



THE GUARDIAN

Newsletter of the Jefferson County WV Historical Society
Volume VIII Issue 2 April 2010

Shepherd Professor Elected to JCHS Board

Dr. Keith Alexander, Director of Archives at the Robert C. Byrd Center for Legislative Studies and coordinator of Shepherd University's Historic Preservation program was elected to the Society's Board of Directors at the Spring Membership Meeting on April 11. Dr. Alexander received his MA in 1996 and his PhD in 2003 in history from the University of Maryland. He has been involved in historic preservation efforts in West Virginia and in Germany. His research interests include green historic preservation and service learning in preservation education.

Historic Speaker Series Continues

The Jefferson County Historical Society and the Men's Club of Shepherdstown have been hosting a series of presentations by local experts on aspects of Jefferson County History, drawing audiences which ranged in size from about 65 to 130 people. The most recent was a timely presentation by Doug Estep on the tragic Mine Wars which occurred in the West Virginia coal fields in the early 20th century. Watch for monthly bulletins about each of the upcoming presentations:

- May 10; Doug Perks—I Am A Son of Virginia and Her Destiny Shall Be Mine
- June 14; Jerry Thomas— Soul of the People: The Federal Writers Project
- September 20; Don Wood — Early Berkeley County Homes and Researching Historic Properties
- October 18; Bob O'Connor — History of Ranson
- November 15; Jim Addy — Impacts of John Brown Raid on Harpers Ferry
- December 13; to be determined, Shepherdstown

Washington Family Home Receives Nation's Most Prestigious Historic Preservation Grant By Kit McGinnis, National Park Trust

The Claymont Court mansion, featured on Page 8 and located south of Charles Town, was selected to receive a \$150,000 grant from the federal Save America's

Treasures (SAT) program, thanks to an appropriations request by Congresswoman Shelley Moore Capito who stated:

“The unique history associated with this beautiful mansion is unquestionable. Claymont Court is the only Washington family home open to the public and it retains so much of the same character it possessed when it was first built. When we have an opportunity to help preserve its beauty and its elegance, I think it's critical that we jump at the chance.”

As with most federal grants, the federal funds require a 50/50 match – *which means fundraising has begun!* The Claymont Society, a nonprofit educational organization, owns the mansion. The Society and its partner, the National Park Trust (NPT), will be soliciting funds from local, state and national sources.

The project has received a grant from the *1772 Foundation*. NPT board member and Shepherdstown resident, Rob Glenn, and the Jackson Kelly law firm in Martinsburg where he is an attorney, will host a fundraiser at the mansion on September 18, 2010 to coincide with the Washington Family Homes Tour. Claymont Court will be one of the stops on the tour. Public donations are tax deductible and will be used exclusively for major structural restoration and weatherproofing issues at the mansion.

The mansion is based on a design by George Washington and was constructed in 1820 by his grandnephew Bushrod Corbin Washington. At more than 16,000 square feet it is the largest of the Washington Family homes, and it has retained its contextual integrity with viewsheds that remain virtually unaltered since 1820.

Claymont Court faces its sister mansion, Blakeley, which was the summer home of the Washington's who inherited Mount Vernon. The mansion was constructed by at least 90 slaves; as such the complexities of antebellum plantation life played out at Claymont Court.

Claymont Court was occupied by Civil War forces on both sides of the conflict as part of the campaign that included the Battle of Harpers Ferry and the Battle of Antietam. Union Colonel George Custer captured two Confederate Washington brothers on furlough at Claymont. General Ulysses S. Grant gave specific instructions “...*drive off all stock and burn every rail on Clay Mount farm as a punishment for harbouring guerillas.*” In addition to its colonial and Civil War historic value, it was once owned by American author



Frank Stockton, who wrote the novel *The Lady and the Tiger*, with Claymont as its setting.

Today, more than 1,500 people visit the mansion each year. It is a regular venue for tourism, historical, cultural, educational, and community events. Each person understands its historic significance and appreciates the privilege of staying in a Washington home. Many continue on to follow the Washington Heritage Trail. Its historic backdrop has been used as a site for filming the Civil War epic movie *Gods and Generals* and was the setting for National Park Service videos about the Civil War. It is also an educational resource for both the local and broader community, as it hosted educational retreats for more than 30 years.

