



THE GUARDIAN

Newsletter of the Jefferson County WV Historical Society
October 2011 Volume IX Number 4

End-of-Year Historic Presentations Abound

West Virginia GeoExplorer Symposium October 29

On Saturday October 29 Shepherd University's Historic Preservation Program will present a symposium on the West Virginia GeoExplorer Project (www.wvgeohistory.org). The project is an innovative, geographically-based web resource for exploring the history, culture, and architecture of Jefferson County. Dr. Anne Knowles, Associate Professor of Geography at Middlebury College, will serve as keynote speaker. Dr. Knowles is the author of numerous books and articles on Geographic Information Systems (GIS), including several based on her work with the Philadelphia GeoHistory Project. She has also received numerous fellowships and major grants applying GIS to historical studies. These include a National Science Foundation Collaborative Research Grant for Holocaust and Historical GIS, as well as funding for a workshop through the Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies at the United States National Holocaust Museum on the Geographies of the Holocaust.

Other speakers will include Shepherd University professors Dr. Keith Alexander, coordinator of the historic preservation program and principal investigator for the project; Dr. Ann Legreid, dean of the College of Business and Social Science; and Dr. Julia Sandy-Bailey, Assistant Professor of History. They will be joined by Dr. William Theriault, Ms. Tori Myers, and Ms. Christine Toms.

The symposium, which will take place in the Robert C. Byrd Center for Legislative Studies, will run from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The event is made possible by a grant from the West Virginia Humanities Council, with additional support from Shepherd University's School of Business and Social Sciences and the West Virginia Association of Geospatial Professionals. It is free and open to the public.

NOTE: The fall Meeting of the Society will be held at 2p.m. November 6 at the Old Opera House, 204 N. George Street, Charles Town, WV. Following a brief business meeting, John Allen will discuss his much-anticipated new book *Uncommon Vernacular: The Early Houses of Jefferson County, West Virginia*.

On the Edge of Empire Professor Warren Hofstra, December 1

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 fourth in the 2011 Historic Speaker Series will take place on December 1. The Society, the Historic Shepherdstown Commission, and the Shepherdstown Men's Club have invited Dr. Warren Hofstra, Professor of History at Shenandoah University, to present "On the Edge of Empire, The Making of Mecklenburg, Virginia," describing the origins of present day Shepherdstown. This event also kicks off a series of historic lectures hosted by the Historic Shepherdstown Commission during 2011 and 2012 to commemorate the 250th anniversary of Shepherdstown. Notices of these lectures will be published as appropriate.



Dr. Hofstra has written extensively on the topic of early backcountry Virginia. He wrote *The Planting of New Virginia: Settlement and Landscape in the Shenandoah Valley* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2005). He also edited *The Great Valley Road of Virginia: Shenandoah Landscapes from Prehistory to the Present* (Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press, 2010).

Dr. Hofstra's presentation will begin at 7:00 p.m. in the auditorium of Robert C. Byrd Center for Legislative Affairs, 213 King Street, on the campus of Shepherd University in Shepherdstown, WV. Free parking is available next-door behind Ikenberry Hall. For additional information contact Historic Shepherdstown: info@historicshepherdstown.com or (304) 876-0910.



***The Washington and Beall Families
of Jefferson County
December 4th at Claymont Court***

The Claymont Society and the Beallair Manor Historical Group are sponsoring a program describing the history of the Washington and Beall families of Jefferson County, West Virginia. The families played a significant role in the settlement and economic and political development of Virginia and Maryland. Several of their family homes and properties still exist in Jefferson County, including Claymont Court and Beallair Manor. The program is free and open to the public and will be conducted at the Claymont mansion on December 4, 2011, from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

Walter Washington and Betsy Wells, both direct descendants of the Washingtons who first settled in Jefferson County, will make the Washington Family presentations. Mr. Washington, an attorney in Charles Town, descends from two of George Washington's brothers, Samuel and John Augustine. He is the owner of Harewood, a country estate built by Samuel Washington in 1770. Ms. Wells is descended from George Washington's brother John Augustine Washington, whose grandson, Bushrod Corbin Washington, Betsy's great, great, great grandfather, built Claymont Court. She lives in Charles Town, is an active member of the Jefferson County Historical Society, and is involved in several civic activities.

Jim Johnston will present the history of the Beall family, which arrived in Maryland in the early seventeenth century. His research resulted in an upcoming book to be published by the Fordham University Press, "From Slave Ship to Harvard." Mr. Johnston is a lawyer turned writer and lives in Washington, D.C.

