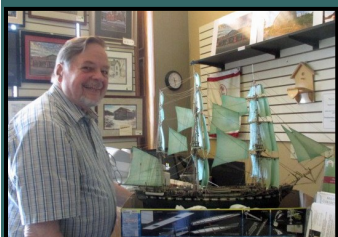
Our purpose here at the History Center is to "engage people of all ages," so as the seed of the idea developed, we began to think about those people. Children learn to weave when young, so what if we provide some weaving materials and pattern ideas? We'd visited the Dallas Arboretum and had seen a terrific children's exhibit that featured the Fibonacci sequence. Fibonacci sequence? What's that? You'll want to visit the History Center to learn more.

May arrived and that seed of an idea is nearing its bloom! We will exhibit both the oldest quilt we have and a simple one to highlight patterns. We'll bring out an 1842 coverlet woven by J. H. March and Co. in Clinton County in 1842 and show our visitors the importance of the loom.

Looms? The JCHS owns a large loom donated by Gladstone Carmalt many years ago. What kind of loom is it? Who used it? Who will help us put it together? That seed is really growing now. We hope to succeed so our visitors can see it when *Patterns in Baskets, Quilts, and a Coverlet or Two!* opens July 1 in one of our second floor galleries. Bring the family and the grandkids. You all should have a great time!



Cathy Dinger and Nancy Schlesinger take a look at a coverlet woven by Chloe Wolcott prior to the Civil War



Those of us at the History Center were saddened to learn of the tragic death of Bill and Dolores Fleming of Tionesta in April. When they retired from the University of West Virginia, they brought many skills to this area. Dolores was a consultant in decorative arts and prepared the plan for the interpretation of the Adda Edelblute Pearsall Parlor, suggesting adding objects to make it feel more "lived in." Bill was an avid model railroader and ship builder and last year did extensive repair work on our model of the USS Constitution. It was our privilege to know them both



Saving the Past

Kat Lyons

Soldier's Personal Effects Find Their Way Home

JCHC is the recent recipient of a very rare gift with its own mystery story to accompany it.

One Saturday morning in April, I received a very interesting email and then a “once in a blue moon” phone call from an excited Jean Kapulski of Houston, Texas. She had tracked JCHC down and she had an intriguing story to tell me.

Her neighbor, Bob Andreas, had just found an interesting box of “dated items” in their condo dumpster. Knowing Jean as a history buff, he thoughtfully brought the box to her.

She excitedly told me that the contents of the box, which was displayed on her kitchen table like a centerpiece, were the military and personal effects of a young WWI medic which tied him to Jefferson County. His draft registration cards dated 1917-1918 further tied him to Main Street Brookville. As she described the contents in awe over and over, I couldn't believe what I was hearing. We were both in awe! She asked that we help her “find a home for these historical objects.”



We discussed what “Home” the box should go to that would best preserve the contents. Her recognition of the significance of the contents and our agreed-upon need for the preservation of those contents for Jefferson County relatives and residents to enjoy, led to her gracious donation to JCHC. So instead of just 1 or 2 items, we now hold this rare collection of WWI military gear and personal possessions belonging to our “Hometown Boy,” Leigh King Corbett. Almost 100 years after the war ended, these “objects” have now found their way “Home.”

Leigh was born in Richardsville in 1894 and lived in Brookville with an address of “Main St.” as a young man. Two months after the U.S. declared war on Germany, he was drafted in June 1917 at age 23. He was an Army medic with Company 320 of the 80th Infantry Division Field Hospital assigned to the 305th Sanitary Train, the precursor to today's medical corps. From routes drawn on a map of his, we know he served throughout France, during 1918- 1919. We know he returned to Brookville, as one of his possessions was a Columbia Theatre (Brookville) playbill dated 1921.

