



THE GUARDIAN

Newsletter of the Jefferson County WV Historical Society

Volume V Issue 1 January 2007

Please Help Us Reach YOU!!

In an ongoing effort to improve communications to and between all members, **Please E-mail us with your e-mail address, indicating whether we can share it with other members. Use a subject line "My Email Address"** and send to Communications Director at cmasonwhf@aol.com
Thank you!

Visit the Society's New Web Site

<http://www.jeffersonhistoricalwv.org/aboutus.html>

The initial version of our new web site is now on-line. Please visit the site and provide feedback either by signing our guest book or emailing the coordinator at cmasonwhf@aol.com. The site was developed in partnership with Dwayne and Krista Brooke at Intelement Multimedia Solutions, Inc. of Harpers Ferry (email info@intelement.com).

Friends of Happy Retreat Moves Forward



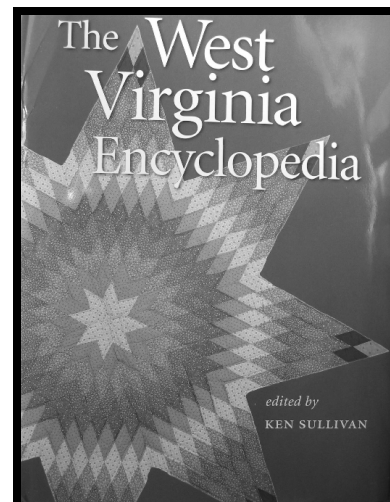
Friends of Happy Retreat has moved into its new offices on the second floor of the United Bank building in Charles Town. Donated to FOHR for

at least a year by United Bank, FOHR is occupying several offices and sharing the conference room with United Bank staff. FOHR staff can be reached weekdays at 724-7956 or weekends at 724-7008.

In January, FOHR signed an amendment to the purchase option with the owners of Happy Retreat which extends the option period one year, to 29 February 2008. The group is also in the initial stages of a capital campaign to raise funds for the purchase and operation of the estate.

Fall Meeting Celebrates WV Encyclopedia And Historic Back Roads Bicycle Tour

On November 4th the Society held its fall membership meeting in the Betty Roper Auditorium at Wright Denny School. Dr. Ken Sullivan from the WV Humanities Council discussed the new *West Virginia Encyclopedia* that he edited. He also signed copies of the book purchased by members at the meeting. Additional copies of this important reference book are available on the Society's web site at a special discount price for members. See page 5 for ordering instructions.



Also during the meeting, Linda Tischer and Mike Heib (shown in the photograph below), members of the Potomac Pedalers Touring Club, a bicycling organization in the Washington D.C. area, presented Society President Bill Drennen with a check for \$1000 in donations received during the September "Historic Back Roads Century," a 100 mile bicycle tour through scenic south Jefferson County and Clarke County, WV.
Thanks Pedalers!



Lincoln Bodyguard Celebrated in New Book

Little known Jefferson County native Ward Hill Lamon (pronounced "Lemon" in the East and "Lamon" in the West), who was born near Summit Point, Virginia in 1828 and became both Abraham Lincoln's law partner and body guard, is the subject of the upcoming historical novel by Jefferson County Historical Society member Bob O'Connor. "Hill" as most everyone called him, moved to Mill Creek, VA (now Bunker Hill, WV) at age two and lived there until 1847. His cabin is still standing.

Lamon, pictured on right, was Lincoln's law partner in Danville, IL, where they represented clients in 114 law cases, mostly in the Vermillion County Courthouse in Danville.

When Alan Pinkerton discovered a plot to assassinate the President- elect in Baltimore before

Lincoln's inauguration in 1861, Lamon surreptitiously escorted Lincoln into Washington from the Baltimore train station. Lamon was also with Lincoln when the President visited McClellan at Sharpsburg in October 1862 following the Battle of Antietam Creek. He was also in charge of the ceremonies for the dedication of the National Cemetery in Gettysburg on November 19, 1863. Before Lincoln delivered his famous Gettysburg Address, Lamon, as Master of Ceremonies, introduced him to the crowd

Lamon often slept on the floor outside Lincoln's bedroom in the White House to protect the President. He played the banjo and sang songs for Mr. Lincoln to help raise his spirits during the hardships of the long Civil War. Lamon warned the President numerous times of plots to injure, kidnap or kill him. Lincoln scoffed at the warnings. Lamon specifically warned the President not to go to Ford's Theater on Good Friday, 1865, but to no avail. Unfortunately, Lamon was not at the theater that evening, and one can only imagine what difference it would have made if he had been.