The Claymont Court mansion is also part of a broader plan, aided by the National Park Trust, to protect and celebrate the Washington Family Legacy through designation as *Washington's Way West National Heritage Area*. It is hoped that the SAT grant will raise the profile of this area's Washington Family history to a national level and play a major role in educating the American public on the little-known but highly significant Washington Family history of West Virginia's Eastern Panhandle.

If you would like to donate funds to the Claymont Court restoration project, please send your tax deductible donations to: The Claymont Society, 667 Huyett Road, Charles Town, WV 25414. Please call (304) 725-4437 for additional information about the mansion.

Jefferson County Historical Society
Magazine Article Guidelines
By Jim Glymph, Editor

In my life before retirement I did a lot of writing, but it was not history. I wrote articles and gave presentations on database and data technology. I usually had a very diverse audience. For that reason, I tried to write at the eighth grade-level. When you do that, you can be sure that everyone will understand. I am not saying that you should write at that level, only that you want everyone to understand. If I have to look up a word in the dictionary, then I do not understand.

The really important thing is that your article is about Jefferson County or one of our people even if the county is just the birthplace. For example, Martin Delany left here when he was nine, but he is still from Jefferson County. Second in importance, your submission should be interesting to the majority of the readers. I know that might be hard to determine, but if you let some friends read it, you will probably find out.

I use Word 2000, so you need to give it to me in that or something compatible. I will not accept anything other than an electronic copy.

I will not mess with your style, but there are some things I do not like: "Cannot" looks a whole lot better than "can't." Please do not use contractions unless you are quoting a conversation. Abbreviations fall in the same boat. "Colonel" is much better than "Col." If you have a long name like Jefferson County Historical Society (JCHS) then do it like this and use JCHS from that point on.

Try not to end a sentence with a preposition unless it really sounds awkward to be compliant. Supposedly, Winston Churchill, mocking a critic who criticized him for ending a sentence with a preposition, said, "That is the sort of thing up with which I will not put!" I know that it is considered to be old fashioned to be compliant, but in a lot of cases your text is more readable. Sometimes, you do not even need the preposition. For example, "at" is often used at the end of sentence when it is not needed.

Footnotes are a must. There are a lot of conventions, but I like this one and would like for you to use it: <http://gatornet.chapin.edu/~library/footnote.html> I am not going to die if all the articles are not footnoted the same way, but it really looks nicer if they are.

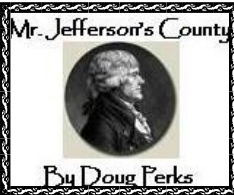
Capitalization is another one of my peeves. I use this: <http://www.grammarbook.com/punctuation/capital.asp> I have the Grammar Blue Book and use it when I get stuck.

Those of you who have submitted before know that I am going to read your article at least three times. That does not mean that you should not proofread your work. I am reading it for grammar as well as historical accuracy. I will not change anything in your article without consulting you. The only time I will break this rule is if it is at the printer and I find something at the last minute. Generally, it is going to be something very minor.

I would like to keep the magazine in the 80-page range with six or seven articles. About 20 pages of the 80 consist of the table of contents, membership and society business. Last year, we had a two-page article and a 27-page article. Somewhere in-between is ideal.

I like pictures. If you do not have pictures, I might be able to help. I have a connection in the Jefferson County Museum and there are a lot of pictures in their archives. If you give me pictures, it would be great if they are at least 300 dots per inch (dpi) resolution.

The deadline is August 31. I will not accept submissions after that date. I want to have the magazine at the printer before the holidays so it will be printed before the end of the year. I look forward to editing the magazine each year and hope to be working with you.



"The Calm Before the Storm"
 "...the citizens of Jefferson and the surrounding country are EMPHATICALLY warned to remain at their homes armed..."

Geographically, The Valley of the Shenandoah is framed by the Blue Ridge Mountains on the east and the Allegheny Mountains on the west. The mountains are physically responsible for The Valley. But, it is the river, The Shenandoah River, "The Daughter of the Stars," which gave The Valley its charm and provided its sustenance. The Shenandoah River begins its journey northward on either side of the Massanutten Mountains.

