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A Message From the President

As 2017 begins we welcome our new board members, Randy Bartley, Amy Salsgiver, Vickie Storey, Jamie Popson and Jessica Weible, to complement our existing group and replace some dedicated people who have finished their terms of service. We have some great plans for them and the rest of the board to assist with new programs, events and exhibits.



Last year we opened Scripture Rocks Heritage Park which has, over a six-month period, welcomed more than 9,000 visitors. This spring we will have a pavilion completed in the picnic grove area. The pavilion will be available for civic events, group tours, reunions and family events. We will also have the archaeological excavation of the Indian Rock Shelters complete, and will open this area for visitors.

We are planning several wonderful upcoming exhibits at the JCHC including a 3-gallery display honoring the history of the Jefferson County Fire Departments from 1890 to the present along with educational displays for both kids and adults about fire safety. Others are an exciting photography display by Joan Swigert and a special gallery acknowledging our past 50 years as the County Historical Society.

We will also continue our 3rd annual Military Collectibles Show and in the fall the Antique Rifles and Indian Artifact Show and are planning some new ideas to make these venues even more attractive to exhibitors and visitors. Our very popular Escape Room will re-open this spring with an all new (and more diabolical) puzzle.

We are introducing quarterly membership meetings this year to engage the membership in the society's activities, report on progress and solicit ideas. We will include a program at each of these meetings, which will be open to all members and guests. We have plans for other new events, which will be announced in future newsletters.

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. 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 families who are scattered across the country, but holding fond memories of their home towns.

I invite you to stop in and enjoy the Jefferson County History Center or hike the Scripture Rocks Heritage Park during 2017 and let us know how you enjoy them.

Eric Armstrong



50th Anniversary: The Past: The First 30-some Years

By Kat Lyons



Robert Philliber who all served as president at one time.

The first organizational meeting of 50 residents was at the Reynoldsville Borough building, Jan 24th 1967. Committees were formed from members from Brockway, Brookville, Reynoldsville, and Punxsutawney. On February 28th, a board of directors and by-laws were approved. Robert Philliber, a Punxsutawney history teacher was elected the first president with William “Daisy” Gilbert as vice-president. The annual fee was set at \$2 per year! Life memberships were \$100.

At their first spring meeting, Douglas Stahlman’s “Rock Book” was a highlight. Funny how things have come full circle today with Stahlman’s rocks! Meetings were held at various venues in the county, and featured guest lecturers and “show and tell,” where members brought in relics they could share or donate for their future museum. In 1969, JCHGS dinner tickets cost just \$2.75!

1971 was an exciting and busy year. A newspaper headline read “Society Needs Help.” With just 94 members, Arthur Altman appealed to county residents for a membership of 200 to qualify for County Commissioner funds. He also mailed 2000 citizens “with roots in Jefferson County to join for \$1.00” and that’s exactly what happened. That is some salesmanship!

The search for a building was on and by summer 210 new memberships secured \$2000 to purchase the Brady Craig building at 236 Jefferson St. The deed was dated July 2nd and they then applied for a charter at the Courthouse. The first meeting at Brady Craig Museum was July 27th. Now the real work began, as the society’s new pre-Civil War home needed serious repairs.

A building committee formed to plan the restoration. By March 1972, furnishings and artifacts had been collected from the Paul Darling Memorial Hall and a big new museum sign erected—but still no heat! More repairs included demolishing a room, replacing the roof, installing wall furnaces, and new steps to be built. Reproductions of the 1866 Pomeroy Map were sold to help fund repairs. Dues were still \$2.00.

Spring 1973, membership was at an all-time high. The Society reprinted the Kate Scott 1888 *History of Jefferson County*, priced at \$16.50 and paid off the mortgage and redecorate rooms, including a Victorian parlor dubbed The Kate Scott Room, where you felt as though you passed through a time portal to a more elegant age.

1974 brought major remodeling, so the museum had limited hours, especially in winter due to heating expense. The Society reprinted the rare 1878 *Caldwell Atlas*, which sold for \$15. Cost of a dinner ticket was then a whopping \$10.00.

