



THE GUARDIAN

Newsletter of the Jefferson County WV Historical Society Volume V Issue 3 July 2007

Historic Resources Survey Completed by County Historic Landmarks Commission By John Allen, President, JCHLC

The Jefferson County Historic Landmarks Commission has recently completed a survey of historic resources in the county. Consultant David Taylor, of Taylor & Taylor Associates, worked with the landmarks commission to compile data on more than 2000 historic sites and structures. The survey used the Department of Interior standards for recording all buildings and sites over 50 years old, including houses, barns, schools, churches, mills, kilns, quarries and battlefields. Historic resources were located, evaluated, and photographed in accordance with the requirements of the State Historic Preservation Office. Details of each resource were recorded on West Virginia state survey forms, which include date of construction and/or significance, material, style, and address.

The new map and database of historic sites and structures can be accessed online at the Landmarks Commission web site:

<http://jeffersoncountyhlc.org>. Once there, click the "Map/Database" link in the "NAVIGATE" section. A map will pop up to show the locations of those historic resources in Jefferson County outside incorporated towns' limits. The corresponding database contains information on each of the historic sites and structures and is also available on the web site. For information on the complete archive of information contact the Landmarks Commission via email at info@jeffersoncountyhlc.org.

Funding for the survey was provided by the West Virginia State Historic Preservation Office, the Jefferson County Commission, and the Jefferson County Historical Society. This comprehensive survey and its corresponding database should be of use to historians for years to

come. The Jefferson County Commission and planning office have also been given access to this valuable information, where it can be employed to protect historic resources. The Jefferson County Historic Landmarks Commission would like to thank the Jefferson County Historical Society for its generous support during this important project.

JCHS Annual Picnic held at At Happy Retreat

About 200 members and guests enjoyed another successful picnic this year. Bill and Mary Gavin generously hosted the picnic on the grounds of their home, Happy Retreat. Although it was a typical warm August evening, everyone had a good time visiting with old friends and making new friends. The meal, catered by Magnolia Tree, consisted of fried chicken and pork barbeque plus the many delicious dishes brought by the members. After those attending had eaten all they could and then some, everyone was invited to tour the house.



Happy Retreat is one of several Washington homes still standing in Jefferson County. It was the home of Charles Washington who founded Charles Town. Members of Friends of Happy Retreat, the nonprofit organization that has an option to purchase the property, were available to answer questions about their efforts to raise

money to acquire Happy Retreat and preserve it for future generations. To learn more about this organization, visit www.happyretreat.org.

Several dishes and serving utensils were left behind. If you are missing anything, please call Betsy Wells at 304-725-6598.

Annual Fall Membership Meeting

Mark your calendars and be sure to attend the Society's Fall Membership Meeting which will be held on Saturday, **November 3rd** in the meeting room in the basement of the Old Charles Town Library.

County Landmarks Commission Establishes New Web Site

A new web site developed for the Jefferson County Historic Landmarks Commission is now online at <http://jeffersoncountyhlc.org/>. The site contains listings of all the Jefferson County Landmark properties as well as those listed in the National Register of Historic Places. It also describes the ongoing projects of the Commission, including the Peter Burr House and the Alms house, and provides a calendar of events related to local history.

For those of you new to the County, the Commission consists of the following five appointed members whose knowledge and expertise in the fields of architecture, historic architecture, archaeology, historic preservation, and local history provide the basis for the Commissioners' assistance to the county government and its citizens in protecting and preserving the county's rich historic heritage:

- John Allen, chairman
- Walter Washington, secretary
- Don Amoroso, treasurer
- Carmen Creamer
- Kip Stowell

The Commission meets at 7:00 pm on the third Thursday of every month. Meetings are usually held in the basement meeting room of the Charles Town library. Contact the Commission for more information at info@jeffersoncountyhlc.org

