



## In This Issue

Upcoming Events	2
2015 Board	2
Jeffersonian Journal	2
Park Update	2
Climbing Your Tree	3
JCHS 2014 Awards	3
Knapp Exhibit	4
Gunsmiths Exhibit	5
Curator's Corner	6
Bowdish Birthday	7
2015 Events Listing	7
Porch Party	8
Wanted	8
Military Show	9
Meadowcroft Trip	10

## Message from the President

Eric Armstrong



2015 is going to be an exciting year for our historical society. We are adding a Military Show on March 28 that will feature arms and accoutrements from the Civil War period up to WWII. We're hoping that this will appeal to military collectors and those interested in military history and become an annual event. We will continue with the Gun and Artifact Show (10th year), which we will share with the North Fork PA Archaeology Society on Labor Day weekend.

We are also planning several trips during 2015, which we started with a day at the PA Farm Show. Watch the local paper and JCHS web site and Facebook for further information. A list of our 2015 events is included in this newsletter.

A major goal for the coming year is opening the *Scripture Rocks Park* at the Port Barnett site, north of Brookville. We believe that a July 2015 opening is possible if we can get enough volunteer help from the membership and the community, as well as financial contributions to complete the project. Needless to say, the Scripture Rocks are unique, and will attract many visitors once the park is open and Douglas Stahlman's story is more widely known.

Jefferson County and Brookville is the epitome of small town America. We have architectural, physical, and social ingredients that are unique, timeless, and worth preserving and presenting. To do this we are favored with a dedicated Staff and Board of Directors. We also rely on the continual support of the community and our extended family who are scattered around the country, but holding fond memories of their hometown.

The Annual Giving Campaign this year is most important. Your donations exceeded our goal and totaled \$29,060. These funds are needed to help us maintain our award-winning historical society and continue the projects we've begun. If you haven't made a contribution, please consider doing so as any amount helps.

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.

If you would like to help with the annual JCHS raffle sales at the monthly Hazen flea markets or assist at any of the upcoming events, please contact the History Center.

## 2015 Events Calendar

### March

Sat., March 7  
Bowdish Birthday  
Celebration

12-5 pm

**FREE ADMISSION**

Sat., March 28  
Military Collectibles Show  
9 am - 4 pm  
Jefferson County  
Fairgrounds

### April

Sat., April 4  
Bowdish Railroad 12-3 pm

### May

Sat., May 2  
Bowdish Railroad 12-3 pm

### June

Sat., June 6  
Bowdish Railroad 12-3 pm

Sat., June 13  
JCHS Porch Party  
Tickets Required  
(see page 8)

Sat., June 27th  
Meadowcroft Bus Trip  
(see page 10)

## Sponsor

A new member to the  
JCHS during 2015

## JCHS NEWS

### 2015 Board Changes

We welcome Kyle Yates as our newest board member and Joan Hillard, Pat Steele, and Dick Beck who were re-elected to the JCHS board of directors. Our officers for 2015 are Eric Armstrong as president, Dick Beck as vice-president, Pat Steele as secretary, and Tom Glover as Treasurer.

The board, along with other society members, comprise a number of ongoing committees that include the Building and Grounds, Events, Marketing and Gift Shop. We welcome anyone who would like to also serve on the committee or volunteer to help at any of our busy schedule of events.

If you would like to serve on the Building and Grounds, Events, or Marketing committees please let Eric Armstrong know at [earmst@windstream.net](mailto:earmst@windstream.net)

### Jeffersonian Journal

JCHS members - watch your mailboxes this month for the 2015 edition of the *Jeffersonian Journal*. This is a benefit of your annual membership and we are proud to present a number of articles annually about the history of Jefferson County from a variety of authors. We are always looking for writers to contribute interesting articles for this publication and welcome anyone to submit. Please refer to your journal for manuscript guidelines. If you have questions, contact Cara Stockdale at [cstockdale-jchc@windstream.net](mailto:cstockdale-jchc@windstream.net).