For further information, contact Amy Silver, President of the Claymont Society at 304-727-4437, or Beallair representatives Anthony DiGioia at 304-728-9436, or Dennis Roth at 304-725-8730.

Several New Books on Jefferson County History

***Uncommon Vernacular: The Early Houses of
Jefferson County, West Virginia 1735-1835***
By John Allen

This much-anticipated book by local architectural historian John Allen documents his study of 250 Jefferson County houses conducted over a 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. The book is available at local bookstores and online at Amazon.com.

***Baltimore & Ohio: The Passenger Services of
America's Finest Common-Carrier Railroad,
1827-1971***

Jack Snyder, President of the Duffields Station Corporation, has written a book about the history of the Baltimore and Ohio railroad which will be published in 2012: "Baltimore and Ohio – The Passenger Trains and Services of the First American Common-Carrier Railroad, 1827-1971." It will be a comprehensive look at the justly renowned passenger trains and services of the B&O, known as the "railroad university," and will cover the origins and widely adopted innovations of the classic American passenger railroad, legendary for its hospitality and fine food. Descriptions will be given of several famous named trains like the Capital Limited, the National Limited and the Royal Limited between Washington, D.C. and Chicago, St. Louis and New York, respectively. Discussion of many of the famous B&O





stations will also be included, such as the historic Duffields Station, built in 1839 near Flowing Springs Road. Duffields is the oldest known surviving purpose-built combined freight and passenger station on the B&O. The book will be profusely illustrated in color and black and white.

A House Divided Against Itself
By Robert O'Connor

Bob O'Connor's new book, his seventh, "A House Divided Against Itself" will debut in mid-October. The book chronicles the actions of Wesley Culp, who lived in Shepherdstown, as he and his friends join the Second Virginia Infantry, CSA and are trained by Colonel Thomas J. Jackson at Bolivar Heights in early 1861. The book also follows Wesley's brother, William Culp, and Wesley's best friend, Jack Skelly, as they enlist in the Union army as part of the Second Pennsylvania Infantry. Another character of note is Wesley's girlfriend, Mary Virginia Wade, who stays behind in Gettysburg.

The book is unusual in that it is based on regimental records and over 90 letters from the participants, showing that the brothers' regiments faced each other twice: at the battle of Falling Waters in early July 1861 and then again at Second Winchester, Stephenson's Depot, in June of 1863. According to O'Connor, even though the expression "brothers fighting against brothers" was true, it was rare to find instances like this where two siblings were actually on the same field of battle on the same day; and these brothers fought against each other twice!

O'Connor credits Dr. Jim Price, historian emeritus of Shepherdstown, and Dennis Frye's regimental history of the Second Virginia Infantry as having significant impact on how the story was told.

The story is not new. Many people who are familiar with the Civil War will know the ending of the tale. What is new is how all the participants got to that ending.

The book may be purchased at Four Seasons Books in Shepherdstown, Patterson's Drug store in Martinsburg, the Charles Town Visitors Center and the Jefferson County Visitors Center in Harpers Ferry; or online at www.boboconnorbooks.com, www.amazon.com or www.buybooksontheweb.com. The new book will also be available on e-books.



"Our town is filled with widows and children..."
John Reynolds,
Mayor of Shepherdstown

On May 23, 1861 Brigadier General Joseph E. Johnston replaced Colonel Thomas J. Jackson as the commander of the garrison at Harper's Ferry, Virginia. Whereas Jackson felt strongly about defending the entrance to the Valley of Virginia, as soon as Johnston assumed control he began making a case to withdraw from Harper's Ferry. On June 14 Johnston ordered the evacuation. As a result of Johnston's decision, except for a short period of time during September 1862, the northern half of Jefferson County, Virginia would be under the influence of the Union Army for the remainder of the American Civil War.

At first glance one might assume that Jefferson's residents felt some relief when Johnston and his men marched out of "The Ferry" headed south. Beginning in late April, thousands of men eager to defend Virginia flooded into Harper's Ferry. The initial sense of security provided by their presence would eventually be measured against the logistics of providing sustenance for this ever growing throng. Local farmers with available crops and livestock quickly became acquainted with the business practices of the army's quartermaster. Converting raw recruits into an effective fighting force required lots of drilling and practice. Open ground is the best place to drill – but open ground is also the best place to farm. Drilling and marching took place in the light of day. When the sun goes down what do thousands of young men who are away from home do to occupy their time? In all probability there were at least one or two sighs of relief as the last of the troops faded away in the distance.