Starting at Strasburg in the north and stretching southward to Harrisonburg, the Massanutten Mountains rise up from The Valley floor creating the Page or Luray Valley on the east and the Strasburg Valley on the west. The Page Valley is drained by the South Fork of the Shenandoah River. The Strasburg Valley is drained by the North Fork of the Shenandoah River. These two tributaries converge at Front Royal, Virginia to create the beautiful Shenandoah River. From that juncture, the Shenandoah then meanders slowly northward to its confluence with the Potomac River at Harpers Ferry, the lowest point of elevation in what is now West Virginia.

Folks who live near the mouth of The Shenandoah describe themselves as residents of "The Lower Valley." The unique geology of The Valley is the cause of this apparent misnomer. If you look at a map of the region, the juncture of the Shenandoah and the Potomac lies at the NORTHERN end of The Valley – and, therefore, that MUST be the "upper" Valley! But if one looks more closely it becomes readily apparent that the elevation of The Valley is higher in the South than in the North, thus causing the Shenandoah to flow "up the map" from the "upper" Valley to the "lower" Valley.

The Valley was not part of one of the original eight Virginia counties that were established in 1634. When settlement west of the Blue Ridge began in the early eighteenth century, what is now Jefferson County was first a part of Spotsylvania County (1720-1734) and then Orange County (1734-1738). As more and more settlers streamed into The Valley from the north and the east, the increase in population justified further subdivision. We became a part of Frederick County (1738-1772) when it was formed from Orange County, and then we were included with Berkeley County (1772-1801) when it separated from Frederick County.

Following the American Revolution the residents of eastern Berkeley County started a movement to create a new county. As was the case in other divisions the folks in Charlestown, Harper's Ferry, Shepherd's Town, and Smithfield felt that the time was right, due to population

growth and a growing economy, to establish another political subdivision. In November of 1800 a petition began circulating which called for the formation of a new county. Eventually 1,600 residents signed the petition, and it was sent to the Virginia General Assembly.

The justification for forming a new county centered around three points. First, travel in the early nineteenth century was difficult at best and access to the courthouse in Martinsburg was particularly problematic for residents of the eastern section of the county. Second, "...because of the jealousy and opposition of interests..." – it appeared that philosophical differences between the eastern and western portions of the county had reached a point where eastern leaders felt that the best solution was to form a new county. The final reason was because the distribution of the growth in population ensured that both divisions would have roughly equal numbers of residents.

Boundaries for the new county on the North (the Potomac River), the South (the surveyed line between Berkeley and Frederick counties), and the East (the summit of the Blue Ridge Mountains) had already been established. The petitioners for the new county proposed that Opequon Creek should delineate the boundary between the two divisions. This would then become the western border of the new county. Several names for the new county were proposed. A leading contender was "Richland County" in recognition of the productive soils that were the basis of the economy. However, there was no consensus on a name and the petition was sent to Richmond with the space for a name left blank.

On January 8, 1801, the Virginia General Assembly approved an act that divided Berkeley County east and west. The Assembly named the new county in honor of Thomas Jefferson, the second Virginian to become President of the United States.

The General Assembly also dealt with the question of the western boundary. Residents of the western division had learned of the easterners' petition to form a new county and had formulated a counter-petition. Essentially they disputed the three points of the eastern petition with particular emphasis on the proposed establishment of Opequon Creek as the boundary line. Pointing out that the Opequon was within two miles of the county seat of Martinsburg and that by establishing the boundary along its shores, Martinsburg would "...be badly hurt if the new county would be established so close." The General Assembly concurred.

The western boundary was established along Opequon Creek to Payne's Ford, a crossing adjacent to land owned by General Adam Stephen. From Payne's Ford a surveyed line was drawn to Wynkoop's Spring and from there the boundary followed Rocky Marsh Run



to the Potomac River. In its wisdom, the General Assembly had acknowledged petitions from both those in favor of division and those opposed.

In 1786 Charles Washington, youngest brother of General George Washington, founded Charlestown on 80 acres of his Berkeley County holdings. In his will, Charles requested that if Charlestown became the county seat of a new county, the corner lots of the Public Square (the intersection of George and Washington Streets) be given to the town to be used for public buildings. In addition to approving the new county, the General Assembly named Charlestown the county seat.

