

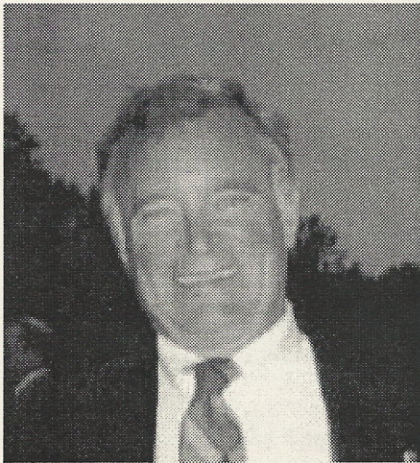
# THE GUARDIAN

Volume I, Issue 1

August 2003

Newsletter of the Jefferson County Historical Society  
*Safekeeper of Jefferson County History*

## Note from the President



Bill Drennen, President  
Jefferson County Historical Society

Dear Members:

Welcome to the inaugural issue of The JCHS Guardian. Your board of directors is looking for new and different ways to serve the needs of our membership, and of Jefferson County historians and citizens.

What would you add to the list?

Our goal is to have everyone in the county excited about contributing to the preservation of our history.

The Jefferson County Historical Society, founded in 1927, has, through the presti-

gious journal and thanks to the arduous efforts over twenty years of Dr. John Stealey to publish well-documented historical information about the most venerable county in the State, developed a reputation for excellence in scholarship.

With this new publication, we will be including, as a benefit of membership, more attempts at light history and just good stories through the JCHS Guardian.

Please read this and pass it along to friends. If you have friends who are not members of the society, you might point out to them the application form on page three. Send news, articles, and stories for inclusion. With a little luck and a lot of hard work by Wendy Kedzierski as editor of The JCHS Guardian, it will serve as an enjoyable read for members and prospective members of the society.

We also solicit most especially historical articles about any subject of interest to the county for publication in the journal. Dr. Stealey has agreed for one more year to edit this journal, so this may be the last time to publish under his distinguished editorship.

We need your submissions by September, but conversations with Dr. Stealey before the deadline are advised.

Welcome! Hope to see you at future functions of the Jefferson County Historical Society.

Historically yours,  
Bill Drennen

## About Bill Drennen

William M. Drennen, Jr. has been a filmmaker, businessman, bureaucrat and teacher.

He started as a hitch-hiker moving through the south while attending Prep school in Alexandria, Virginia; the north while studying architecture at Yale; the West while training for Vietnam; and the East – Honk Kong, Bangkok, Saigon and the Mekong Delta – for the U.S. Navy.

After three years of active duty, he bummed around Europe and Canada before deciding that film was his future. In his first year as a mature, non-hitch-hiker, he found work with a production company in Washington DC, producing several audio visual shows for the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare Disability Conference in June of 1969.

He also co-invented “The Film-o-graphic” to convert slide shows to motion pictures. He and his partner then formed Communication Corps, Inc., where he served as producer, director, editor, or cameraman on over 100 films in the next nine years.

In 1978 he returned to Charleston, West Virginia to the family home. There he worked in coal, oil and gas, real estate, and community projects, developed an audio-visual consulting business, founded the West Virginia Youth Soccer League, the West Virginia International Film Festival, and served eight years as State Historic Preservation Officer and Commissioner of the West Virginia Division of Culture and History. He then taught American History at the historically black West Virginia State College in Institute, West Virginia.

He is the author of *Red, White, Black and Blue*, a memoir about racial integration to be published by Ohio University Press in 2003, and *One Kanawha Valley Bank, A History*.