The Museum Corner by Jim Glymph Civil War Identification Badge



In the early part of the American Civil War, soldiers on both sides, before going into combat, pinned a piece of paper with their name and other pertinent information on their uniform. This was done because there were no issue

identification tags. Entrepreneurs in the North recognized this need for a more substantial form of identification and began selling metal tags to the soldiers. Southern soldiers did not have this resource; therefore, a Confederate tag is very rare. The Jefferson County Museum has recently acquired a Union tag. It doubles as an identification tag and a Corps badge. It is silver and is in the shape of a shield with the cannon and anchor emblem of the Union Ninth Corps engraved in the center. It belonged to Private Oliver P. Townsend, Company B, 35th Massachusetts Infantry Regiment and is so engraved. Townsend was wounded at Antietam on September 17, 1862. Records show that his regiment was in Jefferson county on several occasions. He survived the war and died in Newburyport, Massachusetts April 1, 1909. The pin is broken on the back. Due to this fault, it could have been lost or discarded. It belonged to a Jefferson county family (not related to Townsend) but nothing is known of its history. It can be seen at the Jefferson County Museum, 200 East Washington Street, Charles Town, West Virginia, 25414 JeffCtyWVMuseum.org

Shepherdstown Battlefield Preservation Legislation Introduced

Senator Robert C. Byrd introduced legislation asking for authorization for a National Park Service "Special Resources Study" to document the site of the 1862 Battle of Shepherdstown. This is the first of several steps that are necessary

for the Shepherdstown site to be included within the boundaries of an existing National Civil War Park.

PLEASE HELP US REACH YOU!

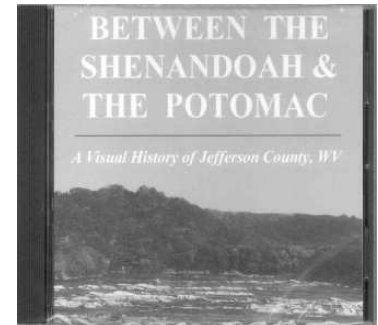
In an ongoing effort to improve communications

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." Send to info@jeffersonhistoricalwv.org

JCHS PUBLICATIONS (prices include postage)

- ***"Between the Shenandoah and the Potomac,"*** a DVD presenting a comprehensive illustrated history of Jefferson County, West Virginia. (\$14). In an online review, Susan Scouras of the West Virginia Division of Culture and History states:

"The Jefferson County Historical Society has produced a wonderful history of their homeland through the combined use of beautifully scenic videotape photography, interesting still photos and artists' representations of the natural landscape and resources, the man-made structures and the people themselves that comprise the past and present of Jefferson County. As the title indicates, the influence of the county's location between the Shenandoah and the Potomac Rivers is woven through both the narrative and the visual images from beginning to end. Strategically placed commentary by local experts and representatives of various agencies and organizations add support to the factual history of Jefferson County as drawn from *Historic Jefferson County*, by Millard Kessler Bushong. Excellent narration by Charlie Glaize and well-chosen background music round out the presentation of Writer/Producer Melissa Wallace."



- ***The Magazine of the Jefferson County Historical Society*** is mailed annually to each member and contains articles about local historical places, people, and events. Previous years' editions are available 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 on our web site, and include:
- ***The Washington Homes of Jefferson County.* \$10.**
- ***Between the Shenandoah and Potomac: Historic Homes of Jefferson County.* Hard-bound \$50**
- ***Calendar and Index to Recorded Plats in Jefferson County, WV (VA) Courthouse, 1801-1901.* Michael. D. Thompson \$25**
- ***Burials in Jefferson County, West Virginia, 1978-97.* \$18**

GUEST PUBLICATIONS (Prices include postage)

- ***West Virginia Encyclopedia,*** A new "must have" reference book loaded with information. \$45
- ***Military Operations in Jefferson County--An annotated guide to the Sons of Confederate Veterans network of Civil War Markers* \$15**

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. Or order and pay online 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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