### Scripture Rocks Heritage Park Update

The community roll out program for the Scripture Rocks Heritage Park will be at the upcoming Eggs and Issues breakfast sponsored by the Brookville Chamber of Commerce on Thursday, May 7th at the Heritage House. The public is invited to attend and learn about the progress at the park and plans for the final phase of construction and grand opening schedule. If you are interested in attending - contact the Brookville Chamber at (814) 849-2334.



Brian Fritz, Ken Burkett and Carole Briggs at a recent book signing for the newest JCHS book publications about Scripture Rocks and Kate Scott.

Thank You to all of the cookie bakers who donated for the  
annual Victorian Christmas House Tour Event

## JCHC Board of Directors

## President

Eric Armstrong-2015  
 earmst@windstream.net

Vice-President  
 Dick Beck-2017

Treasurer  
 Tom Glover - 2015

Secretary  
 Joni Kerr - 2016

Jeff Carrier - 2016  
 Cathy Dinger - 2016  
 Diana Farley - 2016  
 Joan Hilliard - 2017  
 Ed Kaufman - 2015  
 Jon Noonan - 2015  
 Pat Steele - 2017  
 Kyle Yates - 2017

## STAFF

Kenneth Burkett  
 Executive Director  
 kburkett-jchc@windstream.net

Carole Briggs  
 Curator  
 cbriggs-jchc@windstream.net

Graduate Assistant  
 Cara Stockdale  
 cstockdale-jchc@windstream.net

## PATHSTONES

Research  
 Kat Lyons  
 jchc@windstream.net

Judy Shirley  
 Alice Miller  
 Barb Marsteller

## VOLUNTEERS

Jack Burkett  
 Austin Fields  
 Ray Hannold  
 Carol Hollobaugh  
 Bill McCracken  
 Harry Neuhard  
 Sandy Noonan  
 Shirley Rhodes  
 Art Schreckengost  
 Jo Schreckengost  
 Pat Steele  
 Vickie Storey

# Climbing your Family Tree

With Pat Steele & Andy Byerly

Saturday March 14

1:00 - 3:00 pm

Jefferson County History Center

Have you ever wanted to research your family history?

## Class Includes

Beginners introduction to Genealogy  
 Learn how to document your information  
 Basics of Local Genealogy Sources  
 Become familiar with the various online genealogical sources

Cost = \$15 for JCHS members    \$20 non-members

**\*\* Limited class size of 10 students \*\***

Reserve your spot by calling the History Center at (814) 849-0077

## 2014 JCHS Awards

The **Arthur Altman Award** was presented to the **Bowdish Volunteers** in recognition of their past 10 years of work to create, manage, and operate the Bowdish model railroad exhibit. The award was accepted by Vickie Storey for the group.



The **Kate M. Scott Award** was presented to **Brian L. Fritz** in recognition of his work with the JCHS to complete multiple archaeological surveys for the JCHS in conjunction with the Allegheny National Forest and the Scripture Rocks mapping project. Brian is also the principal author of the new JCHS publication about Douglas Stahlman and the Scripture Rocks.



Check out the new Scripture Rocks Heritage Park website at  
[scripturerocks.com](http://scripturerocks.com)

## New Exhibits

### Through the Lens of Frederick Knapp

In looking through the lens of Frederick Knapp, a whimsical world comes to life.

Knapp was born and raised here in Brookville, and he worked for a short time at masonry. However, he was quickly taken by the creative essence of photography and studied as an apprentice under E.C. Hall, another photographer of the Brookville area. Knapp later attended school in Pittsburgh where he formally studied photography and upon his return he bought Vasbinder's studio on Main Street and relished life capturing and interpreting the lives of many county residents.



Knapp Studio Location at 206 Main Street



Frederick Knapp

This Spring, our grand hall exhibit focuses on the many different styles which guided Knapp's photographic impulse: whimsical, spirited, haunting, and serious are but a few words which describe what you might enjoy through the lens of Frederick Knapp.



Come take a look **Through the Lens of Frederick Knapp** in the History Center's grand hall.