On August 31, 1801, Captain Samuel Washington, acceding to the wishes of his father Charles, deeded the four corners of the Public Square in Charlestown "...for public buildings of the town and a new county."

The first meeting of the county court of Jefferson County was held on November 10, 1801. By the time of The War Between the States, the Public Square was the home of the Jefferson County Courthouse on the northeast corner, of the market house on the northwest corner (present day Charles Washington Hall), of offices for attorneys on the southeast corner (present day municipal offices for the City of Charles Town), and of the Jefferson County Jail on the southwest corner (present day United States Post Office).

Jefferson County was blessed with prosperity in the first half of the nineteenth century. When its first census was taken in 1810, Jefferson County recorded 11,851 residents. By the Census of 1860 the population had grown by almost 20 percent to a population of 14,535. During this 50-year period the racial composition of the county remained fairly consistent. The white population ranged from between 65 to 69 percent of the total population. During this same period the enslaved population accounted for 27 to 31 percent of the total population. In the first half of the nineteenth century the free black population doubled from two percent of the total population in 1820 to around four percent by 1860.

In 1860 there were five municipalities in Jefferson County. With a population of 1,339 Harpers Ferry was home to the second largest number of citizens. When combined with the 1,130 residents of its neighbor Bolivar, almost 20 percent of the county's population was clustered around what was then the number one industry and the biggest employer in the Lower Valley – the United States Armory and Arsenal at Harpers Ferry. Charlestown, the county seat, had finally become the most populous town. Its 1,376 residents barely edged out Harpers Ferry and was just a little larger than Shepherdstown with its 1,219 residents. Middleway, originally Smithfield, remained the smallest municipality with 444 citizens.

In writing about the early pioneers who settled here in

Jefferson County, Julia Davis said, "They came, they fell in love with the countryside and the life, and they have remained." These early settlers fell in love with the rich productive soil in the land drained by the Shenandoah. By 1860 Jefferson County, Virginia grew 422,514 bushels of wheat which made it the number one wheat producer in the Commonwealth. But, unlike the Tidewater, 77 percent of Jefferson's farmers cultivated farms of less than 500 acres. There were no farms of more than 1,000 acres, and only 12 farms that had more than 500 acres under the plow. In 1860 Jefferson County's population was rural and its economy was based on agriculture. By the Fall of 1860, Jefferson County, Virginia was beginning to return to normal.

Just one year before, abolitionist John Brown had launched his campaign to free the enslaved in Virginia by seizing the United States Musket Factory at Harpers Ferry. In the aftermath following his capture, Brown and his surviving co-conspirators were brought to the Jefferson County Jail at Charlestown, the county seat of Jefferson County, Virginia. In rapid succession trials were held for Brown and his men where they were found guilty of a variety of crimes, sentenced, and, over the course of three months, executed in Mrs. Rebecca Hunter's field south of town.

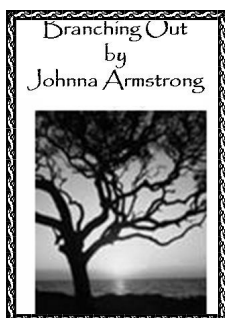
When viewing events such as these through the "Lens of History," it is sometimes difficult to appreciate their impact on the civilian population. For several months in late 1859 and early 1860, Charlestown and her citizens lived under martial law. Several companies of Virginia Militia were billeted in public and private spaces, brought to Charlestown to protect both the town's citizens and the seven men incarcerated in the Jefferson County jail. The town's normal routine was disrupted by the daily arrival of officials of the court who would oversee the prosecution and defense of the raiders. Each time the train pulled in to the Winchester & Potomac depot on North Street more newspapermen and curiosity-seekers were deposited to join the ever growing throng. To some who lived in Charlestown it seemed that they were as much prisoners as the occupants of the county jail.

Rumors were rampant. Almost daily the town was abuzz with a report from a "reliable source" that a group of Brown's supporters had been spotted north of the Mason-Dixon and were poised to forcibly free Old Osawatomie and his men. If it wasn't Brown's supporters on the move then it was a lynch mob marching to exact its own brand of justice.

A few days before Brown's execution, Sheriff Campbell and his deputies were seen going around town tacking up notices that "EMPHATICALLY warned [citizens] to remain at their homes armed and guard their own property."

