



THE GUARDIAN

Newsletter of the Jefferson County WV Historical Society
July 2011 Volume IX Number 3

Historic Speaker Series Continues

Continuing the successful series of presentations by local historians sponsored by the Society and several other Jefferson County historical organizations, we are pleased to announce that the third in the 2011 Historic Speaker Series will take place on Tuesday, August 16, 2011 at Storer College's Freewill Baptist Church at the corner of Fillmore Street and Storer College Place in Harpers Ferry. Hosted by the Harpers Ferry Foundation, noted local historian Dr. Deborah Lee will share interesting stories from research that demonstrate the important role Harpers Ferry played for African Americans in nearby Clarke and Loudoun counties. The free event is open to the public and will begin with a reception at 6 p.m. followed by the presentation at 7 p.m.

Dr. Lee's presentation will illustrate the historical relevance of Harpers Ferry as a center of employment, transportation, and the Underground Railroad; the important symbolism of John Brown; the role of Storer College in education and as a gathering place; and the Niagara Movement in local perspective. For example, Dr. Lee will tell how, in 1906, Washington, DC schoolteacher and author Barbara Pope refused to move to the colored section on the train bound for Leesburg and was arrested and fined. The Niagara Movement championed her appeal and she attended their meeting in Harpers Ferry.



Society Summer Picnic at Boidestone's Place 5:30 pm August 3, 2011

The Society's annual picnic will be held Wednesday, August 3 2011, at 5:30 pm at John Allen's home, Boidestone's Place, near Shepherdstown. Members should bring a covered dish with serving utensils, lawn chairs, and beverages. Directions: From Shepherdstown take Shepherd Grade Road 2.6 miles and turn right on Vandalia Lane. Follow the gravel drive to the fork and stay left, following the signs.

Uncommon Vernacular: The Early Houses of Jefferson County, WV 1735-1835 by John Allen (to be released in August)

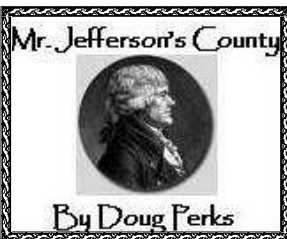
A much-anticipated book by local architectural historian John Allen will be released in August by West Virginia University Press. Allen's book, *Uncommon Vernacular: The Early Houses of Jefferson County, West Virginia 1735-1835*, records his study of 250 local houses conducted over an seven year period. By focusing on dwellings built from the mid-eighteenth century to the arrival of the railroad and canal in 1835, Allen unfolds the unique story of this area's early building traditions and architectural innovations. The large hardcover book contains over 700 stylish photographs, elegant drawings, floor plans, and descriptions of the county's early houses. In addition to field documentation, each property was meticulously researched to accumulate information to aid in dating existing structures. Included are the well-known mansion houses of the county, as well as the humble log dwellings of its yeoman farmers. Varying features of house siting, plan types, building materials, construction techniques, interior and exterior detailing illustrate the blending of German, Scots-Irish, English, and African traditions into a distinct, regional style. This is the first comprehensive study of Jefferson County's early



residential architecture and a must read for enthusiasts of local history.



Several exhibits have been scheduled to give residents an opportunity to view photography from the book. The first of these will be from September 9 through 11 at the War Memorial Building in Shepherdstown. Advanced copies of the book can be ordered through West Virginia University Press at www.wvupress.com or Amazon.com. The book will also be available in local bookstores.



"The patriot volunteer, fighting for country and his rights, makes the most reliable soldier on earth."
Colonel Thomas J. Jackson
The Men of Jefferson

The transition in Virginia was rapidly underway. On April 17th, 1861, after the Virginia Secession Convention voted in favor of leaving the Union, the "Birthplace of Presidents" began to execute a plan which would remove its star from "Old Glory" and place it in the firmament of the "Stars and Bars." The only missing piece was an affirmation of the convention's action by the electorate, but few doubted the outcome of that referendum.

In this first stage of forming a new government, the federal armories and arsenals at Harper's Ferry attracted a great deal of interest. This foreshadowed the strategic role that the entrance to the Valley of Virginia would play in succeeding years.