In 1975, there were 244 members and annual dues were still at \$2.00. Glenn Shaffer of Pansy roots was the first Life Member at 97 years young! The newly renovated D.A.R room opened with 150 genealogical books collected by the late Mrs. Walter Sandt, including colonial records, and PA archive materials. A 2nd reprinting of the Kate Scott history and *Caldwell Atlas*, *Builders of a County Seat* and the popular McKnight histories were sold.

Bi-Centennial plans moved into high gear with proposals from towns and clubs. Muster parades and celebrations marking principal military battles of 200 years ago were staged throughout the county. In January 1976, the county Commissioners presented the “American Revolution Bicentennial Flag” that was flown in the courtyard year to JCHGS.

In 1978, new member dues were offered at \$1.00 to entice more people to join. The JCHGS held a birthday party for Glenn Shaffer, a former county treasurer and “Brookville’s oldest man,” at 100.



First JCHS Board of Directors

JCHS News



Tonya Shaffer

Tonya Shaffer, a library science major, was our Clarion University Graduate Assistant Intern during the fall 2016 semester.

During her time here, Tonya reorganized our research library, created an exhibit from old Christmas cards, wrote grants, and learned the intricacies of PastPerfect museum software while assisting with accessioning objects.

She also helped with an archaeology excavation at Scripture Rocks Heritage Park. Here she is proudly displaying a 5000 year old projectile point she found in the dig.

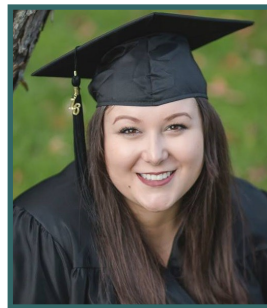
A Familiar Face at JCHC

Alyssa Snyder, a communications student at Clarion University, is the History Center's new graduate assistant.

She worked as our intern last summer and helped with all aspects of marketing as well as co-edited the *Jeffersonian Journal* and the summer newsletter. She also worked with the finishing touches of Scripture Rocks Heritage Park and planning of the grand opening ceremony last June.

In December, she graduated with her Bachelor's degree in Strategic Communications and while working at the JCHC she will also be earning her Master's degree in Mass Media Arts and Journalism.

Over the next two years, Alyssa will assist in JCHS marketing, social media updates, exhibit design, and editorial duties.



John Lelless Scripture Rocks Project

John Lelless will receive his rank as Eagle Scout on Sunday, February 19th. John's project was the construction of the Orange Trail at the Scripture Rocks Heritage Park last spring and included planning, fund raising, and a lot of hard work by him and his crew to clear the trail, place log steps and haul gravel.



Eagle Scout is the highest achievement or rank attainable in the Boy Scout program of the Boy Scouts of America (BSA). The designation "Eagle Scout" was founded over one hundred years ago. Only four percent of Boy Scouts are granted this rank after a lengthy review process.

If you would like to send John a card or note of congratulations and appreciation of his achievement, his address is: John Lelless, 14 Spring Creek Road, Sigel, PA, 15860

JCHC Board of Directors

President

Eric Armstrong-2018
earmst@windstream.net

Vice-President

Larry Anthony-2017

Treasurer

Vickie Storey-2019

Secretary

Jamie Barger-2017

Randy Bartley-2019

Jon Noonan - 2018

Jamie Popson-2019

Ray Puller-2018

Amy Salsgiver-2019

Pat Steele - 2017

Jessica Weible-2018

STAFF

Kenneth Burkett

Executive Director

kburkett-jchc@windstream.net

Carole Briggs

Curator

cbriggs-jchc@windstream.net

Alyssa Snyder

Graduate Assistant

asnyder-jchc@windstream.net

PATHSTONES

Kat Lyons

Research Assistant

jchc@windstream.net

Peggy Baughman

Shop Manager

Janet Buchheit

Scripture Rocks Park Manager

Kris Scott

Genealogy, Computer Tech

Beverly Yeany

Genealogy, Shop

VOLUNTEERS

Jack Burkett

Austin Fields

Ray Hannold

Carol Hollobaugh

Bill McCracken

Harry Neuhard

Sandy Noonan

Art Schreckengost

Jo Schreckengost

Judy Shirley

JCHC NEWS



PA Museums Awards

PA Museums has announced that the Jefferson County Historical Society will be receiving a Special Achievement Institutional Award for the Scripture Rocks Heritage Park and an Individual Achievement Award for our Executive Director, Ken Burkett, for an exemplary project and outstanding leadership throughout the project.