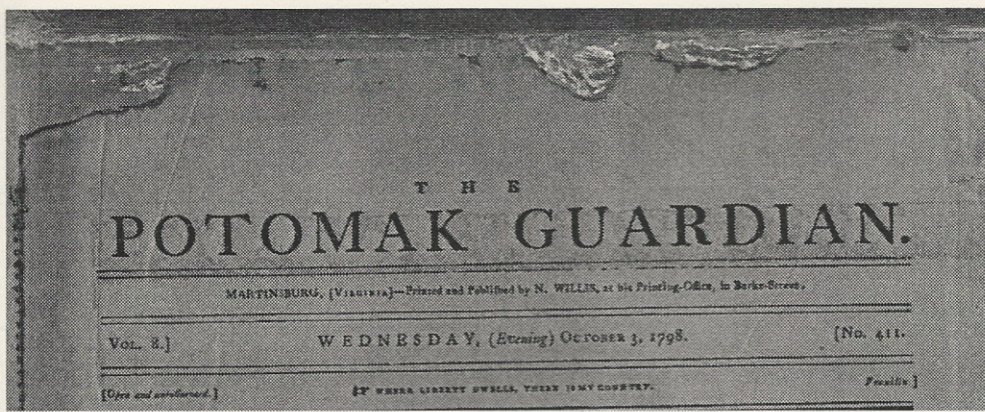
He now lives in Shepherdstown with his wife, Sarah; his sons, Zachary and Samuel are grown and gone. He continues writing and volunteering and sells Real Estate with Greg Didden Associates.



**Know some old news?  
We want to know, too!**

Send your historic article ideas to  
Wendy Kedzierski  
P.O. Box 1250, Charles Town, WV 25414.

Or e-mail [wendyked@juno.com](mailto:wendyked@juno.com)



## Why “The Guardian?”

“Soon after the Revolution, West Virginia began establishing its own newspapers. Nathaniel Willis started our first printing press in Shepherdstown in 1790. The first newspaper in the state was printed there the same year. It was the Potowmac Guardian and Berkeley Advertiser. One year later the newspaper was moved to Martinsburg. For a short time it was printed with the same name but later became the Potowmac Guardian.”

— *Information from Conley Phil and Boyd B. Stutler, West Virginia Yesterday and Today, Third Edition, 1952, Education Foundation, Inc., Charleston, W.Va.*

## JCHS Members of the Board

Carmen Creamer  
 Bill Drennen  
 James Gibson  
 James Glymph  
 Jim Holland  
 Jack Huyett  
 Wendy Kedzierski  
 Betty Lowe  
 George Marshall  
 Jeral Milton  
 Garland Moore  
 David Sanders  
 John Stealey  
 Hugh Voress  
 Walter Washington  
 Elizabeth Wells

## Who are these people?

Board bios that won't leave you bored ...  
*Get to know your some of your board members.  
 More to come in the next issue of The Guardian!*

**Elizabeth (Betty) Snyder Lowe** has been a life-long resident of Shepherdstown. Her professional life is a balance of roles as mother, teacher and business woman. She has been committed to making a positive contribution to the civic, social, educational and religious life of the community.

Betty has published three family genealogies and written articles in the Jefferson County Historical Society magazine over the past years. For these accomplishments she was awarded a “History Hero” for the state of West Virginia in 2003.

Betty is a member of the Pack Horse Ford Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution and Chapter 128 of the United Daughters of the Confederacy. In addition to serving on the Board of the Jefferson County

Historical Society, she also serves on the Elmwood Cemetery Board and the Shepherd College Alumni Board.

**Dr. James Gregg Gibson**, a 9th generation native of Jefferson County, is the son of Urath C. Gibson (herself a former board member) and the late Newton M. Gibson. Jim was born in Charles Town, attended primary and secondary school at Harpers Ferry and graduated from The Mercersburg Academy, Mercersburg, PA and WVU School of Dentistry.

He is married to Barbara Phillips Gibson and has maintained a solo Restorative and Esthetic Dental Practice in Martinsburg for 32 years, Barbara working as the practice and business manager.

The Gibsons have restored and placed on the National Register of Historical Places a 5 unit section of Baltimore Row in Berkeley County and the Allstadt House and Ordinary in Jefferson County.

Jim served as Chairman of the committee that produced the Jefferson County Historical Society’s video - “The Land Between the Rivers” released in 2001.

Jim’s hobbies include travel, historical restorations, piloting a small aircraft, and English sports cars.

Jim and Barbara live at Needwood Farm (a 6th generation family farm) on Shepherdstown Pike (Route 230) and have 3 grown children, Heather, Andrew, and J.T.; all having followed in the father’s footsteps and pursued careers as dentists.