The book is expected to be published in late Spring 2007. For additional information check out Bob's website: www.boboconnorbooks.com.

**Shepherdstown Battlefield
Conservation Easements Signed
By Ed Dunleavy, President, SBPA**

Efforts to protect the site of the 1862 Civil War Battle of Shepherdstown took a major step forward on December 8th with the establishment of conservation easements on an additional fifty-nine acres in the core of the battlefield.

Miriam Ellis signed the easement papers on her 37-acre farm, and Lew Pamplin and Dianna Mills, on 22 acres of their property, in favor of the Land Trust of the Eastern Panhandle and the Jefferson County Farmland Protection Board. The National Park Service's American Battlefield Protection Program and the Jefferson County Farmland Protection Board funded the easements, with the assistance of the Civil War Preservation Trust and the Shepherdstown Battlefield Preservation Association.

The land now under easement, which remains in the hands of its owners but is permanently protected from development, begins at the ridge on the south bank of the Potomac River, where Confederate forces placed artillery in an effort to protect Boteler's Ford, about one mile east of Shepherdstown.

The fighting on September 19-20, 1862, ranged from this ridge across farmland about 1½ miles south as the Confederate Army of Northern Virginia fought to stop pursuit by the Union Army of the Potomac after the bloody battle at Antietam, just across the Potomac in Maryland. They succeeded, but General Lee changed his plans to reinvade Maryland because he believed that he was being pursued aggressively.

The next step in preserving the battlefield will be protection of the southern bank of the Potomac itself -- just north of the area now under easement -- and of the fields directly south of the 59 acres just placed under easement. The Save Historic Antietam Foundation is seeking to acquire the strip along the Potomac, and the Shepherdstown Battlefield Preservation Association is working with state and federal officials to create a park on

the second location. In total, there are now 84 acres of the battlefield site placed under easement including 25 acres donated by Ed and Helen Moore. The Shepherdstown Battlefield Preservation Association is attempting to save approximately 300 acres of the battlefield site.

These new easements bring the total land protected by the Land Trust to 1800 acres in the three counties of the Eastern Panhandle, including 325 acres either in the battlefield area or on the route used by Confederate forces going to and from Antietam. Land protected by the Jefferson County Farmland Protection Board now totals 1232 acres, also including those 325 acres.

**The Museum Corner by Jim Glymph
Mardi Gras in the Panhandle
And
Civil War Small Arms Ammunition**

The Mystic Krewe of the Shenandoah is hosting a Mardi Gras Party on February 3, 2007. The fundraiser benefits the non-profit, privately endowed Charles Town Library and Jefferson County Museum. It will be held at the Bavarian Inn in Shepherdstown. The evening will start at 6:30 with an open bar. Following, is a three course New Orleans style dinner---wine with each course. You will get beads, doubloons, a souvenir Mystic Krewe of the Shenandoah hurricane glass and other Mardi Gras "throws."

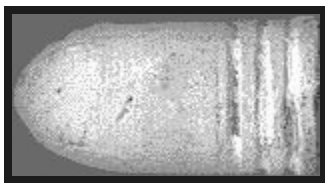
After dinner there will be an auction with some great items including one week accommodations in the Windjammer Landing Resort, St. Lucia and a framed print of John Paul Strain's "Stonewall" Jackson at the Charles Town train station in 1862. There are only 100 tickets available and they are \$75 per person. Costumes are optional. You can make reservations on the website

www.MysticKrewe.org or by calling 725-2208; pickup your tickets at the Library. You can also send payment to: Charles Town Library, 200 East Washington Street, Charles Town, WV 25414. **However you do it, payment must be made by January 24!!** If you would like to be a sponsor call Steven A. Mitchell, Zachary Homes at 724-1742 or email him at

Sponsor@MysticKrewe.org

Civil War Small Arms Ammunition. One of the most popular cases at the Jefferson County Museum contains the Civil War small arms ammunition display. Acquiring the right ammunition for the soldiers was a logistics nightmare; there were hundreds of different bullets used in the War. Although, the primary weapon was the muzzle loading rifle musket that used the Minie (Americanization of Minié) ball, there were many calibers. If you did not already know, you will see that the Minie has a conical shape and is not a ball. The Museum display has many of the different minie ball calibers and shapes including a number of breech loading cartridges and bullets, and revolver bullets.

The rifle musket used a cartridge made of a paper tube that contained the powder and the bullet. If the paper was damaged, got wet or even damp, the soldier would throw it away. This explains the huge number of “dropped” bullets that are found in Civil War sites; most of the bullets displayed are “drops.” Bullets were manufactured by the Union or Confederacy (minie ball pictured below is a Selma, Alabama .58 caliber), but many were imported from other



countries or the bullets were cast from foreign made molds. The Museum has bullets of English, Austrian, Italian, German, and other origins.

