

THE GUARDIAN

Volume III, Issue 1

January 2005

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

From the President

Happy New Year!

We anticipate more heat in the historic preservation area in 2005, but we also believe our job to preserve the written history of the county and the state is more important than ever. We have recently received a collection of valuable Civil War letters, which sparked a debate on the Board about our responsibility regarding the letters, photographs, manuscripts and other documents people have left to the Society to preserve. Preserving papers is more in line with our mission than preserving buildings or artifacts, and it is an effort that requires considerable study because of the ever-changing nature of archival material and the technology to preserve and protect those materials.

Although the digital preservation of written documents makes those documents much more useful to people doing research and writing in a particular field, the medium itself is in a state of flux. Currently the National Archives recommends preserving documents by recording them on microfilm, because it is a physical medium

that needs only a magnifying glass to read and it is the only acceptable way for permanently preserving a document. As the standards for archival preservation change, we will look at other methods. For our most recent acquisition we have contacted John Cuthbert, head of the West Virginia Collection at WVU, who has looked at our material and suggested that the University would be interested in helping us preserve the letters in exchange for their access to a microfilm master in Morgantown.

Hugh Voress and I were very impressed with their professional approach and recommend that the University be our repository for our documents because of its institutional longevity and archival capabilities. The University would rather work with an organization such as ours for document preservation because we can make the material locally available. Therefore, we agreed that the University can copy the documents onto microfilm, keeping the master and sending us a copy. They will also preserve the original documents in proper storage facilities until we ask for

“We have recently received a collection of valuable Civil War letters, which sparked a debate on the Board about our responsibility regarding the letters, photographs, manuscripts and other documents people have left to the Society to preserve.”

their return. We have also asked that they provide us with color Xerox copies of the material as they catalog it. Those Xerox copies will then be available to local historians in the Perry Room at the Old Charles Town Library. In this way, the Society will maintain access to the actual materials in case the Jefferson County Museum would want to exhibit them.

We can all work together for the benefit of Jefferson County's history. So the next time you go through your attic, or your grandmother's attic, don't forget – that is the history of the county you are about to throw away. Call us.

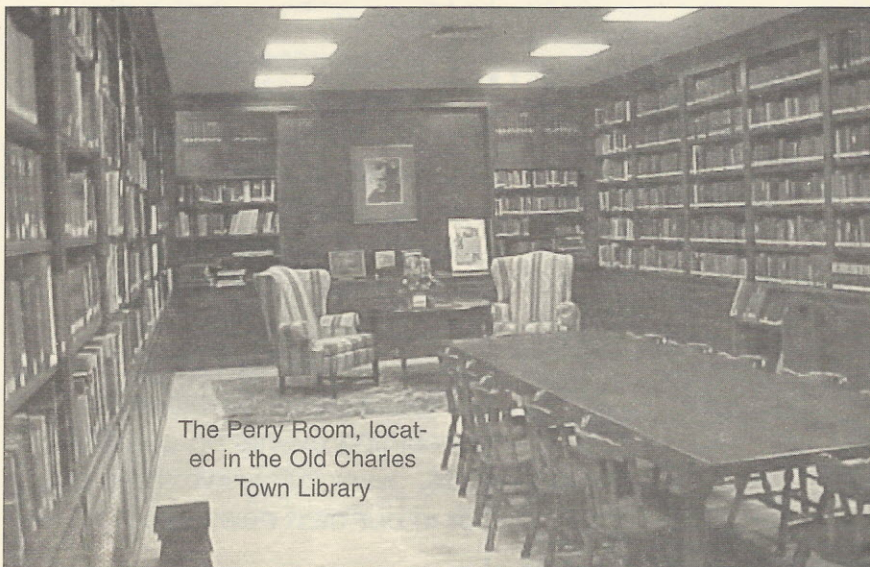
Historically yours,
Bill Drennen

Want to Know? Go to the Perry Room!

By Carmen W. Creamer
Board Member
Jefferson County Historical Society

A great resource for researchers can be found in our own backyard – at the Old Charles Town Library! The Perry Room, dedicated in 1983, is located in the Library at 200 E. Washington Street in Charles Town. Named for Thornton T. Perry, the room contains more than 5,000 items within its walls. These items come from three collections – more than 2,000 items from the Perry Collection, over 2,300 items from the Locked Reference Collection

Please turn to page 2.