**Opening March 7 through the end of June 2015.**



*Future exhibit topics in the works at the JCHC:*

*Patterns (Baskets and Quilts)*

*Underwear*

*World War I*

*Jefferson County Geology*

**We welcome objects loaned from your collections for these exhibits**



## New Exhibits

### Brookville's Practical Gunsmiths

The muzzle loading rifle trade that developed in Jefferson County during the second half of the 19th century had a flavor of simplicity and style unique to this area. Largely in a wilderness environment, the rifles made here were working guns most often made without the fancy frills and embellishments of some of the eastern markets. These rifles were made to

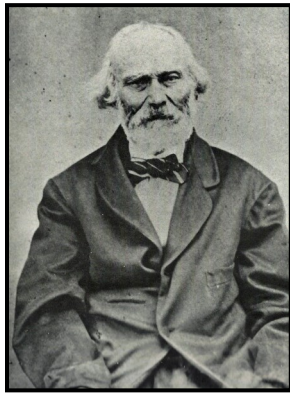
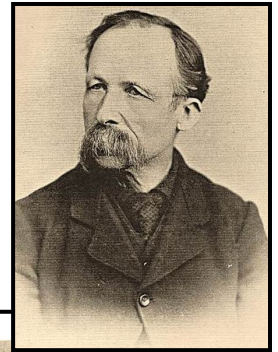
be used, and they were a key item in every household to control varmints, put meat on the table, stand in the militia, provide protection, and frequently participate in community marksmanship competitions. The Jefferson County gunsmiths were proud of their trade and a number of them used a special easily identifiable silver emblem on their



rifles known as the Brookville Eye.

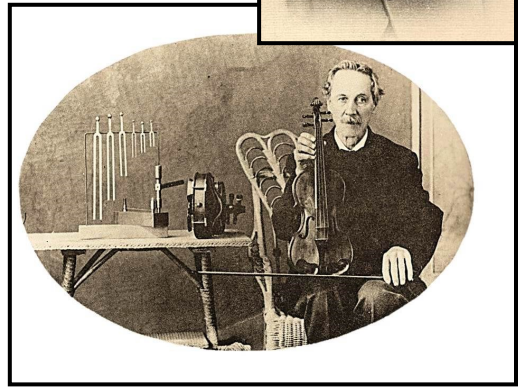
Rifle making was usually not the only business conducted in these shops. Most also functioned as blacksmiths, or creative luthiers or woodworkers making violins, inlaid furniture, art, and other unique sellable crafts

The newest JCHS exhibit - ***Brookville's Practical Gunsmiths*** highlights the stories of some of Brookville's little known gunsmiths including Anthony Bonnett (right) who made rifles but also created violins and inlaid furniture and also dabbling in art and photography,



Uncle Billy McCullough served in the Civil War with the elite Berdan's Sharpshooters and probably made more rifles than anyone in the county.

Daniel Long made rifles but is also well known for his unique style of violins.



Come

learn about the Jefferson County gunsmiths - opening on March 7, 2015

*Do you have some interesting items of 20th century technology?*

*Do you have one of the first cell phones or an old radio or tv,  
or possibly one of the the first video games?*

*We're looking for early models and versions of electronic gadgets relating to daily living,  
communications, entertainment, and business for the JCHS collections.*

*Keep the JCHC in mind when your cleaning out the attic!*

## Curator's Corner

Carole Briggs

### SHOES



I had the privilege of knowing Verna Leith, the driving force behind the Sawmill Centre for the Arts. It was Verna who thought Cook Forest needed such a place, and it was Verna who traveled to Harrisburg to find funding for it. And it was Verna who gave me this advice, “When you have created something like the Sawmill, it’s important to find those folks who will fill your shoes after you are gone.” Verna did and today, many years later, thousands of folks attend the plays, participate in workshops, purchase items in the gift shop, and enjoy the wonderful place she envisioned.

Since 1989 I’ve had the pleasure of being a part of the growth of the Jefferson County Historical & Genealogical Society as it grew into the award-winning Jefferson County History Center. Many folks have stepped up to keep the institution growing—our board members, volunteers, and interns willingly give of their time, talents, and treasures. However, there are some empty shoes we need to fill!

Our Bowditch Volunteers are looking for those model railroad buffs who are interested in keeping the layout fresh and interesting. Now is the time for those with an interest in train repair, the electrical system, or building new miniatures to pair up with the old pros—to try on their “shoes!”