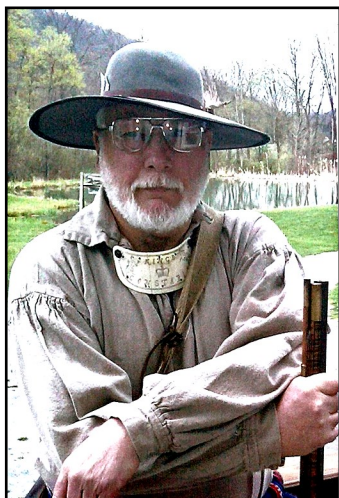
Sadly, although he survived the war, he died the following year of appendicitis while he was in pharmaceutical school at the University of Pittsburgh. He was survived by his parents, Lawrence and Elizabeth (Asel) Corbett of Richardsville and 3 siblings, Cenith, Frank, and Harvey. He is buried in West Warsaw-Riggs Cemetery. He is described in his obituary as “more than an ordinary young man, never selfish and always willing, cheerful, kind and honorable...a thorough gentleman.”



Leigh King Corbett 1894 - 1922

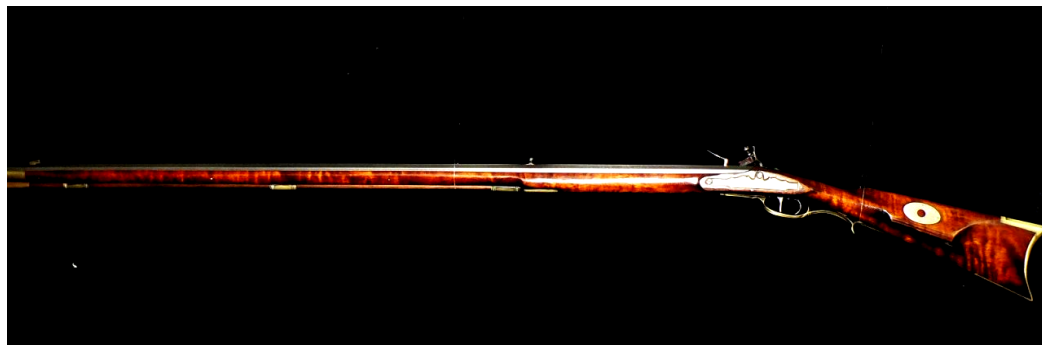
How his belongings ended up in a Houston, Texas dumpster is still a mystery. When was he in Houston and why? In fact, was he ever in Houston or did a relative or an acquaintance end up in Houston with his possessions? We don't know, yet, but as we uncover more about Leigh's short life—hopefully through local surviving relatives who remember him—there will be more to the story that you can look forward to in the near future. That story may fit nicely with our future WWI exhibit, so look for that, too.

2015 Rifle Raffle



Ron Luckenbill

Ron Luckenbill, from Emporium, PA, has completed this year's first prize for the annual JCHS Rifle Raffle. Ron is a retired state police trooper and has become a nationally known gunsmith who specializes in creating custom recreations of traditional longrifles.



His rifle this year as our **first prize** features a 42 inch, 45 caliber Green Mountain barrel, a small Siler flintlock and Davis double set triggers. The stock was made from a premium piece of curly maple and patch box is copied from an original John Sherry rifle. The stock is adorned with the iconic Brookville eye inlay.

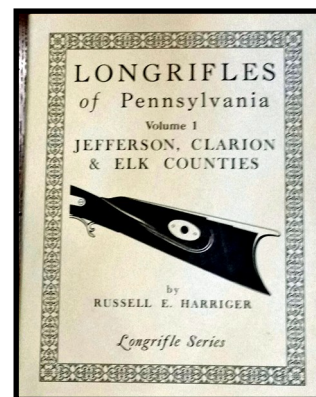


Eric Armstrong

The **second prize** is a custom powder horn created by Brookville resident and JCHS President Eric Armstrong. Eric was recently named as artisan of the month by *Powder Horns and Mores*.



The **third prize** is the *Longrifles of Pennsylvania Volume 1* by Russell Harriger.