On April 18th, 1861, after he determined his

position at Harper's Ferry untenable, Lieutenant Roger Jones executed his plan to destroy both the guns stored in the two arsenals at Harper's Ferry and the gun-making machines in the armory complex which stretched along the Potomac River. Jones succeeded in the former, but a combination of Virginia Volunteers and townspeople succeeded in saving most of the armory and its all-important machinery.

As word of the Secession Convention vote began to spread, Virginia militia troops began the trek to Harper's Ferry. For the time being, the men that streamed into Harper's Ferry were commanded by Major General Kenton Harper. The 60-year-old Harper was a veteran of the Mexican War and a Major-General in the Virginia State Militia. He had been sent by the Commonwealth to take control of the federal installation at Harper's Ferry and he did just that. On April 22nd, 1861, in one of his last dispatches, Harper said:

"My object has been, not only to secure all the efficient arms here, and remove the machinery in such a manner as that it may be readily put together again, as well as all the unfinished guns, but to have an inventory made of the public property... The hourly telegraphic dispatches sent in are exciting; but I feel calm, as I have taken adequate measures to guard against surprise – trust me; I am well posted, and shall be found ready."

President Lincoln's April 15th call for volunteers to "put down the insurrection" not only led to Virginia's secession, it also forced Virginia's leaders to prepare to defend the Commonwealth from invasion. Virginia determined that she would not permit either troops or arms and ammunition to cross her soil on the way to South Carolina. This required Virginia to convert her peace-time militia, qualified to handle local emergencies, into a war-time army that would be capable of defending Virginia and her citizens from possible invasion.

One of the first steps in this process took place on April 20th, 1861. On that date Virginia's Governor Letcher was authorized to "call into the service of the State as many volunteers as may be necessary to repel invasion and protect the citizens of the State in the present emergency." In addition Letcher was authorized to appoint "the General,



field and staff officers of said volunteers.” This meant that all militia officers pre- April 20th were effectively removed and would be replaced by men, appointed by Letcher, who presumably would be more capable field commanders.

The most critical decision in this process was the selection of the person who would oversee the transformation of Virginia’s military. On April 23rd Governor Letcher turned to a native son of Virginia:

Major-General Lee having reported to the governor, he will at once assume the command in chief of all the military and naval forces of the State and take in charge the military defenses of the State.

Robert Edward Lee, formerly a colonel in the army of the United States, was now Major General of Virginia Volunteers. General Lee would be in charge of organizing the armed forces to defend Virginia.

Harper’s Ferry came into play immediately. On April 27th, Lee sent a dispatch to a then little known instructor at the Virginia Military Institute:

Col. THOMAS J. JACKSON:

Virginia Volunteers, Camp near Richmond, Va.:

COLONEL: You will proceed, without delay, to Harper’s Ferry, Va., in execution of the orders of the governor of the State, and assume command of that post.

Upon arrival in Harper’s Ferry, the new Colonel immediately set about to put the post in order. Jackson’s instructions focused his attention on three tasks. He continued to muster in militia companies that reported for duty. Under Lee’s directive, Jackson was to: *“organize them into regiments ... uniting...companies from the same section of the State. These will be placed under their senior captains, until the field officers can be appointed by the governor.*

Simultaneously Jackson continued the salvage of the armory’s gun-making machinery. Per his orders from Richmond Jackson was requested to *“expedite the transfer of the machinery to...the Richmond Armory, and that you complete, as fast as possible, any guns or rifles partially constructed, should it be safe and practicable.”* As Virginia faced the sudden reality of defending her soil, the control of these machines took on added significance.

