

THE GUARDIAN

Volume II, Issue 2

October 2004

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

From the President

The Jefferson County Historical Society and the Grand Consortium

The current state of political affairs makes me a bit leery of "Grand Plans." What I had hoped to do as President for the Jefferson County Historical Society was to make the Society a central cog in a multi-county cultural organization that would swing its weight in local, state, and federal bureaucracies to bring more grant money and tourism attention to our humble panhandle. This Consortium would be comprised of historical societies, landmarks commissions, arts organizations, land use and farm conservancy organizers, and would pool together information and funding that could be used in achieving a goal of "Graceful Growth."

On October 9th the society will participate with Historic Shepherdstown, JCPash, the Jefferson County Landmarks Commission, and the Eastern Panhandle and Potomac Watershed Land Trusts in a symposium to hear problems and solutions to historic preservation needs in a growing population. This symposium will be held in the early afternoon after the morning presentation by Carol Shull, Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places. This is an honorable approach to bringing sensible ideas to sensitive issues. We hope many of you who live in the historic ambiance of our county will benefit from the offerings of the participants.

In the end, though, the role of the Jefferson County Historical Society is not to be all things to all people, but to

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be the foundation for historic research and publication for our county and this area of our state. Consequently we intend to develop a handbook out of the symposium to help people understand their rights and obligations regarding historic properties, and to show them how to access the resources that can help them accomplish their piece of "Graceful Growth for Jefferson County."

We will also be updating our by-laws, which you will be able to see on our new web site after our next board meeting. If you would like a paper copy, come to the society's fall meeting, scheduled for November 6th, 2004 at the Wright Denny Auditorium at 10:00 am. If you cannot come to the meeting and would like a copy of the by-laws revision, drop us a note at the Society's mailbox, PO Box 485, Charles Town 25414, and we will send you one.

Historically yours,
Bill Drennen
President, Jefferson County
Historical Society



The Halltown Union Colored Sunday School, also known as the Halltown Memorial Chapter, was placed on the National Register of Historic Places on Jan. 12, 1984.

‘But ... it’s on the Historic List!’

By Carmen W. Creamer
Board Member
Jefferson County Historical Society

In conversation, I often hear people refer to the "historic list" or the "registry." While there are local and state listings of historic properties, what most people are referring to when they talk about "the list" is the federal listing, officially called the National Register of Historic Places.

The National Register of Historic Places was created by the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. The National Register is a list of districts, sites, buildings, structures and objects that are important to American history. Including properties that range from important landmarks of national significance, like the Jefferson County Courthouse, to examples of past everyday life,

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such as the Allstadt House and Ordinary, the National Register of Historic Places reflects the diversity of America's past. It is just one part of a national program that coordinates and supports various efforts to identify, evaluate and protect our historic and archaeological resources. While over 78,000 entries of more than one million properties are on the National Register, Jefferson County has 67 listings that include several districts – the Shepherdstown Historic District, the Old Charles Town and Downtown Charles Town Historic Districts, the Harpers Ferry Historic District and the Middleway Historic District. This compares to 106 listings in Berkeley County (22 districts), 95 listings in Washington County, Maryland (10 districts) and 33 listings in Clarke County, Virginia (6 districts).

While people often think that a property on the National Register cannot be demolished, that is not the case. Owners of a National Register property have the same rights and privileges that any private property owner in America has, and can do whatever they wish to their property. When money, licensing or land of the federal government is involved in a project, a property on the National Register must go through a review process, usually involving several steps. For example, any project in Harpers Ferry National Historical

Park must undergo the review process, for the entire Park is listed on the National Register. The review process does allow for restoration and rehabilitation of buildings, as well as demolition in certain circumstances.

To learn more about the National Register, please visit the National Register of Historic Places online at www.nr.nps.gov, where the information for this article was found.

Fall Meeting Scheduled for November 6th

O. Winston Link (1914-2001) whose father hailed from Shepherdstown, WV, photographed Norfolk & Western steam locomotives as they passed through towns in Virginia, West Virginia, North Carolina and Maryland from 1955 until 1960, when steam operations ended. On Saturday, November 6th the O. Winston Link Museum, located in Roanoke, Virginia, will present an hour and a half program that includes a selection of his original prints tailored to our area as well as some of his most famous images.

This program will be featured at the fall meeting of the Jefferson County Historical Society, to be held at the Auditorium in Wright Denny Intermediate School, located on Congress Street in Charles Town. The meeting will begin at 10 am.