But any relief was quickly overshadowed by the reality of war, and the reality of war came quickly to Jefferson County. During their occupation of Harper's Ferry the southern troops had very efficiently stripped the armory buildings of their machinery. In Colonel Jackson's words, he had "...in obedience to the orders of Governor Letcher, directed the rifle-factory machinery to be removed immediately after that of the musket factory." Prophetically Lieutenant Colonel George Deas in correspondence with Colonel Robert Garnett had this to say in the event of a Union advance on Harper's Ferry, "In such a state of affairs, it would be much better to abandon the Ferry altogether, remove the machinery, destroy the buildings, blow up the bridge..." When Union General Robert Patterson began to move his forces south, General Johnston abandoned Harper's Ferry, destroyed the armory buildings, and blew up not only the bridge across the Potomac at Harper's Ferry, but also the bridge at Shepherdstown.

The events of June 1861 would prove to be a gauge for what lay ahead. Secession was just three months old and so far no shots had been fired in anger. But already



the single largest manufacturer in Jefferson County was gone forever – no more guns would be made in Harper’s Ferry. Both Potomac River bridges were gone. The reality of war came quickly to Jefferson County.

The effect of the American Civil War on civilians is often overlooked. What we usually read about and discuss is focused on Civil War soldiers, Civil War generals, and the battles they fought. Everyone has heard of Generals Lee and Grant. We know what happened to them during The War in great detail. But what about the men and women who were “non-combatants”? What about the men and women who lived in a war zone and who tried, many times futilely, to maintain some semblance of normalcy in their lives? What was their experience like? To have a complete understanding of The War we need to look at not only what happened on the battlefields, we also need to look at the experiences of the folks who remained at home. It is important to remember that those four years changed not only the lives of the men who fought. It also changed the lives of the men, women, and children who remained at home.

The experiences of the folks who called Jefferson County home during the Civil War were probably no worse or any better than any other place in The Valley. But what they saw, what they heard, and what they experienced gives us a first person account of what life was like during those four turbulent years. We are fortunate to have diaries and letters written by some of the people who lived between the Shenandoah and Potomac which chronicle the events that occurred when the Blue and Gray armies forded the rivers on one mission or another. Their observations afford us a firsthand view of what civilian life was like in Jefferson County during America’s Civil War.

Jefferson County’s first Fourth of July out of the Union marked the occurrence of one of the earliest civilian casualties. Joseph Barry in his book *Strange Stories of Harper’s Ferry* gives a detailed account of the tragedy. What follows is an excerpt from Barry’s book:

“On the 4th of July a lively skirmish took place between Capt. John Henderson’s company of confederate cavalry and a part of the 9th New York regiment of militia, which a few days before had occupied Sandy Hook in Maryland ...the federal soldiers being on the Maryland side and the confederates on the Virginia shore of the river... comparatively little damage was done. Two men were killed on the Maryland bank and at least one wounded on the Virginia side.

In the evening when the fight was over a sad occurrence took place whereby the community lost one of its very best citizens. When the confederates had retired Mr. F. A. Roeder walked towards the railroad office and, while he was sauntering about,

a shot was fired from the Maryland side of the Potomac, which inflicted a mortal wound on him, of which he died in half an hour. The shot missed the object at which it was directed and, striking the end of Fouke’s Hotel, it glanced and hit Mr. Roeder, who, unfortunately, happened to be coming ‘round the corner of that building. The bullet tore a ghastly hole in his groin through which his intestines protruded. He managed to reach his home unassisted – for there was scarcely an able-bodied man then at the place – when death soon released him from his suffering. Little did the slayer know and little, perhaps, would he care if he knew –that his bullet proved fatal to one of the first men in the State of Virginia who dared express sympathy with the Republican party. It is singular that the first man killed by John Brown’s party was a Negro and that the first who lost his life at Harper’s Ferry at the hands of the union army was a warm friend to the government and one who would have sacrificed, if necessary, all the property he possessed to preserve the union of the states.”

What made Mr. Roeder’s death even more tragic was the fact that in March 1861 his wife had died leaving in his care their seven children.

General Robert Patterson commanded the Union troops in The Valley. When the Confederates left Harper’s Ferry in June 1861, Patterson’s job was to track their movement and keep them west of the Blue Ridge. Patterson failed in the latter and Johnston’s troops provided the impetus to win the day for the Confederates on the battlefield at Manassas in July 1861. For this shortcoming, Patterson was removed from his position.