Criteria for the institutional award includes providing an exemplary, successful cultural tourism program with marketing, media and educational components that results in community development and collaboration. The Individual Award is based on quality of the leadership, professional skills and volunteer service (of which there were many hours!), impact of the project on the museum's outreach and reputation in the community, and it must be a well-managed project.

JCHS's Scripture Rocks project has provided an "outdoor museum" complete with an archaeological site for all of the community, county residents and visitors, increasing historical preservation awareness and tourism to our area, with over 9000 visitors in the first 6 months. Ken's leadership in maintaining a consistent core volunteer crew, his planning and implementation, and his perseverance in obtaining grants and orchestrating a capital campaign won him the Individual Award. He obtained the support of Jefferson County commissioners, legislators, outside museum personnel, PA Tourism Bureau personnel, corporate sponsors, private donors and many hours from volunteer members and from volunteers across the county.

These awards are important as they provide a means to promote the Jefferson County History Center and assist in obtaining future grants and funding opportunities. The awards provide public recognition of hard-working non-profit staff, board and volunteers from the community, and encourages maintenance of standards of excellence in our small town museum.

A huge thank you to community volunteers, businesses, clubs, gracious donors, board members, legislators and the visiting public at large who have made Scripture Rocks Heritage Park a huge success. We are not stopping here with these awards, as we have plans to obtain additional funding for a pavilion, parking lot surfacing and lighting, additional signage at archaeological site locations, docent training for group tours and educational events for schools, and last but not least, permanent restroom facilities. These plans are in addition to continual maintenance of trails and the park in general.

The PA Museum awards will be presented at a luncheon ceremony at the upcoming PA Museums annual statewide conference in Erie on March 26-28. Ken will also be presenting a program during the conference, appropriately titled *Legacy on the Rocks* to discuss the pitfalls and successes of developing a park in a remote setting and how JCHC created an interesting way of interpreting and teaching local history by building the Scripture Rocks Heritage Park.

The PA Museums organization is made up of over 300 museum organizations from across Pennsylvania and annually recognizes outstanding leadership and organizational achievements.

The JCHS Board, staff, members, local press and community are invited to attend.

PA Museum's 2017 Annual Statewide Conference, *Challenges and Change*, is on March 26-28, Erie, PA. More information will be forthcoming regarding cost, location and registration. If you are interested in attending all of the conference or per day, visit www.pamuseums.org or give us a shout at jhcwindstream.net or at 814-849-0077.

JCHC NEWS

FirstEnergy Foundation Grant

In fall of 2016, our graduate assistant, Tonya Shaffer, worked very hard researching and writing a submission for a FirstEnergy Foundation grant. We received a letter from them on January 3rd stating that we received the grant funding and on January 12th, Brian Paganie visited the History Center and presented our director, Ken Burkett, with a generous check.

The funds received will be used to enhance the History Center's security system. We are very thankful for the FirstEnergy Foundation for partnering with us and appreciate all of the hard work that Tonya put into writing the submission!



2017 Rifle Raffle

The 2017 JCHC annual muzzleloader rifle raffle will feature a 50 caliber half-stock flintlock made by master gunsmith Ron Luckenbill in the style of Jefferson County gunsmith Solomon Harriger (1829-1892)

Drawing for choice of the rifle or \$1000 cash will be held on Saturday, September 2, 2017, at 4 pm during the 12th annual Antique Rifles and Indian Artifact Show at the Jefferson County Fairgrounds.

Raffle Tickets are \$5 each or 5 for \$20

Volunteers are needed to help sell tickets individually or with the History Center Board at the Hazen Flea Market. If you would like to help, call or email us for info.