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 National Register Sites

- Christian Allemong House
- Allstadt House and Ordinary
- Altona
- Aspen Hill
- B&O Railroad Potomac River Crossing
- Beall-Air
- Belvedere
- Beverly
- Blakeley
- Boidstones Place
- The Bower
- Peter Burr House
- Cedar Lawn
- Charles Town Mining, Manufacturing and Improvement Company Building
- Old Charles Town Historic District
- Claymont Court
- Cold Spring
- Downtown Charles Town Historic District
- Elmwood
- Falling Spring
- Fruit Hill
- Gap View Farm
- Gibson-Todd House
- Glenburnie
- William Grubb Farm
- Halltown Union Colored Sunday School
- Harewood
- Harpers Ferry Historic District
- Harpers Ferry National Historical Park
- Hazelfield
- Hillside
- Hopewell
- Jacks-Manning Farm
- Jefferson County Alms House
- Jefferson County Courthouse
- Lee-Longworth House
- Captain William Lucas and Robert Lucas House
- James Marshall House
- Media Farm
- Middleway Historic District
- Morgan's Grove
- Morgan-Bedinger-Dandridge House
- New Opera House
- Prato Rio
- Rellim Farm
- Richwood Hall
- Rion Hall
- Ripon Lodge
- Rockland
- Rose Hill Farm
- Rumsey Hall
- Shannondale Springs
- Shepherd's Mill
- Shepherdstown Historic District
- Shepherdstown Historic District (Boundary Increase)
- St. Peter's Roman Catholic Church
- Strider Farm
- Sunnyside Farm
- Tackley Farm
- The Hermitage
- Traveller's Rest
- Van Swearingen-Shepherd House
- Charles Washington House
- White House Farm
- Woodbury
- Woodlawn
- Robert Worthington House

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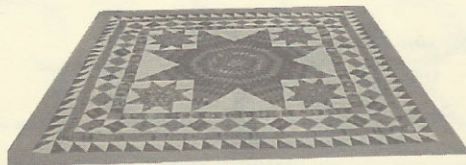
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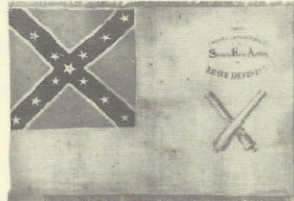


The Museum Corner

Among the gifts presented this year to the Museum is a magnificent cotton "Star of Bethlehem" quilt, created between 1830-1840 by Eliza Strother Moore of Jefferson County. Folded away in a trunk and forgotten, the quilt's bold colors are as fresh and vivid today as they were 174 years ago. The quilt's large dimensions (99" by 99") are indicative of the large beds of this period, and the desire to cover the trundle bed stored beneath.

Displayed in the past at quilt shows in Virginia and Kentucky, this treasured heirloom was presented to us by Mr. Richard Adams of Winchester, in memory of his late wife, Mrs. Eleanor Appell Adams, a descendant of Eliza Moore.

— Susan Collins, Curator
Jefferson County Museum



Remember the Flag!

In the previous issue of the newsletter, you read about the history and restoration of the Stuart Horse Artillery Flag (often called the Chew Flag). More than half of the money needed for the work has been received in donations. The deadline has been extended to the Oct. 13. The Flag is one of the prized artifacts of Jefferson County from the Civil War era. Please help to restore it by sending donations to:

Jefferson County Museum
200 East Washington Street
Charles Town, WV 25414

Checks can be made out to Jefferson County Museum with a "Chew Flag" notation.

Preservation Workshop

Several Historical Society Board members, along with other interested individuals, participated in an Historic Preservation Workshop sponsored by the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and the Jefferson County Black History Preservation Society on September 22nd.

The purpose was to inform the local community about the grant and research programs offered by the West Virginia Division of Culture and History. In addition, the Jefferson County Black History Preservation Society gave a brief tour of Fisherman's Hall. The West Virginia Development Office has provided funds for the renovation of the Hall into a community center. This project is currently out for bids.

The Black History Preservation Society also conducted a tour of the Webb-Blessing House, which the Society hopes to preserve and renovate as a museum. They are currently seeking grant funds from the SHPO for a "predevelopment" grant to get advice regarding the preservation and stabilization of the two adjoining houses, located on North Street. The Jefferson County Black History Preservation Society will need to match funds it receives from the SHPO.

If you are interested in helping with the preservation of either of these structures, please call James Tolbert at 725-7852.

OTHER NEWS...

Do you like to surf the Web?

The Jefferson County Historical Society is planning to publish a Web Page. The Web Page address will be given in the next newsletter, after the Board reviews the site and approves it at their October 16th meeting. We think you will find it a useful place to locate Board members, bylaws, publications,

calendar dates and membership information. In the future, it will be a vehicle for pictures of our events and any other information that is important to the membership. For additional information, contact Jim Glymph, who is on the Board of the Society and is creating the web page.

*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.

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