Our History Center education program is growing. This past October we presented a program to Pinecreek second graders, hosted a full day of Hands-On-History for 160 fourth graders, and co-operated with CREATE on a one-day program for 160 sixth graders. In May we will host our Hands-On-History program for Hickory Grove third graders—an opportunity for volunteers to try on the History Center education “shoes.”

In 1993, board member Kay Taylor organized an oral history project. She felt it important to interview and record the stories of thirteen of Brookville’s oldest citizens. Today those tapes are invaluable. In one interview, Pete Reilly and Mary Dick recalled watching Earle Sandt take off on his pioneer flight to Punxsutawney. In the intervening years we have interviewed folks about going to school and what it is like to be a person of color. Ron Ramolt has done a superior job of interviewing and videotaping veterans who served in World War II. Now it is time to seek out the stories of the 1950s and 1960s. What happened to people here in the postwar years? We need some folks to try on some interviewer “shoes.”

Finally, we use padded hangers to store much of our textile collection, and are looking for a person or two who enjoys simple sewing to make these padded hangers at home. We, of course, will provide the materials and directions.

If you are ready for a new pair of “shoes,” contact the History Center and let us know your size and style! We’ll be happy to show you what we have to offer and find the perfect fit for you, whether it be railroad “shoes,” education “shoes,” interview “shoes,” or “sewing” shoes!

**Memorials donated to the JCHS are used to purchase microfilm and books for the JCHS research library**

**If you have a family history published, please consider making it available in the JCHC Research Room here for others to use and learn from**

## Events

# You are invited!



## Annual Charlie Bowdish Birthday Celebration

Jefferson County History Center  
Saturday, March 7, 12 - 5 pm

**FREE ADMISSION**

Members: bring a friend and sponsor a free  
2015 JCHS membership for first time members

### Events Include

Special running of the newly redesigned  
**Bowdish Model Railroad**

### Opening of New Exhibits

Through the Lens of Frederick Knapp  
Brookville's Practical Gunsmiths

## Events

# JOIN US for the JCHS PORCH PARTY

**Saturday, June 13th**

**Begins at 5:30 PM**

**Tour multiple porch locations  
for**

**Food, Refreshments, Fun**

**Tickets = \$25.00 person \$40.00 couple  
for tickets**

**Contact the JCHC at (814) 840-0077**

## Wanted

### *Vendors and Exhibitors*

*for the First Annual Military Show on March  
28, 2015  
and  
Antique Rifles and Indian Artifact Show on  
Sept. 5, 2015*

## JCHS 2015 Events Schedule

**Mark YOUR calendar**

**March 7**

**Bowdish Birthday**

**March 28**

**Military Show**

**Jefferson Co. Fairgrounds**

**June 13**

**Porch Party**

**June 27**

**Meadowcroft Bus Trip**

**August 8**

**Old Economy/Penn Brewing  
Bus Trip**

**September 5**

**Antique Rifles & Indian  
Artifact Show**

**Jefferson Co. Fairgrounds**

**October 10**

**Shaker Woods  
Bus Trip**

**October 17**

**JCHS Annual Dinner**

**October 23 & 24**

**Haunted Brookville**

**December 5**

**Victorian Christmas  
House Tour**

**Fieldstone Concert**



Special Events

THE JEFFERSON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY PRESENTS OUR FIRST

# MILITARY COLLECTIBLES SHOW

A SHOW OF HISTORIC MILITARIA FOR SHOW, SALE, AND TRADE



SATURDAY, MARCH 28TH 2015  
9:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.

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

---

FEATURING MILITARIA FROM THE CIVIL WAR TO THE PRESENT  
INCLUDING WORLD WAR I AND WORLD WAR II

---

ADMISSION: ADULTS- \$5.00    CHILDREN UNDER 12- FREE

---

FOR TABLE RESERVATIONS OR INFORMATION CONTACT:  
EMAIL: [KBURKETT-JCHC@WINDSTREAM.NET](mailto:KBURKETT-JCHC@WINDSTREAM.NET)  
TELE: (814) 849-0077  
OR VISIT: [WWW.JCHCONLINE.ORG](http://WWW.JCHCONLINE.ORG)