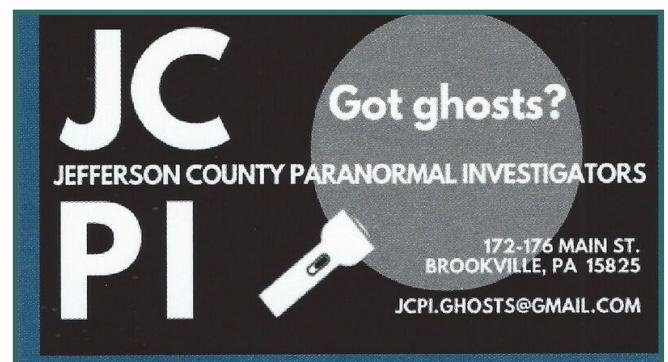


JCPI

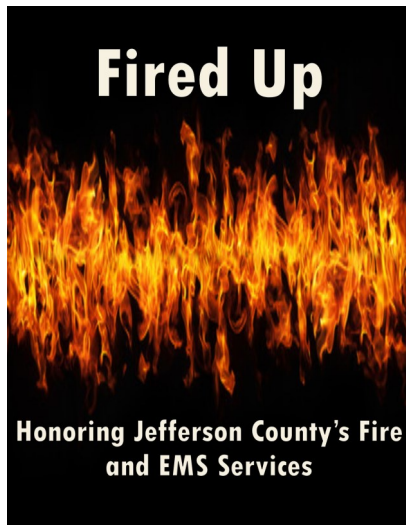
The Jefferson County Paranormal Investigators is a team of local people that objectively and respectfully seek to gather evidence of paranormal activity throughout the county. Although JCPI is an independent group, JCHC sponsors their excursions.

With open minds, they investigate historic buildings using modern equipment such as infrared meters, EVP recorders, K2 meters, voice recorders, and more. After compiling a multitude of evidence, they plan to hold an event later this year showcasing interesting phenomenon that they find.

If you are interested in going on an investigation with the team, they are accepting a limited amount of guests to join them for a small fee. They are also looking for businesses or residences to investigate. If you would like to join in on an investigation or you would like them to investigate your business or home for paranormal entities, contact the Jefferson County History Center at (814) 849-0077.



Upcoming Exhibits



The JCHC is hotter than ever, and we are all fired up to present our newest exhibit about Jefferson County's fire companies and emergency services from 1898 to the present day. To put this 3 gallery exhibition together, we have had an overwhelming response gathering equipment and memorabilia representing the twenty fire companies in the county and the special assistance from the Jefferson County Department of Emergency Services.

Gallery A will be the kids' interactive fire safety exhibit including a selfie station for Facebook with Fire Department and EMS props, learning games, rescue tunnel, and a 911 call center simulation compliments of Tracy Zents and the Jefferson County 911 Emergency Dispatch Center. It will also provide information and demonstrations of how adults can help educate kids on fire safety, CPR and First Aid, and what it takes to become a volunteer or professional in this exciting and important field.

Gallery B will showcase changes from 1970 to the present, and exhibit modern protective clothing, fire equipment, tools and development of EMS services.

Gallery C covers 1898-1970 complete with an original 1899 hose cart on loan from Lindsey Fire Department and other antique equipment--like a hose rope tool and old nozzles--and photos documenting the evolution of fire equipment through the years, actual firemen's gear, and some pretty cool memorabilia.



50 Years Forward

Anniversaries come and go but periodically one is special.

To highlight the 50th anniversary of the Jefferson County Historical Society, curator Carole Briggs (who was around for the 25th!) has gathered together interesting memorabilia for a new display in the skylight gallery. Images, objects and documents will illustrate 1967-1971 when there was no physical building; 1971-1998, when Brady Craig House on Jefferson Street was our home; and the adventures of preserving, adapting and using the present History Center (1998-2017) on Historic Brookville's Main Street.

As we look forward to the future of this organization, it is awesome and fun to look back at how far the JCHS has come in the last half-century.

Joan Swartz Swigart's Photo Journalist Exhibit

Joan Swartz Swigart arrived in Brookville in 1965, and it did not take her long to put her journalistic and photographic talents to work as a journalist and seat of the pants photographer.

Our new exhibit in the Grand Hall features her art, photographs, and some of her interesting writing.



Curator's Corner

Carole A. Briggs

Our Success Stories

The arrival of a Christmas card and a Texas newspaper got me to thinking about the many interns who have passed through our doors.