For five long months the normal daily routine of Charlestown's citizens had been disrupted. There were precious few good things created by this circus-like atmosphere. Isaac Carter, proprietor of the Carter House, and many other shopkeepers did a land office business. Townspeople were treated to evening Shakespearean presentations by John Wilkes Booth at the Episcopal Reading Room on the northeast corner of Lawrence and Liberty Streets. Many new friendships were forged between visitors and their gracious hosts. But the negatives far outweighed any positives. The addition of the Virginia Militia on hand to provide security for Brown and his band more than doubled the town's population. This stretched Charlestown's ability to provide the necessities of life.

In typical fashion, Charlestown, Virginia and its 1,300 inhabitants persevered and met the challenges. The trials of John Brown and his six men were adjudicated and the court's sentences carried out. Gradually, with each passing day and with the departure of each militia company, things began to return to normal. Little did anyone know that this was literally "*The Calm Before the Storm.*"



I'm no cartographer, and although I love maps, map technology kind of scares me. However, maps are great for helping us understand our ancestors in a geographic context. Maps can help us pinpoint exactly where our ancestors lived, especially when the place-name no longer exists; find out who their neighbors were; get a sense of their economic status within their community, and help us discover likely places they might have gone if they have disappeared from known records.

Ten years ago, maps could only be seen at courthouses, historical societies and libraries. Nowadays, we're fortunate to be able to view a lot of these maps online. The Library of Congress (LOC), for example, has a very nice collection of maps for Jefferson County, and several of them list landowners, so I am particularly interested in these. To see the maps, go to <http://www.loc.gov>, then click **Digital Collections**, then **American History & Culture**, then **Maps**. Enter "Jefferson County Virginia" in the search box.

The LOC has an online viewer that you can use to look at the maps, and the detail is pretty incredible. The only downside is that you are limited to a 640 x 480 pixel window, or roughly 6.5" x 5". I'm old enough to remember when this was all you could reasonably expect to view on a computer monitor, but these days, my monitor is 23" and I'd really like to be able to look at a

larger swath of the map than the online viewer allows me.

The LOC lets you download a copy of a map to your computer, so all you need something to look at it with. The LOC uses a file format called JPG2000, and nothing I have on my computer will open these files. I downloaded and installed several free viewers that couldn't open the maps before discovering that the LOC recommends two viewers for its JPG2000 files: ERDAS ER Viewer (<http://www.erdas.com/>); IrfanView with Plug-Ins (<http://www.irfanview.com/>)

For my money, IrfanView is the better bet for genealogists. It was easy to download and install (note that there are two downloads, the viewer and the plug-ins, both easy and fast), and it was very easy to figure out how to use. The zoom is a little slower than I would have liked, but these maps are high-quality scans of very large wall maps and IrfanView magnifies them to a really extraordinary degree of detail. IrfanView also allows you to rotate the map, so you can easily overlay it on a current map. The screen capture feature is also very nice. There are lots of other features, these are the ones I use most often.

Downloading the ER Viewer was arduous, requiring many steps, including having to register for an account, and download the files via FTP. The install was pretty straightforward. However, the zoom out requires two steps and there is no way to rotate the map.

If you are a Mac user, you can ignore everything I've just said about downloads and installs. You can view the maps with Preview – the zoom tool magnifies quickly although unfortunately, there is no way to rotate.

The Museum Corner
Sergeant Taylor's Beehive Hat
By Sue Collins, Curator

For many soldiers fighting for the Confederacy during the Civil War, their hat of choice was not the better-known "kepi" but a comfortable soft felt hat with a pointed crown, known today as a



"Beehive" hat. The brim, edged with ribbon, could be worn up or down and this simple hat protected its wearer from all but the most inclement weather.

The owner of one such hat, John William Taylor, known as "Will", served in Company B, Second Virginia Regiment, Stonewall Brigade, formed from the old



Hamtramck Guards of Shepherdstown. Born in Jefferson County, a few miles south of Shepherdstown, Taylor enlisted in November of 1861, at 19 years of age. A fair-haired youngster with blue eyes, he stood just over five feet five inches. Taylor's enthusiasm for the Southern cause was in no way hampered by his short stature. In his obituary, the "Shepherdstown Register" reported that despite being wounded many times, including being shot twice through the neck, Taylor was always back in action as swiftly as his still healing wounds would permit.

