



THE GUARDIAN

Newsletter of the Jefferson County WV Historical Society Volume V Issue 4 October 2007

Annual Fall Membership Meeting

Mark your calendars and be sure to attend the Society's Fall Membership Meeting which will be held at 2pm on Saturday, **November 3rd** in the meeting room in the basement of the Old Charles Town Library, 200 E. Washington Street. Following a brief business meeting, the Jefferson County Black History Preservation Society (<http://jeffctywvblackhistory.org>) will report on its projects and publications.

Duffields Depot – Recognition & Preservation



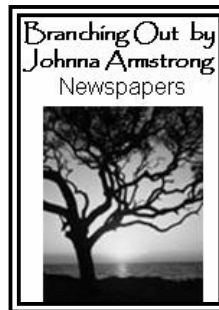
Duffields Depot, located at 45 Melvin Road, is the second-oldest surviving train station in America. Built in 1839 for use by the Baltimore and Ohio (B&O) Railroad, it was in daily use as a freight and passenger station between 1839 and 1883, when it was replaced by a new station (since demolished) on the site of the present MARC commuter station. During the Civil War, it was a key re-supply depot for Union Army forces, with US Commissary and private shipments stored in the wooden portion of the building. A number of Union regiments are also known to have bivouacked near the station at various times.

After 120 years of neglect, the depot became the focal point for Duffields Station Inc. a non-profit organization formed in 2003 to acquire this historic stone and wood structure. The group developed plans to restore the old station and use it as a museum celebrating the area's railroad and Civil War heritage.

In January, 2007, the Arcadia Building Company,

of Purcellville, VA, provided funds to Duffields Station, Inc, to purchase the property, initiating a flurry of activity to list the depot in the National Register of Historic Places, and to secure additional funding to stabilize and restore the structure. In May, 2007, the WV Archives and History Commission voted unanimously to support the National Register nomination and on August 3rd, 2007, National Park Service approved the listing, making it the 62nd individual listing in the County.

During the May meeting, the Archives and History Commission also approved an historic development grant of \$8550 to Duffields Station, Inc., to stabilize and re-roof the stone portion of the structure. However, since the grant requires local matching contributions, the organization is seeking \$8550 in matching from corporations, non-profits, and the public. For additional information contact Joseph Snyder, President of Duffields Station, Inc, at aphsr1@comcast.net. Donations are being accepted by David Lubic, Treasurer, 417 True Apple Way, Inwood, WV, 25428.



[Editor's Note: Given substantial interest in local genealogy by many Society members, we have initiated a feature column, "Branching Out" written by Johnna Armstrong, a Shepherdstown business woman and resident. We hope the membership will find this an interesting and useful addition to the Guardian.]

I can't speak for all genealogists, but I know I secretly hope that my ancestors got involved in something slightly out of the ordinary, maybe even a little scandalous, during their lives, because then there's a chance I'll get to read about it in an old newspaper, thereby learning more about my ancestors as people.

The great thing about local newspapers is that your ancestor is bound to show up in its pages at one time or another. The bad news for those of us who are slightly addicted to the lightning-fast search capabilities of the internet is that often the

newspapers are not indexed. You have to (gasp!) scan the entire issue to find the information you're looking for. But I can tell you from firsthand experience that it's pretty easy to get caught up in the news of the day only to realize that hours have passed and your living family is home wondering what happened to you.

So where can you go to read all about your ancestors in Jefferson County? Shepherd University Library has the largest collection of newspapers in the County and the older newspapers are all on microfilm. The microfilm room is located on the bottom floor and has several readers that anyone can use. You don't need a library card, but you do need to buy a Rambler card if you want to make copies. On the main floor of the library, there are machines where you can buy a card and add money to it. If you are of a certain generation that grew up with microfilm readers, you'll be amazed at how popular you are with the college kids, who may be able to text messages at the speed of light, but can be confounded by those little spools of plastic film.

It's also well worth looking at newspapers from the surrounding area, keeping in mind the county's history. The editors of rival papers may be able to give you a completely different perspective on an event. As you might imagine, there were major gaps in coverage during tough times like the Civil War and also during the Depression.

Shepherd University Library:

[<http://www.shepherd.edu/libweb/> Ref. Desk: (304) 876-5420]

Shepherdstown Register: 1849-1861 (some gaps in coverage); 1865-1955.