There are fired bullets to show the devastation that a pure lead bullet will produce and there are carved bullets. The soldiers had a lot of spare time and many of them carved bullets with a pocket knife; there is a fishing weight, a chess man and a di(ce) on display.

The Museum is closed for the winter but will reopen on March 6, 2007. Come see why ammunition can be so popular at 200 East Washington Street, Charles Town, WV or visit us at <http://jeffctywvmuseum.org/>.



From the President's Desk
By Bill Drennen

Greetings and a Happier New Year that will make the old one seem glum. The Historical Society has been suffering without a secretary since Mary Alice Lemen resigned last summer and with the tremors of a new treasurer, since George Marshall's retirement effective July 1, 2006. Tony Price is proceeding to fill that latter office with great expertise, but a lack of familiarity. Time for a new regime.

Our next Board meeting will be on January 23, 2007 in Shepherdstown. We need nominations for officers and directors for the Annual Spring Meeting which is scheduled for Saturday, April 7, 2007 at Wright Denny. Please send us names and ideas.

The last board meeting was a lively one with discussions about how and where to best use our available funds. Should Happy Retreat be a concern for us? Are our scholarships to Shepherd History students effective? Would the membership like us to expand the use of our website to sell publications by the society and by others as well (such as the West Virginia Encyclopedia?) Our mission is to promote the history of Jefferson County and West Virginia. Promoting the writing, publishing, and sales of local history is a way to accomplish that. If you know anyone writing about the history or people of Jefferson County, even a personal memoir, send them to us. We want to be of service to the community

Summer picnic held at Millbrook

The JCHS Summer Picnic was held on August 9th, 2006, at Millbrook, the home of Henry W. Morrow, deceased, a former pillar of the Charles Town and West Virginia Bar. Millbrook was built circa 1809 as a home for the miller who worked at the grist mill operated along the neighboring Rocky Marsh Run.

The Mill was at the center of a thriving business district at the turn of the nineteenth century, originally under the guidance of the Billmyer family and later by others.

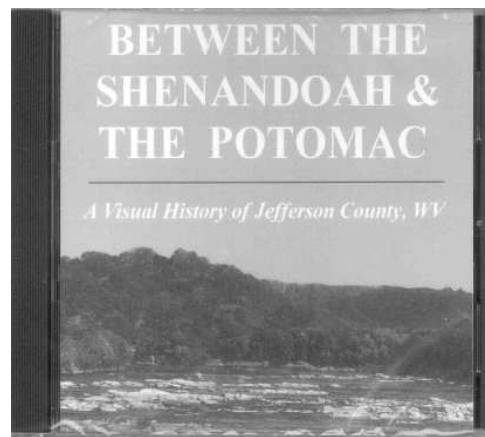
As of 6 January, the home, pictured at right, was listed for sale with Greg Didden and Associates.



PUBLICATIONS
(prices include shipping and mailing)

The Society has produced the DVD, “**Between the Shenandoah and the Potomac,**” a comprehensive illustrated history of Jefferson County. It can be purchased at area locations and is also available in VHS tape format.

See below for internet and mail ordering information.



The Magazine of the Jefferson County Historical Society is mailed annually to each member and typically contains several articles about local historical places, people, and events. Original volumes or facsimile reproductions of current and past magazines are available to all persons for \$7 a copy. Until the publication of next year's magazine, members may purchase additional copies for \$6 each. Other publications published by the Society and our partners are described in more detail on our web set, and include:

- *The Washington Homes of Jefferson County.* \$10.
- *Calendar and Index to Recorded Plats in Jefferson County, WV (VA) Courthouse, 1801-1901.* by Michael D. Thompson, \$25
- *Between the Shenandoah and Potomac: Historic Homes of Jefferson County, WV.* Hard-bound book: \$50
- "Between the Shenandoah and the Potomac," an illustrated history of Jefferson County, VHS \$25; DVD \$14
- *Burials in Jefferson County, West Virginia, 1978-97.* \$18
- *West Virginia Encyclopedia* \$45

Please mail a check with your name, address, telephone number, and e-mail address to the Guardian, Attention Publications, PO Box 485, Charles Town, WV 25414

COMING SOON: ORDER/PAY ON LINE at <http://www.jeffersonhistoricalwv.org/thestore.html>

Join the Jefferson County Historical Society Today!!

Name _____

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_____ Annual Membership (\$15)

_____ Life Membership (\$150)

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

Already a member? Mail next year's dues after January 1st

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