The drawing will be at 4:00 pm at the Annual Antique Rifle Show at the Jefferson County Fairgrounds.

Tickets can be obtained at the Jefferson County History Center for \$5 each or 5/\$20.

We always need help selling tickets. If you would like to sell a book or two please call or email the History Center.

Events

ANTIQUE FIREARMS & INDIAN ARTIFACT SHOW

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2015

9:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.

JEFFERSON COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS

1/4 MILE NORTH OF PA INTERSTATE 80, EXIT 81

**A JOINT VENTURE OF THE JEFFERSON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY &
NORTH FORK CHAPTER #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 - \$7.00 CHILDREN UNDER 12 - FREE

**FOR TABLE RESERVATIONS OR INFORMATION CONTACT:
EMAIL: kburkett-jchc@windstream.net Tele: (814) 849-0077
OR VISIT WWW.JCHCONLINE.ORG**

This is the 10th year for the Antique Firearms & Indian Artifact Show co-sponsored by the Jefferson County Historical Society and the North Fork Chapter 29 of the Society for Pennsylvania Archaeology.

Focusing on rifles and accouterments made before 1898, this show features many of the regional 19th Century gunsmiths. Visitors have the opportunity to examine or purchase original antique rifles, pistols and accouterments, and talk to the experts and modern gunsmiths and artisans about the hobby.

The artifact building is an exhibit format only venue, but area collectors have a wide range of artifacts spanning more than 10,000 years and are happy to share their thoughts and expertise. Bring your artifacts for identification.

The show continues to grow with over 100 tables of vendors and exhibitors in 2 buildings along with the outdoors atlatl throwing area, flintknapping demonstrations, and this year's addition of primitive games and short programs on topics of antique rifles and Native American artifacts.



Public Programs

The JCHS offers public speaking programs on a variety of topics for your group or organization.

Check out the listing under the programs tab at jchconline.org.

Special Events

Meadowcroft Trip Tickets Still Available

There are still a few seats left for the Saturday, June 27th bus trip where you can explore 19,000 years of history in one day at the Meadowcroft Rockshelter and Historic Village located in Washington County, Pennsylvania.



At the site operated by the Heinz History Center, we will join Dr. James Adovasio for a special group insider lecture and tour of the rockshelter. In 1973, Dr. Adovasio achieved international acclaim by finding evidence of people living in the rockshelter as early as 19,000 years ago, making it one of the oldest known human habitations in North America. This enclosed site is designated as a national historic landmark and allows visitors to revel in the Native American way of life from thousands of years ago.

The bus will depart from the Evangelical United Methodist Church parking lot in Brookville at 7 a.m. on June 27th. Tickets to this tour include transportation, admission, lecture, tour, and a boxed lunch. Tickets are \$60.00 each and can be obtained by contacting the Jefferson County History Center at (814) 849-0077 or online at jchconline.org.

Bowditch Model Railroad Schedule



Saturday, June 6
12:00 - 4:00 pm

Thursday, June 18
5:00—8:00 pm

Saturday, July 4th
Museum Closed

Saturday, August 1
12:00 - 4:00 pm

Saturday, September 5
12:00 - 4:00 pm

JOIN US for the JCHS PORCH PARTY Saturday, Sept. 19th Begins at 6:00 PM

Meet at 5:30 Northside Park, Brookville
Food, Refreshments, Entertainment, Fun

Tickets = \$ 25.00 person
Must be 21 or older Limited Tickets Available

Porch Party Ticket Reservations

Please Reserve _____ Tickets @ \$25 ea.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____

Return with your check
Payable To:
JCHS
P. O. Box 51
Brookville, PA 15825
Credit Card Reservations
Call 849-0077

Communism in America (and Western Pennsylvania)

Eric Armstrong

For us who grew up in the 1950s the mention of “communism” brings dire memories of bomb shelters, duck & cover drills in school, and fear of foreign miscreants within our government bent on destroying our way of life. Generally defined, communism is a system where property and goods are owned in common and distributed according to individual need. We think of it as the Marxist doctrine that was applied to Soviet Russia but communism actually existed in America long before the Bolshevik Revolution—actually right here in Western PA.