Will Taylor spent the remainder of his life farming in Jefferson County. A cherished souvenir of his wartime service was his old felt hat. Now it shaded his head from the summer heat as he walked behind a plough. He married and had four children but the family suffered a devastating blow when Taylor's kidneys began to fail, an ailment known in those days as Bright's Disease. Will Taylor died at the age of 65 on December 14, 1905. He was buried in Elmwood cemetery in Shepherdstown, with members of the Henry Kyd Douglas Camp of Sons of Confederate Veterans in attendance. The Shepherdstown Register proudly noted that Will Taylor had been an "unreconstructed Rebel" until the day he died.

Some time after 1905 Will Taylor's family decided to donate his "Beehive" hat to a small rural museum. Folded flat and placed in a wooden box with a handwritten sign identifying the original owner, the hat suffered from benign neglect. Worse was to come when the museum closed and the hat, still in its box, was stored for safe-keeping in a barn. There it remained for many years, at the mercy of insects and mice, until it was finally returned to Taylor's descendants.

Mrs. Thelma Butler, great-granddaughter of Will Taylor, presented her ancestor's felt hat to the Jefferson County Museum in 2009. We were surprised and delighted to receive this unusual gift. Although produced in large numbers, continued post-war use of these hats by veterans on their farms or in their gardens ensured that the felt "Beehive" would be an uncommon survivor.

The Museum consulted with Textile Preservation Associates as to the best method of preserving the hat and reshaping it. This company did a superb job conserving the "Chew" flag in 2005, and we have the utmost confidence in them. Textile Preservation has performed a gentle and painstaking humidification process that softened the wool fibers and even allowed the brim to be turned up. A plexiglass mount that will provide support and ready the hat for display, is almost

completed.

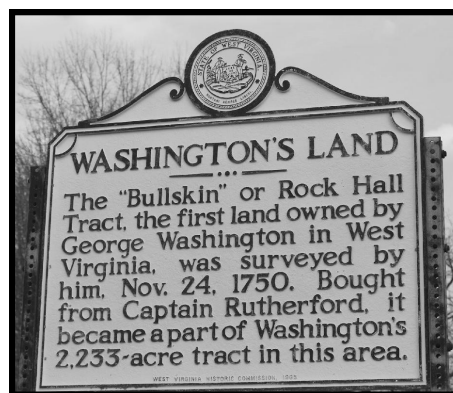
Sergeant Taylor's hat, donated in his memory, will be exhibited early this summer, a unique addition to the Museum's Civil War collection.

West Virginia Historic Markers

For 65 years, travelers in West Virginia have enjoyed the hundreds of historic markers along the state's highways and byways. As of March 2010, Jefferson County alone had 181 markers listed in the national Historical Marker Data Base (<http://www.hmdb.org/>) commemorating the people, events, and locations that have contributed to the county's rich history. Most of these have been erected through the West Virginia State Historical Highway Marker Program, a project of the Division of Culture and History's Archives and History Section. However, federal and private markers are also included in the database.

We are pleased to provide the reader with links to the database, an illustrated, searchable online catalog of historical information viewed through the filter of roadside and other permanent outdoor markers, monuments, and plaques. The site contains photographs, inscription transcriptions, marker locations, maps, additional information and commentary.

- 78 markers, located in or near towns listed alphabetically from Bakerton to Harpers Ferry
<http://www.hmdb.org/Results.asp?State=West%20Virginia&StartAt=101>
- 101 markers, located in or near towns listed alphabetically from Harpers Ferry to Shepherdstown.
<http://www.hmdb.org/Results.asp?State=West%20Virginia&StartAt=201>
- 3 markers, located in or near Shepherdstown and Summit Point WV
<http://www.hmdb.org/Results.asp?State=West%20Virginia&StartAt=301>





Meet the Board: Doug Perks, Secretary

Historian Doug Perks is the Recording Secretary of the Society and the new Director of the Charles Town Library. A native of Charles Town, Doug graduated from Charles Town High in 1966, earned a BS degree from West Virginia University in 1970 and an MS from James Madison in 1986. He has been a board member and director of the Historic Shepherdstown Commission, president of the Harpers Ferry and Jefferson County Historical Associations, and a member of the Jefferson County Historic Landmarks Commission.

