

THE GUARDIAN

Volume II, Issue 1

August 2004

Newsletter of the Jefferson County Historical Society
Safekeepers of Jefferson County History

From the President

Dear Society Members,

First of all, let me apologize for the lateness of the journal and newsletter. The journal is on its way!

The next thing I guess we need to do is introduce the new Board of Directors and Officers elected at the Spring meeting. *(Please see box, right.)*

The spring meeting was held April 10 at Wright Denny School in Charles Town with the help of Rich Karpinski and The American Public University. Thank you all who came to hear Dr. Barbara Rassmussen, Professor of History at WVU, praise the historic architecture of Charles Town and talk about its importance and place in the history of American Building.

Next, we want to honor John Stealey for his twenty-something years of service both as President of the Society and as Editor of the Journal. John, although everything else seems to want to go down, you will always come up in History as the guiding force of the Jefferson County Historical Society for the 80's and the 90's. There is no way we can ever thank you enough for your perseverance and patience.

We have several members to thank for their generous contributions to the society recently. Number One is Patricia F. Rissler, who made a generous stock donation. We would also like to thank Millicent Quimby for her financial contribution. We remind members that while the Society appreciates your financial support, we also accept donations of documents and objects. So think of us the next time you clean out your attic!

As president of the Society, I am interested in creating long range planning for historic preservation. I propose

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that two groups be formed from interested people to:

1. Create an Association of Historic (Washington) Homes Owners in Jefferson County. The group could pool information, resources, publicity, and technical information and grant-writing to make history work for us here and now. This idea was floated before a group of people at Harewood last November thanks to Jim Surkamp and Tony Lorber, but needs some organizational expertise.

2. Create a “Visitors to Jefferson County” coin that can be given out when the various historic Homes open themselves for visitors – a day such as “Washington Homes Day.”

Thanks also go to JC Pash, who carried the water for so long in the battle to save the Jefferson County Jail. We all know that Carol Gallant and her heroic band of preservation-minded compatriots spent undo time and money educating the County Commission

Please turn to page 2.



The Jefferson County Historical Society recently donated a computer for use in the Perry Room at the Old Charles Town Library. Board Members pictured include, from left to right: Carmen Creamer, Jim Glymph, Doug Perks, Betsy Wells.

Board of Directors

Terms ending in 2007

James Taylor and Doug Perks

Officers

President - Bill Drennen

Vice President - Jim Gibson

Recording Secretary - Carmen Creamer

Treasurer - George Marshall

Guardian Editor - Carmen Creamer

Guardian Layout/Design - Wendy Kedzierski

Journal Editor - Marie Tyler-McGraw

Journal Assistant Editor - Bill Theriault

Committee Chairs

Historic Preservation - Walter Washington

Education - Doug Perks

Program - Betsy Wells

Membership - Hugh Voress

Archives - Jim Glymph

Communications - Wendy Kedzierski

about the need to keep our history alive and let it help us grow a quality of life in Charles Town the rest of the world will want to emulate. Other counties will come to us for instruction about how to get the most out of your history. So it is

not just for the love of history, but for the benefits of our history that we love working to preserve and interpret it for each new age. But thanks to Carol especially for her hours and hours of work.

Historically yours,
Bill Drennen, President

Jefferson County Historic Landmarks Commission

The Jefferson County Landmarks Commission, under the leadership of Walter Washington, is completing plans for the county wide historic resources survey, scheduled to begin this fall. Thanks to the County Commissioners, Jefferson County Historical Society and West Virginia Division of Culture and History, the funding has been put in place to begin the survey process. The Commission estimates that the survey will take between 5 to 10 years to complete.

The survey will begin in the Kabletown District, defined as the area south of Route 9 and east of Route 340, to the Shenandoah River. Landmarks Commissioners John Allen and Carmen Creamer are coordinating the survey for the Commission. It is our hope that volunteers from the Jefferson County Historical Society will aid in the identification of historic buildings, defined by the Division of Culture and History as buildings 40 or more years old. To ensure that the survey is as complete as possible, we are asking people to let us know about buildings that may be "off

the beaten path", including barns and other structures. If you have information pertinent to the survey, please contact Carmen Creamer at 725-7770 or carmencreamerc@yahoo.com.

The Landmarks Commission is also setting up "Friends" groups to help with managing their properties. If you are interested in belonging to the "Friends of Peter Burr" or "Friends of Shannondale Springs", please call or e-mail Carmen Creamer at the contact information listed above.

Jefferson County Historic Landmarks Commissioners

Walter Washington, Chair
Kip Stowell
Don Amoroso
John Allen
Carmen Creamer
Rusty Morgan, County Commissioner

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)

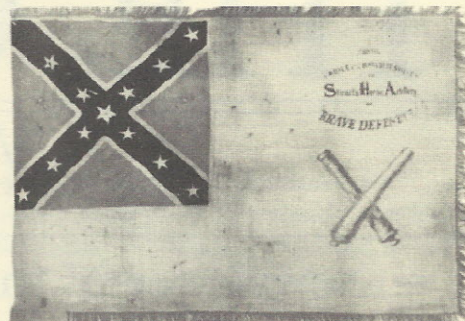
_____ Life Membership (\$100)

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 County Museum

Funds sought for Chew Flag restoration



On February 29, 1864, the JEB Stuart Horse Artillery saved the city of Charlottesville from Federal cavalry under the command of George A. Custer. Battery commander Major Roger Preston Chew, of Jefferson County, participated in the battle. The ladies of Charlottesville, in gratitude, presented the Artillery with a Second National pattern Confederate flag. Chew, later promoted to Lieutenant Colonel, became the last commander of the Artillery.