The Perry Room, located in the Old Charles Town Library

Continued from page 1

and 199 items from the Murphy Collection. Both Thornton T. Perry and Elsie Murphy were avid collectors of books and manuscripts related to the early history of Jefferson County and their collections, along with other materials in the Locked Reference Collection, include local histories and genealogies no longer in print. These hard-to-find historic research materials are kept under lock and key and cannot be removed from the Perry Room.

A researcher interested in using the collection must sign in at the Library Desk to gain access to the collection. Any researcher under the age of 18 can use the Room only with a staff member being present. The usual items are banned, such as food and drinks, but also including scissors, coats, and briefcases – only paper, pencils and pens are permitted. Some items can be photocopied at the discretion of the Library staff. Access to the library catalog is available on a computer donated to the Perry Room by the Jefferson County Historical Society. The hours for the Perry Room are the same as for the Library:

Mon., Wed., Fri. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Tues., Thurs. 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Saturday 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Perry Room Research Items

- Early Shenandoah Valley Church Records
- Early Shenandoah Valley Histories
- Histories of Local Communities
- Genealogies of Shenandoah Valley & Jefferson Co. Families
- Burke's Peerage
- West Virginia Blue Book
- Jefferson County Tombstone Records
- Published Marriage Records from Frederick, Berkeley and Jefferson Counties
- Books on the John Brown Raid
- Civil War Accounts and Soldiers Memoirs, including Taylor's Sketchbook
- Official Records of the Rebellion
- Records of the Confederate and Union Navies
- Virginia Regimental Histories of the Confederate Army
- West Virginia Geological Surveys from the early 1900s
- Bound copies of the Jefferson County Historical Magazine, going back to 1935

Quick Research Tips

Jefferson County Deed Books (1801-present), Birth and Death Records (1853-to present), Marriage Records (1801 to present) and other county records are available to researchers at the Jefferson County

Courthouse in the County Clerk's office, open Monday-Friday, 9 am- 5 pm.

■ Records dated before 1863 will be cataloged or indexed as from Jefferson County, Virginia.

■ Prior to 1801, Jefferson County (Virginia) was part of Berkeley County (Virginia) [1772-1801] and Frederick County (Virginia) [1743-1772]. If you are researching the 1700s in Jefferson County you need to look at the records of those two counties. Most of these early records are available on microfilm or in published sources available at the new Archives Center of the Berkeley County Historical Society, located next door to the Belle Boyd House on Race Street in Martinsburg, WV. You can call them at 304-267-4713 for more information.

■ A handy little reference to get you started on genealogical research in the area is *Finding Your People in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia*, written by Rebecca A. Ebert. Rebecca Ebert is the Archives Librarian at the Handley Library in Winchester, Virginia, another great regional research facility.

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

Spring Meeting Scheduled for April

We have a date of April 9th for our annual spring meeting. We plan to again hold the meeting at the Wright Denny Auditorium.

The speaker will be Marie Tyler-McGraw from the Society's Board; her topic will be "Bushrod Washington, Martin Delaney, Various Blackburn Women and a Cast of Hundreds: The African Colonization Society and Jefferson County."

Please watch for dates of upcoming events on our Web site, www.jeffctywhistsoc.org, or in our next newsletter.