The Independent (Shepherdstown): 1934-1958

Spirit of Jefferson County Farmer's Advocate (Charles Town): 1948-1984; 1985-2003

The Farmer's Advocate (Charles Town): 1897-1930; 1935-1943; 1945-1947

Spirit of Jefferson (Charles Town): 1852-1958 (gaps in coverage)

Virginia Free Press (Charles Town): 1856-1861; 1865-1896

The Journal (Martinsburg)

A complete list of the library's **West Virginia** holdings can be found at:

<http://www.shepherd.edu/libweb/find/guides/wvnewsapers.html>

Historic Shepherdstown,

[<http://historicshepherdstown.com/> (304) 876-0910]

has bound volumes of the Shepherdstown Register and also a few of the Potomac Guardian.

The Martinsburg Public Library,

[<http://www.youseemore.com/martinsburgberkeley/>) (304) 267-8933] carries the Martinsburg Journal in the

Genealogy Room and offers free access to Ancestry.com, where you can search and browse issues of the Hagerstown Herald and Torch Light. This newspaper has a surprising amount of information about the goings on in Jefferson County.



The distinguished American painter Catharine C. Critcher (1868-1964) led a long and productive life. Born into an old Westmoreland County, Virginia, family three years after the end of the Civil War, her natural

talent was fueled by hard work and an adventurous spirit.

Catharine trained in New York and at the Corcoran School in Washington. In common with many of her peers, she crossed the Atlantic to Paris in 1904 to continue her studies. Returning home in 1909, Miss Critcher joined the staff of the Corcoran School where she taught for ten years. Finally, this accomplished woman established her own school in Washington.

During the 1920's Catharine spent many summers in New Mexico, fascinated by the lives of the Hopi and Taos Indians and influenced by the clear light and vibrant colors of the American South-West. The culmination of this experience came in 1924 when Catharine was unanimously elected to the Taos Society of Artists – the first, and only woman in the group.

In the 1940's and 1950's, Catharine resided in Charles Town. Despite her advancing years, she continued to paint and an example of her later work can be seen in the Museum.

It is a restful painting. A cast-iron stove radiates warmth throughout a basement kitchen. The room is sparsely furnished; a green painted cupboard stands against one wall and a wall-clock marks the hour. Beside the stove lies a large gray cat, and except for a small braided rug, the floor is bare.

The sole occupant sits in a sturdy wooden chair. Holding a yellow bowl on her aproned lap, a colored woman stirs the ingredients for biscuits with one hand. Preparations are in hand for dinner, a large lidded pot stands on the stove and, no doubt, the room is redolent with savory smells. Two deep-set windows are placed high in the walls; a potted geranium adds a splash of crimson to the scene.

Branches are dimly outlined against the glass, the world cold without and comforting within.

Colors in this painting are bright and strong: the blue of the woman's dress, the green cupboard and the yellow ochre walls give an immediacy to the scene. A moment frozen in time where the clock registers half-past four of a winter's afternoon. The painting can be seen at the Jefferson County Museum, 200 East Washington Street, Charles Town, West Virginia, 25414 JeffCtyWVMuseum.org.

"Open to all who have an interest in the history of
Jefferson County" – The first 80 years of the
Jefferson County Historical Society
by Doug Perks

When you visit the historic Jefferson County Courthouse, on the northwest corner of George and Washington Street in the heart of Charles Town, you will find a wall plaque, mounted during the Society's 50th anniversary celebrations just outside the old county courtroom, which reads:

"In this room on May 21, 1927

The Jefferson County Historical Society was
organized.

A. D. Kenamond, President"

Miss Ella May Turner, who was a member of the State Historical Society for Jefferson County, chaired this first meeting and is given credit as the founder of the Society. About 25 people were present and they selected A. D. Kenamond as the temporary chair, Miss Louise Briscoe as the temporary secretary, and discussed and adopted a constitution. The next meeting was took place in the "Old College Building" in Shepherdstown on Saturday, August 6, 1927, and as reported by the Shepherdstown Register shortly thereafter: "At a largely attended meeting in Shepherdstown last Saturday afternoon, the Jefferson County Historical Society was launched under the most favorable circumstances." During the meeting, the following officers were elected:

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|--------------------------|----------------------|
| President: | A. D. Kenamond |
| Vice President: | Susan Gregg Gibson |
| Recording Secretary: | Mrs. L. F. Grantham |
| Corresponding Secretary: | Ella May Turner |
| Treasurer: | Carrie B. Wilson |
| Curator: | Wright Denny |
| Board of Directors: | Letitia Cary Ambler, |

Walter E. Dittmeyer, Marshall McDonald, Sallie Lee Powell, Mrs. G. B. Shaull, H. L. Snyder

The Society began with 99 Charter Members. Although the majority of Charter Members lived in Jefferson County, some were residents of Martinsburg and Wheeling as well as the states of California, Maryland, and South Carolina. Wishing to "show her interest and support" of the Society, Miss Jeanette Aglionby became the first Life Member. The last surviving Charter Member was Mrs. John Goulding.