Prior to the opening of the History Center, Duquesne University graduate Jennifer Landry catalogued the large Knapp collection of glass plate negatives. Jennifer became an archivist with the American Chemical Society in Philadelphia and then moved to Arlington, Texas, and the National Boy Scout Museum. Her Christmas card and the Texas newspaper sent by my sister told me of the future move of the National Boy Scout Museum to the Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico, so Jennifer will be seeking a new position.



Jennifer's work was funded in part by a grant from the Pennsylvania Humanities Council. Then about fifteen years ago as we were preparing to open the History Center, we worked with the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Clarion University Foundation. The interest generated from the \$100,000 initial investment from the NEH, Matson Lumber and Brookville Equipment, pay a graduate student to work about 20 hours each week with us.

In 2004-05 Matthew Mangarella assisted with the preparation of a large exhibit in the Parker Gallery that featured wars ending in 1865, 1945, and 1975. He did the newspaper research on those wars. He went on to work in the libraries at Penn State University.

Jessica DeWitt spent a summer with us (2007), "learning the ropes of archiving." She went on to earn an M.A. in History from the University of Rochester, after completing her thesis, "A Convergence of Recreational and Conservation Ideals: The Cook Forest State Park Campaign, 1910-1928." Today she lives in Saskatchewan, Canada, and is completing a PhD, studying provincial and state parks. She is the Social Media Editor for the Network in *Canadian History* and Environment and editor of *Folklore: The Saskatchewan History and Folklore Society*.

Caleb Kifer, our graduate assistant between 2008 and 2010, teaches social studies and English at Clarion-Limestone High School. He helped as we completed our major exhibit, *Living on the Land*, and with our educational programs.

Nathan Pearce, a technology expert, helped the History Center during 2010-2011 to develop our touch screens and the many street signs that inform visitors of Historic Brookville. Today he is the educational technology lead at the University of Pittsburgh.

Cara Stockdale learned of our intern program from Jennifer Landry and volunteered during the fall of 2012. She became our graduate assistant in 2013 and in 2015 was the JCHC Outreach Coordinator. She headed up a series of zombie-related events, and with Clarion professor Todd Pfannestiel, introduced county residents to paranormal activity.

In 2016, Alyssa Snyder, a strategic communications major, worked with us on marketing projects and the layout of the third edition of the *Jeffersonian Journal*. This January she returned as our graduate assistant.

This past fall, Tonya Shaffer, a library science major, worked with Judy Shirley to rearrange our research library and made sure our shelves were organized according to the standards of the Library of Congress. She worked with me on a wide variety of projects to learn how small organizations like ours function.

Those of us at the History Center are pleased that we can offer students in rural Pennsylvania the opportunity to learn in a first-class, but small, institution.

Upcoming Events

Military Collectibles Show

The Jefferson County History Center for their 3rd annual Military Collectibles Show! It will be held on Saturday, March 4 from 9 a.m.-4 p.m.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



3RD ANNUAL MILITARY COLLECTIBLES SHOW

SATURDAY
MARCH 4, 2017
9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

JEFFERSON COUNTY
FAIRGROUNDS
RT. 28, 1/4 MILE NORTH OF
INTERSTATE 80, EXIT 81



**FEATURING MILITARIA FOR SALE, SHOW AND
TRADE 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

BENEFITS THE JEFFERSON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



March 24—April 22

Fridays and Saturdays from 6—10 p.m.

Adults: \$20

Students: \$10

Groups of 2—6

Brady Craig Building

236 Jefferson Street

Brookville, Pa 15825

Advanced Registration is Required

Contact the Jefferson County History Center at (814) 849-0077

Volunteers Are Welcome To
Help Operate This Event



Escape Room: Escape from the Hangman!

You've been found guilty of being a co-conspirator in one of Brookville's most heinous and gruesome murders, and have just 50 minutes to clear your name. Evidence to exonerate you is hidden somewhere in the sheriff's office, placed there by a sympathetic, anonymous person. The sheriff left to get the van to take you to the gallows, so you only have a few minutes to plan your escape. You must find the evidence in time, or be doomed to your fate!

When: Open March 24 - April 22

Fridays & Saturdays 6 pm - 10.