Doug designed the *Parks As Classrooms Educator's Guide* and the *Niagara Movement Educator's Guide* for Harpers Ferry National Historical Park; coordinated the *J. R. Clifford Youth Discovery Tent* during the August, 2006, Niagara Movement Centennial Commemoration at Harpers Ferry National Historical Park; and coordinated the School House Ridge Elementary Program - a hands-on education experience in Civil War History for all Jefferson County fifth grade students.

He has also developed and coordinated *Burr Farm Days* for all Jefferson County fourth grade students and the *Prepared For Success Program* for Jefferson & Berkeley County eighth grade students while serving as education coordinator for the Harpers Ferry Historical Association. Doug teaches a Jefferson County Schools Community Education class on Jefferson County History, presents community lectures on local history, and writes the *Mr. Jefferson's County* column for the *Guardian*, the newsletter of the Jefferson County Historical Society. Doug and his wife Cheri live in Shepherdstown and enjoy spending time with their grand-daughters, shown here with their grand-daddy.



Doug can be reached at 114 Devon Way Shepherdstown, WV 25443 or by email at perksd@comcast.net

Society Officers and Board Members

President: Carmen Creamer

1923 Shirley Road
Summit Point, WV 25446
Email: carmencreamer@yahoo.com

Vice President: James G. Gibson

201 Needwood Farm Road
Harpers Ferry, WV 25425-3072 ;
Email: jbgibson@frontiernet.net

Treasurer: Barbara Gibson

201 Needwood Farm Road
Harpers Ferry, WV 25425-3072 ;
Email: jbgibson@frontiernet.net

Membership Secretary: Hugh Voress

P.O. Box 857
Charles Town, WV 25414
Email: voresshe@frontiernet.net

Corresponding Secretary: Betsy Wells

522 South Mildred Street
Charles Town, WV 25414
Email: Betsy@Betsywells.com

Magazine Editor: James L. Glymph

830 Avon Bend Road
Charles Town, WV 25414
Email: glymphj@comcast.net

Newsletter Editor, Marketing, Communications

Curt Mason

3735 Summit Point Road
Charles Town, WV 25414
cmasonwhf@aol.com phone: 304.724.7008

Susannah Buckles Flanagan

371 Gap View Farm Lane
Charles Town, WV 25414
gapviewfarm@hughes.net

Bill Drennen

168 Meadow Ridge Drive
Shepherdstown, WV 25443
Email: bill@billdrennen.com



Bob O'Connor
119 North Church Street
Charles Town, WV 25414
oconnorrobertj@netscape.net

Keith Alexander
PO Box 846
Shepherdstown WV 25443
kalexander@shepherd.edu

Walter Washington
8382 Middleway Pike
Charles Town, WV 25414-4305 Email:
swwash@comcast.com

**CLAYMONT COURT
THEN AND NOW**



**CLAYMONT COURT
in the 1930's**



CLAYMONT COURT TODAY

By far the most imposing of the several Washington family homes in Jefferson County is Claymont Court, a brick, stone, and stucco mansion located a few miles south of Charles Town. Built between 1815 and 1820 by Bushrod Corbin Washington, a grand-nephew of General Washington, it sits on a hill facing Blakely, which was also built at the same time by Bushrod's brother, John Augustine Washington II. In 1838 the interior of Claymont Court was destroyed by fire but was quickly rebuilt. Said to be the largest house in West Virginia, it was sold out of the Washington family in 1871 by Bushrod C. Washington II for \$10,000. Since then it has passed through some notable hands. The novelist Frank Stockton wrote his last book there prior to his death in 1902 and the industrialist R.J. Funkhouser restored Claymont and several other Washington homes during the 1940's. It is owned today by the Claymont Society, a nonprofit educational organization.

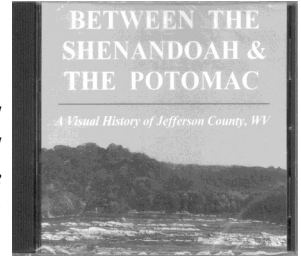


JCHS PUBLICATIONS
Free Shipping on ALL Orders!!