Henrietta Bedinger Lee lived with her family just southeast of Shepherdstown. Her father was Daniel Bedinger, a Veteran of the American Revolution who had built Bedford their home. Her husband Edmund Jennings Gray, II was a first cousin of General Lee. Her son Edwin Gray had fought with the 33rd Virginia Regiment at Manassas. Although the Bedingers and Lees were no strangers to war, this was the first time that war was so close to home.

Upon learning that General Patterson had been dismissed, Henrietta wrote to her sister-in-law Caroline Bedinger with this to say:

“They [Union troops] have been robbing and depredating [sic] in Charlestown, since Gen. Patterson was both a gentleman and a true soldier, and punished severely – perhaps for this he was replaced. Now is the time of our peril. May God interpose the strong arm of his power and hold them in check.”

The War is just three months old and there is “robbing and depredating [sic]” in Charles Town.



Keep in mind that on the issue of Union or secession, Jefferson County was solidly in the Union column. But on April 17, 1861 that changed for many Virginians including those who lived in Jefferson County. By an overwhelming vote Jefferson had sent two pro-Union men to the Virginia Secession convention. But on May 23, when a referendum was held to affirm the Virginia Convention's decision to secede, the men of Jefferson voted to secede by a vote of 813 to 365.

Writing to her friend Fanny Griggs, Adeline Osburn clearly illustrates how some Virginians made the transition from Union to Confederacy:

“May the gracious Lord – be with all those brave spirits who have come up to the rescue of their own loved land crying out against the invader’s wrongs.

Yes, this is our position now, whatever may have been the differences of opinion in relation to the policy that led to this most unhappy war – union of sympathy and actions must characterize those whose interests are the same.

The fate of Virginia, our own loved state, must be ours-. The invader and oppressor must be driven from our soil – but O the hearts that must be wrung with agony! The houses rendered desolate – the dark pall that must hang over the land – the dismal cloud that yet reveals not even a dim gleam of the silver lining!!!”

Following the fate of Virginia is a common theme. Logan Osburn had been sent to Richmond by the men of Jefferson County to vote for remaining in the Union. In September 1861 as he prepared to return to Richmond, Osburn had this letter to the editor printed in the Virginia Free Press:

“When I was a candidate for a seat in the Convention, I denied, (in a card which I published,) the constitutional right of a state to secede from the Union; and regarded a resort to secession as a dangerous exercise of a very doubtful power, that could only be justified after every constitutional means had been exhausted, and failed. In conformity to those opinions, I have earnestly, (and perhaps obstinately,) opposed the secession of Virginia.

I voted against its rationality by the people. I regarded it as mischievous in its tendency, and destructive in its consequences, to all our best interests socially, politically, and commercially. My opposition was honestly entertained and frankly expressed. But my opinions have been overruled by a large majority of the freemen of my State. I therefore bow (from a sense of patriotic and public duty) in humble submission to their will, and acquiesce in their decision – my lot has

been cast. I am a son of Virginia, and her destiny shall be mine. I will return to the Convention to aid in faithfully carrying out the provisions of the Ordinance, and to co-operate in all measures calculated, in my opinion, to bring our present difficulties to a successful termination.”

“I regarded it as mischievous in its tendency, and destructive in its consequences, to all our best interests socially, politically, and commercially.” How prophetic were Osburn’s words written in the fall of 1861 when The War was just five months old.

The last event occurred as 1861 came to a close. In October, several companies of the Twelfth Regiment of Indiana Volunteers commanded by Colonel W. H. Link were picketed along the Maryland shore of the Potomac River. Their purpose was to observe the fords and act as a first line of defense in the event the southern army moved north. One of these companies was bivouacked just across the Potomac from Shepherdstown along the rolling hillside above Bridgeport. On December 30 Colonel Link sent the following dispatch to Shepherdstown’s Mayor John Reynolds:

“Sir:

This is to notify you that if the firing upon the pickets from Shepherdstown is not desisted in I shall be under the necessity of shelling your town. I shall deplore resorting to so severe a measure on account of the women and children that may be injured or driven out, but I am satisfied that yourself and the citizens can prevent it if you wish. Be assured that I will do just what I say and if any of my men are killed or injured by those skulkers firing upon them I shall take ample vengeance.