**Wendy Kedzierski** has lived in Jefferson County for the past 11 years and is the mother of two young daughters. She is publisher and editor of *Child Guide*, a regional parenting magazine distributed throughout the I-81 Corridor from Winchester through Hagerstown. She began her career as an English teacher before becoming a news and features writer for a daily newspaper and later a freelance writer and editor. She has won awards from the West Virginia Press Association and Parenting Publications of America and has had articles distributed by The Associated Press. She also has been a publicist for the Shenandoah-Potomac House and Garden Tour for the past several years. Wendy is a resident of Charles Town.

**Walter Washington** grew up in Washington, D.C., but spent much of his childhood in Charles Town, either at his grandmother's house on South Mildred Street or at Harewood, the family's ancestral home. His parents began restoring Harewood in 1951. Washington recalls, "While they did all the hard work on the house, I spent most of my time with the Tharpe brothers, who rented the farm, riding on tractors and hay wagons and helping round up the cows for milking."

Washington graduated from Carleton College in 1971 with a degree in English literature. He spent the summer after his graduation working for Randolph Huyett at Smith's Fruit Stand on Rte. 340, where he learned how to "thin peaches, hoe vegetables and keep a sickle sharp."

He began law school at American University the next year, and spent the summers of 1973 and 1974 clerking for the firm of Avey, Steptoe, Perry and VanMetre in Charles Town. During the summer of 1973, Washington helped with the Historical Society/Landmarks Commission architectural survey of historic homes in the county.

After law school Washington worked briefly on Capitol Hill for U.S. Sen. James Abourezk of South Dakota, and then for Community Law Offices, a store front legal clinic. He spent the next five years in Pierre, South Dakota as an attorney for the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission, then moved to Austin, Texas, where he spent three years with the Office of Public Utility Counsel, the state con-

sumer advocate's office.

He returned to Charles Town in 1987 and spent three years with the Steptoe and Perry law firm, but moved back to Austin in 1991 to resume work with the Public Counsel's office.

In July, 2002, Washington moved back to Charles Town, "hopefully for good."

**Betsy Wells'** ties to Jefferson County go way back. Her great, great, great, great grandfather, Bushrod Corbin Washington built Claymont Court. Her mother Anne Alexander Jenkins grew up in Charles Town. Betsy grew up in McLean, Virginia. She lived in Rochester, NY, Central Florida and Northern Virginia before moving into her parents' house in Charles Town in 1996. She has been involved in community activities such as Christmas in Historic Charles Town, Charles Town Founder's Day, the Annual House and Garden Tour and the Horticultural Forum. She is a member of the Charles Town Historic Landmarks Commission and the Dolley Madison Garden Club. She is a Realtor with Long & Foster Real Estate in Charles Town.

**Carmen Weber Creamer**

Carmen Creamer has a B.A. and M.A. in Anthropology from Ohio State University, as well as graduate work in the field of historical archaeology at the College of William and Mary. She worked as a professional archaeologist from 1979 to 1996, completing more than 30 reports on surveys in the states of California, Maryland, New Jersey, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia and West Virginia. After working in the city archaeology office of Baltimore between 1983 to 1986, she served as the city archaeologist of Philadelphia from 1986 until 1990 for the Philadelphia Historical Commission. She and her husband John moved to Jefferson County in 1994 to raise their son Philip at Locust Grove, the farm where John Creamer grew up. Carmen Creamer is employed at the Jefferson County Museum, where she greets museum visitors, conducts genealogical research and helps maintain the museum collection.

*See the next edition of The Guardian for more Board bios.*

# Jefferson County Historical Society



*Looking to the Future...  
Preserving the Past*

Please join us in perpetuating  
Jefferson County's  
Monumental Heritage.

**Would you or someone  
you know like to join the  
Jefferson County  
Historical Society?**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Annual Membership (\$10)

\_\_\_\_\_ Life Membership (\$100)

*Annual dues can be sent after Jan.  
1st each fiscal year to:*

Membership Secretary  
Jefferson County Historical Society  
P.O. Box 485, Charles Town, WV 25414

Jefferson Co. Historical Society  
P.O. Box 485  
Charles Town, WV 25414

Check out the first edition of  
**THE GUARDIAN**  
Newsletter of the Jefferson County  
Historical Society