The third ball in the air for Colonel Jackson was assuring that his post was well defended. Jackson was keenly aware of Harper’s Ferry’s strategic importance. In a May 7th dispatch to General Lee Jackson said, *“I am of the opinion that this place should be defended with the spirit which actuated the defenders of Thermopylae... The fall of this place would, I fear, result in the loss of the northwestern part of the state, and who can estimate the moral power thus gained to the enemy and lost to ourselves?”*

To a point General Lee concurred with Colonel Jackson. But that point began and ended on the south bank of the Potomac River. Maryland had yet to settle the secession question. Richmond was hopeful that Maryland would leave the Union. Jackson felt it necessary to fortify Maryland Heights which was on the north bank of the Potomac overlooking Harper’s Ferry. This was a sound strategic decision but it posed a sticky political problem. Lee’s response to Jackson was blunt, *“In your preparation for the defense of your position it is considered advisable not to intrude upon the soil of Maryland, unless compelled by the necessities of war.”*

On May 1st, 1861 Colonel Jackson was authorized to *“call out volunteer companies from the counties in the valley adjacent to Harper’s Ferry, viz, Morgan, Berkeley, Jefferson, Hampshire, Hardy, Frederick, and Clarke.”* Each company was to be composed of 82 men and Jackson was advised to *“select, as far as possible, uniformed companies with arms.”* Each company was to be led by a captain until Richmond and Governor Letcher could appoint their field officers.

This is when the men from Jefferson County began to muster in at Harper’s Ferry. Like Logan Osburn, many of them felt that they too were *“... son[s] of Virginia.”* and that *“Her destiny shall be mine.”* In all Jefferson County, Virginia sent ten companies of men into the Virginia Volunteers – one artillery battery, four cavalry companies, and five infantry companies.

The artillery battery: The Ashby Battery was formed November 13th, 1861 at *Flowing Spring*, the home of American Revolutionary War hero Robert Rutherford. By April 1862 the captain of Ashby’s Battery was a Jefferson County man - R. Preston Chew who left his studies at the Virginia Military



Institute to join the Virginia Volunteers in May 1861. Although initially known as the Ashby Battery, over the course of the war its leaders changed and the battery would be called Chew's then Thomson's then Carter's. The Ashby Battery holds the distinction of being the first horse artillery company in Virginia and in the Confederate service. There were four cavalry troops from Jefferson County:

- Company F, 1st Virginia Cavalry was known in Jefferson County as the “Shepherdstown Troop.” It mustered in at Shepherdstown on April 18th, 1861 for one year and went on picket duty along the Potomac River. After reorganization the company was led by Captain William Augustine Morgan. This troop was originally formed at Billmeyer’s Mill in 1858 as a militia company.
- Company A, 12th Virginia Cavalry was headed up by Captain James W. Glenn. The company was formed at Charlestown, Virginia on June 26th, 1861 with 104 troopers. This was one of the most veteran companies in the 12th Cavalry.
- Company B, 12th Virginia Cavalry was led by Captain Robert William Baylor their senior captain. Before the start of the Civil War Captain Baylor was the Colonel of the 3rd Virginia Cavalry. Baylor was among the men who commanded the local militia during the John Brown Raid. The “Baylor Light Horse Cavalry” was formed at Charlestown, Virginia on September 25th, 1861 with 83 troopers.
- Company D, 12th Virginia Cavalry was formed at Shepherdstown on March 17th, 1862 with 47 troopers. This company was under the leadership of Captain John Locher Knott.

There were five Jefferson County infantry companies mustered in at Harper’s Ferry:

- Company A, 2nd Virginia Infantry enlisted on May 13th, 1861. Known as the “Jefferson Guards” they were led by Captain John W. Rowan, a Mexican War veteran. Company A was organized on May 1st, 1858 and they responded to the call for militia during the John Brown Raid.
- Company B, 2nd Virginia Infantry mustered in at Harpers Ferry 11 May 1861. The “Hamtramck Guards” were under the direction of Captain Vincent Moore Butler who was also a veteran of the Mexican War. At one time known as the “Shepherdstown Light Infantry” the company

was renamed in May 1858 to honor their Colonel John Francis Hamtramck. The “Guards” also answered the call to arms during the John Brown Raid. The militia company from Shepherdstown was the first to be organized in Jefferson County.