Jefferson County Historical Society 2004 Board Members

Contact information

President Bill Drennen

(304) 876-1236 Cell: 304-238-5011
e-mail: bill@billdrennen.com

Vice-President James G. Gibson

(304) 267-6059
e-mail: jbgibson@crosslink.net

Treasurer George Marshall

(304) 876-3654
e-mail: wvdg@frontiernet.net

Recording Secretary Carmen Creamer

(304) 725-7770 Cell: 304-886-9202
e-mail: carmencreamer@yahoo.com

Membership Secretary Hugh Voress

(304) 725-6095
e-mail: voresshe@aol.com

Corresponding Secretary

Elizabeth Wells

(304) 725-6598
e-mail: ehwells@frontiernet.net
or betsy@betsywells.com

Journal Editor Marie Tyler-McGraw

(304) 876-8539
e-mail: mtylermc@earthlink.net

James L. Glymph

(304) 725-3220
e-mail: glymphj@adelphia.net

Wendy Kedzierski

(540) 955-1390
e-mail: wendyked@juno.com

Jeral Milton

(304) 725-0328
e-mail: jmilton@intrepid.net

Garland Moore

(304) 725-5597

Doug Perks

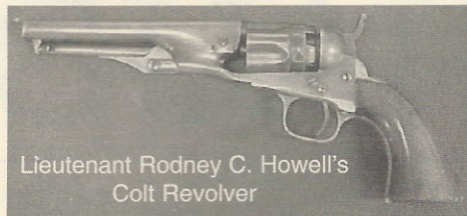
(304) 876-2616
e-mail: perkssonny@aol.com

James Taylor

(304) 725-7242
e-mail: jlt34@aol.com

Walter Washington

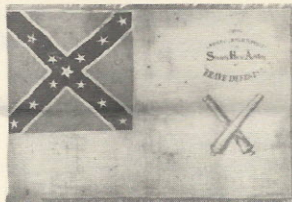
(304) 725-8832
e-mail: swwash@frontiernet.net



Lieutenant Rodney C. Howell's
Colt Revolver

The Museum Corner

Mrs. Frieda Miller from McMinnville, Oregon visited the Jefferson County Museum one time in 1984. She must have taken away fond memories. When she passed away, she left the 36 caliber Colt police revolver carried by Lieutenant Rodney C. Howell to the Museum. His name is inscribed on the back strap. Lieutenant Howell was in Company G, 7th Virginia cavalry regiment, Laurel Brigade. He enlisted in the spring of 1861. Lieutenant Howell served in Jackson's Valley Campaign, at Second Manassas, in the Maryland Campaign and in the Gettysburg Campaign. In 1864, he was in General Thomas Rosser's raid on Moorefield, West Virginia. He was wounded in the left arm at Patterson's Creek, West Virginia on February 1, 1864. The arm was later amputated at Moorefield. After recovery, Lieutenant Howell enrolled conscripts until he was found unfit for duty and allowed to resign in February 1865.



Thank You!

The Jefferson County Museum would like to thank all those who contributed to the fund to restore the Chew flag. All of the needed funds were raised, and the flag is undergoing restoration while the Museum is closed for the winter. Mrs. Susan Collins, the Museum's curator, thinks the flag will be back on display when they reopen the first week in April, or soon afterward.

OTHER NEWS ... We're on the Web!

You can now find the Jefferson County Historical Society on the world-wide web at www.jeffctywvhistoc.org. So ... if you're on the web, check it out!

You can learn of scheduled meetings, send Board members e-mail, examine our publications list, or inform us of your change in address.

Presently the site is linked to the Jefferson County Museum web site and

It's Started! County Survey Gets Underway

The Jefferson County Historic Landmarks Commission has hired David Taylor of Taylor & Taylor Associates for the first year of the county survey of historic resources. David Taylor will begin by surveying the Kabletown district. He will be driving around the area, looking at buildings from the road and photographing them. If you happen to see him, please stop and tell him about any buildings you know about that pre-date 1960 (this cut-off date was set by the West Virginia Division of Culture and History). The survey is to include barns and outbuildings, so please let us know about any early building you know about. If you have information pertinent to the survey, please call Carmen Creamer at 725-7770 or email carmencreamer@yahoo.com. Thank you to all of you who have already contacted us.

Dues Increase

Although dues notices will be sent out in February, we would like to take this opportunity to inform you that the Board of Directors voted for an increase in dues to produce more income. As of February 2005, dues will increase to \$15 a year; life memberships will now cost \$150. With increased production and postage of the journal and newsletters, we must keep better pace with those increases in our annual revenue. Also, if dues are not received by July 1st, the cost will increase to \$20.

We are sorry for this increase, but feel it necessary. We also think that even at \$15 a year, you'll be getting a bargain! For this price, you receive a journal and four newsletters a year.

we will be adding more links. We will try to update the site on a regular basis; look for information on our proposed by-laws changes in the near future.

If you have suggestions or comments, please contact Jim Glymph at: webmaster@jeffctywvhistoc.org. Jim generously volunteered his time to create this Web site.

THANK YOU, JIM!!!!

*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**

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Charles Town, WV
Permit No. 10

THE GUARDIAN
Newsletter of the
Jefferson County Historical Society