The Mayor’s response was quick. Reynolds called an emergency meeting of the Town Council and they addressed Link’s warning. Among other things the Council agreed to “earnestly punish” anyone who fired a weapon within town limits. In Council’s opinion, the perpetrators may have been spurred on by “Dutch courage” and they consequently moved to “arrest the sale or distribution of intoxicating liquors.” The final words of Reynolds’ reply serve as a fitting summary of 1861:

“In addition to the above, I beg leave to add that with exception of that past, referring to the sale of intoxicating liquors, similar proceedings were had several weeks ago and to the best of my knowledge and belief every instance of firing since then has been by some intoxicated person from a distance without the knowledge and against the solemn protest of the inhabitants.

Such was the party who fired on Wednesday



night last who has been detected and will be brought to trial.

Our town is filled with widows and children, most of them poor, and the entire population are non-combatants.

If under these circumstances and in spite of our pledges and utmost vigilance some reckless or malignant person shall elude our vigilance and select this place from which to fire across the river, and from my knowledge of the people, civil and military, I can give assurance in advance that no other will. We solemnly protest in the name of humanity and before the world against vengeance being wreaked upon the innocent, the unprotected, and the unoffending.”

It is December 1861. The War is now eight months old. The federal armory at Harper’s Ferry is shuttered. Both Potomac River bridges have been destroyed. There is “depredating [sic] in Charlestown.” The Mayor of Shepherdstown is pleading with federal troops not to shell his town which in his words “is filled with widows and children, most of them poor.” The War had come to Jefferson County.

Historic Shepherdstown Commission Elects New President

Ms. Vicki Smith was recently elected President of the Historic Shepherdstown Commission (HSC), replacing former President John Griffith. Ms. Smith has served as curator of the Shepherdstown Museum for several years and has indicated a desire to upgrade several exhibits at the museum as well

If you haven't visited the Museum since it was remodeled now is the time. The Museum is open on weekends through October and during Christmas in Shepherdstown--the weekends of November 25-26 and December 3-4. Hours are: Saturdays, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sundays 1 to 4 p.m.

The HSC currently has openings for the reception room rental and some office rental spaces available. Please call Cheryl Gregory for more information at 304-876-0910.

Christmas Tour of Charles Town Homes December 10

Mark your calendar for Saturday, December 10th. The Second Annual Christmas Home Tour in Charles Town West Virginia will feature six historic district homes in festive Christmas finery. Our Christmas Marketplace will again be located in the lower level of the Old Charles Town Library and will feature hand-crafted gift and food items as well as fresh greenery and

wreaths. There will be Courthouse tours Saturday afternoon, ghost tours Saturday evening, and a talk on Washington Family History Sunday afternoon.

Hours for the tour are 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. The market will be open from 10 am. to 5 pm. Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$2 for children and they may be purchased at the market or in advance by calling (304) 724-8871. This event is sponsored by local garden clubs and will support their community projects.

PAWV Assists in Identifying Important Historical Cultural, Agricultural, and Natural Resources in Jefferson County

The Preservation Alliance of West Virginia was recently awarded a Henry A. Jordan, M.D. Preservation Excellence Grant earlier this year to support work with the Jefferson County Historic Landmarks Commission and the Jefferson County Farmland Protection Board in identifying important historic resources in the county.

The Jordan Grant is being used to map the category I and II historic structures (those structures listed or eligible for listing on the National Register) in the county, the existing farmland protection easements in the county, and the areas within the county that contain prime agricultural soils. Properties are then weighted as to their importance, with the highest rank given to those which contain a historic structure, a large proportion of prime soil, and proximity to an existing easement. Properties with a historic structure and large amount of prime soil but are not adjacent to an existing easement are given second highest rank along with any areas along gateway roads leading into the county that contain large amounts of prime soil and/or a historic structure.

The goals of this project are to facilitate collaboration between the Landmarks Commission and the Farmland Protection Board in identifying important resource criteria; to raise the awareness of other county agencies about the important historic, agricultural, and natural resources available in the county; and to encourage support for the preservation/protection for these areas together with the landscapes, view-sheds, and historic resources.

PAWV, with the assistance of the County Geographic Information System (GIS) Department, has mapped all the criteria important to the project. The weight system has been applied to a draft map which has been reviewed by both the Farmland Protection Board and the Landmarks Commission. PAWV hopes to produce the final map by December, and in January, working with the Landmarks Commission, approach local landowners identified as having important resources and inform them about the benefits of preserving their land.

The Museum Corner
After More than 50 Years, a Reunion
By Curator Jane Rissler



In August, an email message from Rosemary Backus Coskey triggered a series of fascinating conversations culminating in a reunion, at least a metaphorical one, of three women: Sara Coe, Helen Martin, and Elsie Murphy, who served together in 1958 on the first board of directors of the Old Charles Town Library.