- Company G, 2nd Virginia Infantry mustered in at Harpers Ferry on May 11th, 1861. The “Botts Grays” took their name from their leader Captain Lawson Botts. Botts was appointed by the court to defend John Brown. According to the regimental history, Company G had the most “mosts” in the 2nd Virginia – the most doctors – four; the most teachers - five; the most lawyers – six; the most clerks – eleven; the most students – sixteen; and the most farmers thirty-three.
- Company H, 2nd Virginia Infantry mustered in at Harpers Ferry on May 12th, 1861. The men of Company H were from the Duffield’s Depot area and named their company in honor of John Letcher, Virginia’s Civil War Governor. They were led by Captain James H. L. Hunter who lived at *Belmont*.
- Company K, 2nd Virginia Infantry chose to be called the “Floyd Guards” in honor of John Buchanan Floyd, Secretary of War for James Buchanan. Many of the men from this company were former employees of the gun factories at Harpers Ferry. They were led by Captain George W. Chambers, another veteran of the Mexican War. Company K mustered in at Harpers Ferry on May 17th, 1861.

During the four years of the American Civil War it is estimated that as many as 1,500 men from Jefferson County served in the Confederate Army. There is less known about Jefferson Countians who served in the Union Army. However, whether they followed Virginia into the Confederacy or chose to fight to preserve the Union, each man was convinced that his was the correct decision.

The Museum Corner
Union Musician’s Jacket
By Jim Glymph

The little drummer boy is always an interesting topic of the 1861-65 War. You can visualize a little boy tapping the long roll as men fall into their ranks preparing for battle. Also, what is a cavalry attack without the mounted bugler sounding the charge.



These are two highly publicized types of musicians employed by the military. Both the Union and the Confederacy had drummers and buglers, but they also maintained entire bands of uniformed musicians. These soldiers are often overlooked. South Carolina General Maxcy Gregg organized a complete band of black musicians to provide his brigade with entertainment and to “pipe” them into battle. Many other units also had bands.

The Jefferson County Museum has a Union horse artillery musician’s shell jacket. Looking at the photograph below, you can see the worsted lace (tape) on the breast of the jacket in the design which identifies the wearer as a musician. The lace and the rest of the trim on the jacket are red for artillery. Although it is standard United States issue, it is a relatively rare jacket.



Another unusual feature is that it is a size four (4) which is about a current size 42. The wearer’s build is far above the average soldier who generally had a slight build. This certainly could be a bugler’s jacket or the wearer could have played the bass drum, saxhorn, cornet, clarinet or cymbals; all

popular instruments of the period.

When you come to the museum to see the jacket, make sure you look at the small, non-threatening musician’s sword in the same display case.

Local Author Competition Established for Jefferson County Residents

The Jefferson County Historical Society is working in partnership with local author and board member Bob O’Connor to establish an author competition to honor O’Connor’s parents. O’Connor has published six books and is a Board member of the Jefferson County Historical Society. His parents, Charles and Wilhelmina O’Connor, were very supportive of his dream to become a published author. They are both deceased.

The annual competition, called the Charles and

Wilhelmina O’Connor Author Competition, is open to anyone who resides in Jefferson County, West Virginia, or is a member in good standing of the Jefferson County Historical Society; who has written primarily about Jefferson County history (fiction, non-fiction or children’s book); and has not previously published a book.

A committee made up of a representative of the Jefferson County Historical Society and members of the O’Connor family will choose one winner per year based on submissions received by December 31. Persons wishing to enter the competition must submit a book idea of at least 100 pages. Materials will be judged on merit, grammar, writing style, subject and scholarship. Decisions of the committee will be final. The winner will be notified in early 2012 and will have one year to complete their manuscript for publication.

The winner will receive a professionally published 5 ½ by 8 ½ book published by Infinity Publishing of West Conshohocken, Pennsylvania; 25 printed books; 1,000 business cards; 1,000 book marks; and 100 posters. The book will be transcribed to e-book format and listed on www.amazon.com, www.buybooksontheweb.com and www.jeffersonhistoricalwv.org For further information contact Bob O’Connor at author@boboconnorbooks.com.

Society President Carmen Creamer said the award is in keeping with the goals of the society to “increase the historical knowledge of Jefferson County Citizens.” She said the society was honored that O’Connor came to them with the idea. She hopes that the competition brings additional focus on the rich history of the county.