The Harmony Society, who were followers of George Rapp existed for about 100 years, beginning in the late 18th century. Rapp broke away from The Lutheran church in Germany and attracted followers. He and about 300 of his flock came to America in 1805 and first settled on property north of Pittsburgh, which they called Harmony. It is the site of present-day Harmony, PA.

The Harmony Society adopted celibacy but thrived, initially, due to additional settlers arriving from Germany. After several years they decided that the land at Harmony was poor and, in 1815, they removed to Indiana where they stayed for 10 years. The group appeared to have had health problems and unpleasant neighbors so, in 1825, they relocated back to Pennsylvania and founded their last settlement which they called *Economy*. The group existed until the early 20th century but ultimately failed, mainly due to their principle of celibacy.

The “Economites” core beliefs mirrored the Shakers in that they



practiced celibacy, equal rights and development of industry and business. Economy became an industrial “giant” during its time, Per the Old Economy Village website:

By 1825 they had constructed textile factories powered and heated by steam engines. They built shops for blacksmiths, tanners, hatters, wagon makers, cabinetmakers and turners, linen weavers, potters, and tin smiths. However, by the end of the nineteenth century only a few Harmonists remained. In 1905 the Society was dissolved and its vast real estate holdings sold, much of it to the American Bridge Company who subsequently enlarged the town and renamed it Ambridge. Six acres of the Society’s original holdings, along with seventeen buildings, were acquired by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in 1916.



The historic site, which contains the seventeen restored historic structures and garden built between 1824 and 1830, was the religious and economic hub of the Harmony Society. The buildings, grounds, library, archives and 16,000 original artifacts are a memorial to the Society’s commitment to the religious discipline and economic industry that built their American Utopia.

The Jefferson County Historical Society is sponsoring a visit to Old Economy on August 8, 2015. The trip will include a guided tour of the village and demonstrations of blacksmithing skills. Afterwards we will visit the Church Brew Works in Pittsburgh for lunch. Join us for a pleasant tour and insight into the lives of these most interesting people.



Old Economy Bus Trip



Built 1824-1830, Old Economy Village is a six-acre National Historic Landmark administered by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission since 1919 near Ambridge, PA. Today the site tells the story of the Harmony Society, one of the oldest and most successful religious communal groups of the nineteenth century.

Visitors encounter ever-changing traditional tradesmen, perform historic chores and view 17 historic structures, formal gardens, original paintings, tools, books and furnishings that tell the story of the Harmony Society by tracing the history of this prosperous group of people from its origins in Württemberg, to America until the Society closed in 1905. The Harmonists played an instrumental part in the development of Pittsburgh and surrounding regions. Their industries included the manufacture of wool, cotton, and silk textiles, as well as the production of wine, beer and other beverages.

Trip Details

- 7:30 am** Depart from Evangelical United Methodist Church parking lot at 302 White Street, Brookville with Fullington Bus Company
- 9:30 am** Arrive at Old Economy
- 10:00 am** Tour
- 1:00 pm** Depart
- 1:30 pm** Lunch on your own at The Church Brew Works
- 3:30 pm** Depart home



SEATING IS LIMITED - PLEASE RESERVE EARLY

OLD ECONOMY BUS TRIP SATURDAY, AUGUST 8, 2015

RESERVATIONS ARE \$45.00 EACH _____ TOTAL ENCLOSED _____
PLEASE RETURN BY SATURDAY, JULY 25

NAME (S) _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ **ZIP** _____ **PHONE** _____

Return with your check

Payable To:

JCHS

P. O. Box 51

Brookville, PA 15825

Credit Card Reservations

Call 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 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
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Enewsletter
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 Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Credit Card Type _____ 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.