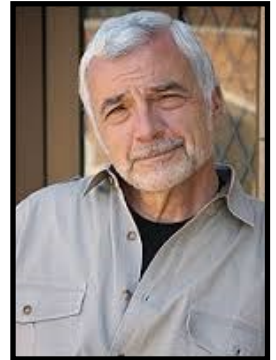
# Meadowcroft Rockshelter and Historic Village

## Saturday, June 27th

Discovered when landowner Albert Miller found stone artifacts in a groundhog burrow Meadowcroft Rockshelter is now one of the most important sites in the US. Dr. James M. Adovasio led the first excavations of the site beginning in 1973 through the University of Pittsburgh, and his methods of excavation have made this one of the most carefully excavated sites in North America.

Radiocarbon dating of the site indicated occupancy beginning 16,000 years ago and possibly as early as 19,000 years ago indicating that the site was used in the pre-Clovis era, and provides evidence that makes it one the oldest known human habitations in North America.

The site was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1978. In 1983, the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission installed a historical marker noting the historic importance of the site, and in 2005 it was designated a National Historic Landmark.



**Dr. Adavasio**

When the first European settlers arrived in



**Our visit will include an exclusive small group insider lecture and tour of the rockshelter with Dr. James M. Adovasio, who achieved international acclaim with his archeological excavation of this site**

Western Pennsylvania during the 18th century, the old world and new collided on the frontier as Europeans and Africans encountered the native Lenapes, Shawnees, and Iroquoian-speaking Mingoes. The often violent frontier became a cultural mixing ground. American Indians traded furs and deerskins for a wide variety of European goods. Backcountry settlers in turn adopted native food crops, articles of clothing, and forest survival skills. Despite their many cultural differences, Indians and Europeans shared a common, vital need for the land and its natural resources. At the 1770s frontier trading post, you can visit a trading shelter typical of the first few years of European settlement in Western Pennsylvania and learn about the many challenges both Native people and European settlers faced as these cultures came together.



Other activities at the Meadowcroft complex include a recreated Upper Ohio Valley Village where visitors can interact with various re-enactors and enjoy living history demonstrations designed to show how Western Pennsylvanians once lived. Get educated with a lesson in a one-room schoolhouse, experience a reassembled 1870s log church or watch a blacksmith forge red-hot iron.



## Smithsonian Magazine recently named Meadowcroft as "One of the Five Great Places to see Evidence of the First Americans"

Meadowcroft's recreated Monongahela Indian Village gives visitors a close look at the everyday lives of 16th century American Indians. Explore the interior of a wigwam, inspect carefully recreated prehistoric artifacts, and learn about American Indian agriculture. Enjoy the traditional Three Sisters Garden and a hunting camp filled with furs, hunting tools, and fishing equipment.

One of the most popular activities at Meadowcroft's Indian Village, visitors can try their hand at using an atlatl, a prehistoric spear thrower used by American Indians for hunting fish, waterfowl, and mammals.



### Trip Details

- |                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| <b>7:00 am</b>  | <b>Depart from Evangelical United Methodist Church parking lot at 302 White Street, Brookville with Fullington Bus Company</b> |
| <b>9:30 am</b>  | <b>Arrive at Meadowcroft</b>   |
| <b>10:00 am</b> | <b>Special Insiders program and tour with Dr. James Adavasio</b>   |
| <b>12:30 pm</b> | <b>Box Lunch provided</b>  |
| <b>1:00 pm</b>  | <b>Visit the Historic Village, Trading Post and Native American villages, craftsmen, and exhibits.</b>                         |
| <b>4:00 pm</b>  | <b>Depart home</b>   |

**SEATING IS LIMITED - PLEASE RESERVE EARLY**

### MEADOWCROFT BUS TRIP SATURDAY, JUNE 27

**RESERVATIONS ARE \$60.00 EACH \_\_\_\_\_ TOTAL ENCLOSED \_\_\_\_\_**  
**PLEASE RETURN BY SATURDAY, JUNE 14**

**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  
receive our  
Enewsletter  
and announcements  
of events and  
activities at the JCHC

SIGN UP AT

[jchconline.org](http://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.