The flag was carried in battle until Chew and a number of the Horse Artillery surrendered at Durham's Station, N.C. on April 26, 1865. The flag bearer, Nimrod Ware of Jefferson County, saved the flag from capture. When Ware died in Nagasaki, Japan sometime after March 1881, the flag was found in his personal effects. It eventually got back to Colonel Chew. He took it to a Confederate reunion and later had it framed sometime after 1891. After Colonel Chew's death, the flag was displayed in the Winchester, Virginia museum. Miss Margaret Chew, the Colonel's daughter, wanted the flag to be brought back to Jefferson County. Roger Perry, along with others, negotiated the return of the flag. The magnificent flag is now in the Jefferson County Museum and is still exactly as Colonel Chew mounted it.

The flag has holes that appear to be battle damage and other holes that are just old age; there are also old repairs. Mrs. Susan Collins, museum curator, noticed while cleaning the frame that the canton of the flag seemed to have some new separation of the material. The report of this damage generated a plan to have the flag conserved. Three experts were contacted for proposals. One conservator has seen the flag and thinks the damage might not be serious. She thinks the separation is old damage caused from being hung on a staff during and after the war. There is also some old insect damage. After restoration, the flag will be remounted in a modern, protective shadow box. The Victorian gilt frame used by Colonel Chew will still be part of the display. Fans of the flag, and there are quite a number, should not be disappointed because the work will be done during the winter months when the museum is closed.

The cost of restoration, cleaning and remounting will be approximately \$7,000-8,000. The project will be financed entirely with donations. Donations may be sent to Jefferson County Museum, 200 East Washington Street, Charles Town, WV 25414. Checks should be made payable to the Museum with a "Chew Flag" notation.

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JC PASH

Carol Gallant, President of JC PASH, reports that the major goal of their organization was met when the public meeting regarding the jail was held on June 9th. The meeting was attended by representatives from the State Historic Preservation Office (Division of Culture and History), from the architectural firm of Dasa Architects (hired by the county to do an historic study of the building) and about 40 individuals from the public. Approximately 12 people spoke about the jail; all but one were in favor of saving the jail. Dasa Architects, specifically Don Swofford, is currently finishing their report for the county. It is anticipated that the county plan for demolition of the jail will be deemed as having an "adverse effect" on the Downtown Charles Town Historic District.

Carol Gallant also reported that Representative John Doyle continues to work on getting new state historic preservation legislation passed. Some of you may remember that the original State Historic Preservation law was struck down by the State Legislature several years ago. Individuals interested in seeing new state historic preservation legislation are urged to contact John Doyle.

JC PASH Board Members

Carol Gallant, President
Paula Dennis, Vice President
Doug Estep
Tom Trumble
Jim Whipple

OTHER NEWS...

Jefferson County Commissioners look to increase office space in downtown Charles Town

At a recent public meeting, the Jefferson County Commissioners discussed their need for additional office space. Last year they hired a consultant to study the county government's need for office space. By projecting the figures provided by the consultant they have determined they will need 145,000 square feet of office space by the year 2025.

The Sheriff's Office and the county's Parks and Recreation Department will be moving out of Charles Town and the county has taken an option to buy the offices located at the corner of Liberty and Samuel Streets.

They are looking at four options to solve the need for more space, with the first being to move the county

offices out of Charles Town to a new location in the county. Two other options involve the demolition of the jail and/or 104, 108-112, 114 and 116 E. Washington Street (all the buildings facing Washington Street except the Courthouse, Hunter House, and the small building behind Hunter House) to make room for a new office building.

They also are considering an alternative where all the buildings are left standing, except the offices on Liberty and Samuel Streets. A consulting firm will be hired to study the buildings at 104, 108-112, 114 and 116 E. Washington Street. All of these buildings, with the exception of 116, are contributing buildings in the Downtown Charles Town Historic District.

*Jefferson County Historical Society
Organized May 21, 1927*

PUBLICATIONS

One copy of *The Magazine of the Jefferson County Historical Society* is mailed to each person holding a **PAID** membership. *Unfortunately, those members who are delinquent in their dues will not receive a copy of this publication. Please make sure that your dues have been paid and that the society has your current 911 address.* Until the publication of next year's magazine, members may purchase additional copies for \$6 each; order these from The Society, Box 485, Charles Town, WV 25414. Original volumes or facsimile reproductions are available to all persons at \$7 per magazine.

The Society also has copies of several of its publications available:

The Washington Homes of Jefferson County. \$10 mailed.

Michael D. Thompson, *Calendar and Index to Recorded Plats in Jefferson County, West Virginia (Virginia) Courthouse, 1801-1901.* \$25 mailed.

Between the Shenandoah and Potomac: Historic Homes of Jefferson County, West Virginia. \$45 mailed.

Burials in Jefferson County, West Virginia, 1978-97. \$18 mailed.

The videotape, *Between the Shenandoah and Potomac*, is also available for \$25 mailed.

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

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