In the 1960s and 1970s, Ms. Coskey's parents, Howard and Valita Backus, lived in the county and attended many estate sales in the area. One of their purchases, now owned by their daughter, was a work table. In the table they discovered two travel diaries and

several letters presumably written by a woman from Charles Town. The travel diaries provide details of two trips abroad in 1907 and 1910. In her initial email, Ms. Coskey was seeking information to help identify the writer, whose name did not appear in the letters and diaries.

To make a long story short, we put together clues from the diaries and letters; Ms. Coskey's recollection of the auction's location; conversations with Libba Wysong and Rosa Hankey Hall, who have incredible memories of generations of Charles Town residents; and Edge Hill Cemetery tombstone inscriptions. From these sources, we determined that the author was Sallie Travers Coe and that the table containing the diaries and letters had been purchased at the estate sale of her daughter, Sara Coe, who died in 1966.

Ms. Coskey's ultimate purpose in contacting us was to return the worktable, diaries, and letters to their home in Charles Town. She generously donated those items, shown in the photo, to the museum. According to an appraiser, the mahogany worktable was made ca. 1848 by a Baltimore cabinetmaker, O.P. Merryman, in the Gothic Revival style popular at the time.

But the story was not over. Ms. Coskey, her interest piqued in the Charles Town Library, went to its website where she saw that the original library, founded in 1928 by Elsie Murphy, had been named the Helena Platt Murphy Memorial Library in honor of the founder's mother. Seeing the Platt name intrigued her as her parents had purchased a watercolor signed by M.A. Platt at Helen Martin's estate sale in Charles Town in 1968. She was thrilled at the possible connection between the two Platts. Indeed, with a little more digging, we found a connection: M.A. Platt was Martha A. Platt, Boston artist and elder sister of Helena Platt Murphy. We suspect that Elsie Murphy may have given one of her aunt's watercolors to Helen Martin. So far, we know little about Helen Martin except that she came to Charles Town somewhat late in life and shared a house with a widow on George Street.

As with the Coe items, Ms. Coskey donated the watercolor and two books purchased at Helen Martin's sale to the museum, shown in the accompanying photograph. The painting shows a big sky with billowy clouds above a stone-arched bridge and a streamside cluster of four buildings and four rowboats. The gold-embossed, leather-bound books are a 1925 English translation of Benvenuto Cellini's autobiography and *La Russie des Tsars Pendant la Grande Guerre* by Maurice Paléologue (1922).

Through Rosemary Coskey's unusual generosity, Sara Coe, Helen Martin and Elsie Murphy are, in a way, reunited in the building they helped to plan over 50 years ago.

Shepherdstown's Entler-Weltzheimer House — THEN AND NOW



THEN A 1930's painting of houses on High Street
The Entler-Weltzheimer house is on the far left.
(Courtesy of Betty Lowe, daughter of the artist)



THEN—about 1970



NOW: House in May 2011

The Entler-Weltzheimer house, located in Shepherdstown just northwest of the intersection of High and Princess Streets, is a log house built to Thomas Shepherd's specifications in the late 18th or early 19th century. According to the August 1927 Shepherdstown Register, the house was acquired by Katherine Weltzheimer in 1815. It was later occupied for many years by Daniel Morgan Entler, who owned and managed the Entler Hotel just up the street in the 1800's. The last vestige of several similar houses that existed along High Street, it was purchased and renovated by Shepherd College in 1927. Over the years it served many purposes beyond its original use as a home. For example, Betty Lowe and her sorority sisters held their organization's meetings in it during the 1940's. Clad now in wood siding with the windows boarded up, it contains materials hazardous to human health and is suffering the ravages of time: peeling paint, a deteriorating foundation, broken and missing siding, and an aged corrugated metal roof.

However, this summer Shepherd University applied for and received a grant from the WV State Historic Preservation Office to begin to address several of the major deficiencies, including foundation repairs and restoration of the roof to its original design and material type. Hopefully over the next few years the house can be completely restored and perhaps provide an opportunity for the public to experience a style of home characteristic of early Shepherdstown.

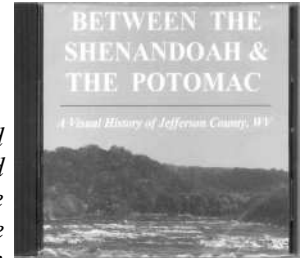


JCHS PUBLICATIONS
Free Shipping on ALL Orders!!

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**
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