Historic Shepherdstown Commission Selects New Administrator

Ms. Cheryl Gregory was recently hired as the new administrator for the Historic Shepherdstown Commission, following the recent move of former long-time administrator Cindy Cook to the Eastern Shore. Cheryl is a native West Virginian who lives in Martinsburg with her husband, Jim. She attended local schools and worked for several banks in the Martinsburg area and as a controller for a manufacturing company for many years. She



works part-time, Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 9 to 5 . She would love for everyone to stop by and introduce themselves. In the short time she has been here everyone has been very nice and helpful.

If you haven't visited the Museum since it was remodeled now is the time. We currently have openings for the reception room rental and some office rental spaces available. Please call Cheryl at 304-876-0910.

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Boidestone's Place History

The farm along the Potomac River just below Terrapin Neck, now known as Boidestone's Place, was settled by Thomas Boydstone in the mid-18th century. Boydstone was living on the farm in 1798 when he was evicted by the court in the extended Hite vs. Fairfax lawsuit, which affected hundreds of early claims in the Shenandoah Valley. Abraham Shepherd Sr. was awarded the property in 1798 and owned it until his death in 1822. The farm eventually passed to his son, Abraham Jr., who used the property for various business ventures including the production of lime and brandy. In 1835, cousin C.M. Shepherd added a house on an adjacent parcel that he owned to the south of the farm. Abraham Shepherd, Jr. moved this house to its current location on the farm in 1841. Four years later, Abraham's celebrated brother, Rezin D. Shepherd, acquired the farm acreage creating a 317-acre holding on the east side of Shepherd Grade. Most of the farm buildings including the bank barn, spring house, corn crib, lime kiln, and slave cabins were improvements made by the Shepherd family, who continued to live on the farm until 1887. Under ownership of the Fayman family the tenant house and carriage house were added in 1906. C.D. Scully, mayor of Pittsburgh, purchased the property in 1916. Scully's wife, Rosalie Pendleton Scully, was a Shepherdstown native and spent her summers on the farm along with a retinue of friends and family. The Scullys added the sun porch, gardens, boxwoods and trees to the property. It was also under their ownership that extensive orchards were developed, which were managed by local orchardist Lee Goldsborough. In 1948, the farm was sold to Joseph and Elizabeth Hyman, who lived in Washington, DC. The Hymans removed the orchards and started a cattle operation. Elizabeth Hyman nominated the farm for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places under the name of Boidestone's Place in 1999. The property is now owned by John Allen, who continues to farm the land.

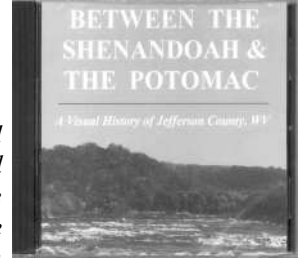


JCHS PUBLICATIONS
Free Shipping on ALL Orders!!

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>). To purchase by mail, send check payable to Jefferson County Historical Society with your name, address, telephone number, and e-mail address to: The Guardian, Attention Publications, PO Box 485, Charles Town, WV 25414.

- ***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**
- ***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 body-guard, 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 Harper's 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**
- ***1852 Maps of Jefferson County*** by Howell Brown reconstructed using multiple plates from the Library of Congress. 35"x 46" and printed on 36" 20 mil paper using archival ink. Color-\$50; B&W-\$28
- ***1883 Maps of Jefferson County*** by Howell Brown reconstructed using multiple plates from the Library of Congress. 35"x 48.5" and printed on 36" 20 mil paper using archival ink. Color-\$50; B&W-\$28



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UPCOMING EVENTS



18th Century Dinner at the Burr House
August 28, 2011 2:00 PM - 06:00 PM
Location 176 East Burr Blvd,
Kearneysville, WV 25430

Enjoy an 18th century dinner in the barn of the historic 1751 Burr House. Following period cookbooks and menus, the bill of fare will include a Salad, Roasted Chickens with Claret & Apple Sauce, Apple Pie, Potatoes, Cyslins, and a Tansy or Fool. Dessert to follow will comprise of seasonal fruits and nuts, as was customary. Please bring your own place settings. After dinner, enjoy family entertainments of period music and dancing, in which all may join in.

Donation: \$25 for adults; \$15 for kids.
Host: Reliving History organization
Contact 304.728.6233

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