Publications of the Society and our partners are available for purchase by mail or on our web site, which also includes brief descriptions of each of the following products. (<http://jeffersonhistoricalwv.org/thestore.html>)

- **"Between the Shenandoah and the Potomac,"** a DVD presenting a comprehensive illustrated history of Jefferson County, West Virginia. (\$14). In an online review, Susan Scouras of the West Virginia Division of Culture and History states:

*"The Jefferson County Historical Society has produced a wonderful history of their homeland through the combined use of beautifully scenic videotape photography, interesting still photos and artists' representations of the natural landscape and resources, the man-made structures and the people themselves that comprise the past and present of Jefferson County. As the title indicates, the influence of the county's location between the Shenandoah and the Potomac Rivers is woven through both the narrative and the visual images from beginning to end. Strategically placed commentary by local experts and representatives of various agencies and organizations add support to the factual history of Jefferson County as drawn from *Historic Jefferson County*, by Millard Kessler Bushong. Excellent narration by Charlie Glaize and well-chosen background music round out the presentation of Writer/Producer Melissa Wallace."*



- ***Between the Shenandoah and Potomac: Historic Homes of Jefferson County, WV. Color pictures and descriptions of over 100 of Jefferson County's most historic homes, 178pp, hardbound book. \$49.95***
- ***The Magazine of the Jefferson County Historical Society*** is mailed annually to each member and contains articles about local historical places, people, and events. Prices for purchase and shipping of back issues of the magazines are as follows:

1935-1964:	\$20/copy
1965-1994:	\$15/copy
1995-Current:	\$10/copy
- ***The Washington Homes of Jefferson County. \$10.***
- ***Prominent Men of Shepherdstown. A.D. Kenamond, 1962 \$10***
- ***Between the Shenandoah and Potomac: Historic Homes of Jefferson County. Hard-bound \$50***
- ***Calendar & Index to Recorded Plats in Jefferson County, WV (VA) Courthouse, 1801-1901. Michael. D. Thompson \$25***
- ***Tombstone Inscriptions, Jefferson County, W. Va 1687-1980. Compiled by Bee Line Chapter, National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), 1981. \$22***
- ***Burials in Jefferson County, West Virginia, 1978-97. Compiled by Hugh E. Voress, 1998, \$18***

GUEST PUBLICATIONS

- ***West Virginia Encyclopedia, A new "must have" reference book loaded with information. \$45***
- ***Military Operations in Jefferson County-A guide to the Sons of Confederate Veterans network of Civil War Markers \$15***
- ***The Perfect Steel Trap, Harpers Ferry, 1859*** This historical novel, written by Bob O'Connor, JCHS Board member, provides eye-witness accounts of the John Brown insurrection. Read about the preparations, the raid, the trials, the executions and the aftermath and then decide: was John Brown a hero or a scoundrel? **\$23**
- ***The Virginian Who Might Have Saved Lincoln*** President Lincoln's trusted friend, former law partner and heavily armed bodyguard, Ward Hill Lamon, a Summit Point, VA native, was not at Ford's Theater the night of April 14, 1865. Learn of his whereabouts that fateful evening by reading this historical novel by Bob O'Connor. **\$16**
- ***The Night I Freed John Brown.*** This exciting new young adult novel for ages 12 and up, written by Harpers Ferry native John Cummings, centers on 13-year-old Josh Connors who, to free himself from his shy, sheltered life in the historic town, idolizes the fierce spirit of the controversial figure of John Brown. **\$15**

Please mail a check with your name, address, telephone number, and e-mail address to:
 The Guardian, Attention Publications, PO Box 485, Charles Town, WV 25414.

THE GUARDIAN
Jefferson County Historical Society
P.O. Box 485
Charles Town, WV 25414



Non-Profit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Charles Town, WV
Permit No. 10

Join the Jefferson County Historical Society Today!!!

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

E-mail Address _____

_____ Annual Membership: \$15 _____ Life Membership:
\$400

Mail check to: Membership Secretary, JCHS
PO Box 485
Charles Town, WV 25414

Or pay online using PayPal at:
<http://jeffersonhistoricalwv.org/thestore.html>