Brady Craig House 236 Jefferson Street, Brookville

Groups of 2 - 6 Adults \$20 Students \$10

Pre-registration required

(814) 849-0077

Volunteers welcome to help operate this event



Birthday Bash

FREE ADMISSION

When: Saturday, February 25, 2017

Where: Jefferson County History Center

Time: 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Event Includes:

- ⇒ **Running of the Bowdish Train Exhibit**
Newly remodeled Bowdish Miniatures Diorama
- ⇒ **“All Fired Up” Exhibit**
3 Galleries Showcasing the Evolution of the Fire Departments of Jefferson County: 1898 to Present
- ⇒ **50th Anniversary Exhibit**
Highlighting the growth of JCHC from 1967 to Present
- ⇒ **Joan Swartz Swigart Photography Exhibit**
Capturing the work of our local photographer
- ⇒ **Book Signing With Carole Briggs**

Light Refreshments Will Be Served



Bowdish Model Railroad Schedule

Saturday, February 25
Bowdish Birthday Bash
11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Saturday, March 25
1 - 3 pm

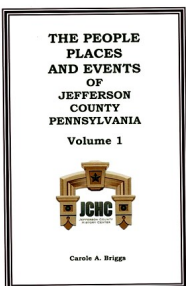
Saturday, April 29
1 - 3 pm

Saturday, May 27
1 - 3 pm

Saturday, June 24
1 - 3 pm

Saturday, July 29
1 - 3 pm

Saturday, August 25
1 - 3 pm



Book Signing

On Saturday, February 25 during the Bowdish Birthday Bash, Carole Briggs will be holding a book signing of her newly published three volume series of books titled *The People, Places, and Events of Jefferson County, Pennsylvania*. We will also be offering a discounted price on the books when all three are purchased together.

Upcoming Events

2017 Events Calendar

Bowdish Birthday Bash
Saturday, February 25
 11 am - 4 pm
 Admission: Free

Military Collectibles Show
Saturday, March 4
 9 am - 4 pm
 Admission: Adults-\$7
 Children 16 & under-Free

JCHC Quarterly Membership Meeting
Thursday, March 23
 7 pm
 Heritage House
 Tracy Zents

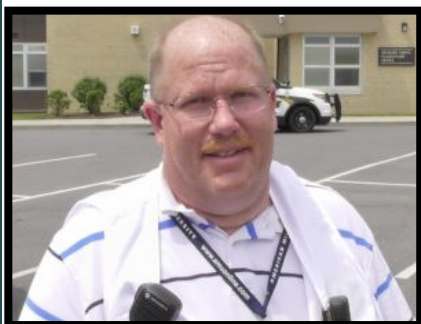
Escape Room
March 24 through April 22
 6:00 - 10:00 pm
 Admission: Adults - \$20
 Jr & Sr High Students - \$10
 Under age 16 must be accompanied by an adult
 Pre-registration
REQUIRED

Authors Wanted

We are accepting always manuscripts for the **Jeffersonian Journal** which is our annual publication about **Jefferson County History**

Email Alyssa Snyder at
 asnyder-jchc
 @windstream.net

JCHS Quarterly Membership Meeting



Tracy Zents, Director of Jefferson County Emergency Services will be present a program titled **Emergency Services in Jefferson County** at the Jefferson County Historical Society's spring quarterly membership meeting at the Heritage House in Brookville on Thursday, March 16th at 7 pm.

Tracy is the Director of the Jefferson County Department of Emergency Services is the 24 hour Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) for 9-1-1 calls within Jefferson County, Pennsylvania. In addition, the department is also the headquarters for Emergency Management, Local Emergency Planning Commission, Homeland Security and Haz-Mat response within the county.

The JCHS presents quarterly member meetings as a way of keeping our friends informed of the activities of the Society and providing a means for learning the history of our county. This event is free and the public is invited. For more information, contact the History Center at (814) 849-0077 or go to jchconline.org.



Membership Matters

We cannot say thank you enough to each and every member for your dedication and support to this organization.

Membership in the Jefferson County Historical Society offers an opportunity to meet with others interested in Jefferson County history and includes many benefits. Memberships are renewable annually. Depending on expiration dates, membership packets are now mailed in January and July. Your 2017 membership will help us operate the History Center and all of the many programs including new exhibits, hosting exciting events, and continue to developing Scripture Rocks Heritage Park.

Whether you have been a member for years or are new to the organization, please consider becoming a Life Member during 2017. We anticipate holding a special event for Life Members this year, complete with 50th Anniversary commemorative memorabilia. We look forward to seeing you during this exciting anniversary year.

In the spirit of our 50th anniversary, JCHS has a mission for all of its members to help increase our organization by helping bring a new member this year! Invite your family, fellow workers and friends to help support our mission to preserve the past for the present and future generations.



Continued from page 2

The new furnace was (finally!) installed April 1979. Work committees formed and the museum was open in summer two afternoons per week, but closed in winter. Nineteen new members joined in 1979. JCHGS produced their first newsletter, *The Jeffersonian*, that year. The second floor exhibits were now extensive, offering views of the past.

In 1980, JCHGS was awarded a \$10,823 Special Project Grant from the Institute of Museum Services to help meet operating expenses. The Society was recognized by the PA Federation of Historical Societies for its innovative “mini-window exhibits” on the museum porch. Dues increased to \$3.00. Annual dinner tickets were \$4.78 for ham and \$6.36 for stuffed chicken!

The Society launched a major publication project in 1981, A new county history showcasing family genealogies and photos free of charge, as well as histories of county businesses, schools, churches, organizations, and all the townships and boroughs. The Brockway and Punxsutawney historical societies were co-sponsors. The big news of 1982 was the publishing of this comprehensive historical and genealogical book, *Jefferson County Pennsylvania History 1982*. It sold at \$35 per copy. The following year in 1983, the Society received the Award of Merit from the PA Federation of Historical Societies for the caliber of the research. It was deemed invaluable, as the last history of the county, McKnight’s *Pioneers and People*, was published in 1917.

In 1986, the only funds the Society received, other than member dues, was \$1000 annually from the County Commissioners. Dues were only \$5 for individuals and \$9 per family. Membership had fallen to 100, even though the museum had grown with many donated artifacts. Museum admission was still free.

The 1987 headline was “County Museum: Money, Members Needed.” The story summarized the past 20 years about the growth of the museum and a plea for more members (then at 140) and volunteers. Another headline underscores the value of the little museum’s treasures: “Abraham Lincoln Signature Is In Museum.” Signed by Lincoln, it is the Civil War commission of our own Samuel Craig of the 105th Wildcat regiment fame.

In 1988, the Society was struggling and they requested the Commissioners to restore \$1500 in their 1989 budget for needed repairs.

In 1989, JCHGS and Historic Brookville Inc. received a PA Local History Grant of \$3000, which was used to catalogue their collection of over 1000 documents. A “Children’s Century Room” and new exhibits were unveiled. The year didn’t end so well, as December’s headline “Out in the Cold” came true when the aging furnace gave up the ghost. Undaunted, the First Annual J Victorian Christmas Walking Tour was initiated.



1989 Repairs to Brady Craig

1990 fundraising included selling “Memorial Bricks” for \$10, to be installed in the museum basement floor by Dennis Altman for his Eagle Scout project. The Kate Scott History was again reprinted and this time around sold for \$50.00.

1992 marked the Society’s 25th Anniversary, celebrated at the annual dinner with a talk by PHMC, urging “collaboration among historical societies and museums for economic efficiency in face of diminishing resources.” Very appropriate, since two state grants were applied for and one was rejected and the other reduced due to state cut-backs!

The Society planned a major expansion to the museum for 1992 with the addition of a climate-controlled archival storage facility estimated at \$20,000. The bequest from the Mildred Johnson estate in 1993 allowed the Society to begin construction of the museum archives building and also redecorate the interior of the museum.

Although membership was at its highest at 345 in 1995, Daisy Gilbert moved for a county membership drive, as only 121 of those 345 members resided in the county. The VFW, American Legion and JCHGS hosted a community WWII Commemorative exhibition, displaying artifacts of that war in every business window.

This ends the first 30 years of our Society’s history. Look for part 2 **“THE PRESENT”** in our next newsletter!

Disclaimer: This information relied upon newspaper articles, therefore, we apologize for any errors

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
Like us on Facebook
Jefferson County History
Center Brookville PA

Museum Hours

Wed. - Sat.
11 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Closed Sundays,
Mondays, Tuesdays,
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.)

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.

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.