Initially membership in the Society was by election. Election of members continued for 30 years. In 1957 membership became "Open to all who have an interest in the history of Jefferson County." In 1957 annual dues were \$1 but over time they gradually increased to their present \$15.

The Society published the first edition of the *Magazine of the Jefferson County Historical Society* in December 1935, and it has been published annually since then. From 1935 until 2003 *The Magazine* had three editors: 1935-1964 --A. D. Kenamond; 1965-1980 -- Dr. John A. Washington; and 1980-2003 -- Dr. John E. Stealey, III.

Readers of *The Magazine* became accustomed to seeing a profile of our county's namesake Thomas Jefferson on the opening page, but in 2006 a new logo incorporating this image was designed and approved by vote of the membership.. In 1950, the Society added the credo "*No man is fit to be entrusted with the control of the present who is ignorant of the past, and no people who are indifferent to their past need hope to make their future great*" to *The Magazine*. An additional credo appeared in 1993 when *The Magazine* editor added "*History by apprizing them of their past will enable them to judge of the future; it will avail them of the experience of other times and other nations; it will qualify them as judges of the actions and designs of man; it will enable them to know ambition under every disguise it may assume, and, knowing it, to defeat its views.*"

One of the most important functions of the Society has been the publication of books which chronicle the rich history of Jefferson County. The Society's first publication, *Prominent Men of Shepherdstown, 1762-1962* by A. D. Kenamond, was released in 1963. Since then the Society has published a number of books documenting the history of the county's people, places, and events which are for sale on the Society's web site at <http://jeffersonhistoricalwv.org/thestore.html>.

The Society has had headquarters at two locations. From 1942-1951 the Society was headquartered in the County Offices Building on the northwest corner

of George and Congress Street in Charles Town. In 1951, the Society became one of the owners of the Esta Burton Hilleary house on the northeast corner of George Street and Hunter Avenue in Charles Town and headquarters moved to that location. A fireproof vault to house the Society's artifacts was built by Rev. John W. Link. Society events were held in "The Hall of the Society" until 1969. At that point, the Society's Library was moved to the Old Charles Town Library, its artifacts were placed in the Jefferson County Museum, and the Society held its meetings at a variety of locations throughout the county.

In 1979, Mrs. Louise Briscoe, owner of Piedmont, one of the most historic homes in the county, passed away. In her will she designated a bequest of the property in part to the Society and in part to two "life estate" individuals. After considerable deliberations, the Society and the life-estate holders concluded that without sufficient funds to properly restore and maintain the property, its preservation would be best assured through private ownership. Therefore, on June 1, 1981, Piedmont was sold at auction to Mr. and Mrs. William G. Psillas for \$175,000. That endowment has been a vital part of the Society's financial foundation and continues to provide income to support its programs and activities to this day.

Over the years a number of people have been rewarded for their contributions to the Society's. In 1959 two ladies were recognized for their service to the Society and were made *Emeritus Directors*. Susan Gregg Gibson was a Director from 1931 – 1958, and Sallie Lee Powell served as a Director from the Society's inception in 1927 until 1954.

The Society's success can in part be attributed to outstanding leadership. As a result the Society has conferred the honor of *Emeritus Officer* on the following people:

- Miss Margaret Chew elected in 1964. A charter member and a Director from 1949-1964.
- A. D. Kenamond elected in 1964. Served as President 1927-1950; Vice President 1950-1954; President 1954-1960; Corresponding Secretary 1960-1964; and editor of the Magazine 1935-1964.
- Mrs. C. R. Langdon elected in 1972. Served as corresponding secretary 1965-1967; a Director 1957-1964 and 1968-1971

- Miss Julianna Taylor elected in 1972. Served as Treasurer 1968-1971
- Mrs. Robert T. Browse elected in 1975. Served as President 1952-1953; Curator 1961-1974; a Director 1955-1960.
- John Y. McDonald elected in 1975. A Director 1968-1974.
- Talbot W. Jenkins elected in 1976. Served as Treasurer 1972-1975.
- Major Thornton T. Perry, II elected in 1979. Served as President 1950-1951; Vice President 1949, Recording Secretary 1952-1965; a Director 1946-1948 1966-1978.
- Miss Emily A. M. Stanley elected in 1979. Served as Recording Secretary 1969-1978.
- Admiral T. M. Stokes elected in 1979; a Director 1965-1978.
- Frank Woodruff Buckles elected in 1981. Served as President 1960-1964; Vice President 1954; Treasurer 1955-1959, 1965; a Director 1966-1978.
- Mrs. John A. Washington elected in 1990; a Director 1989-1990.
- William H. Wilson elected in 1997. Served as Vice President 1970-1974; Curator 1975-1996.

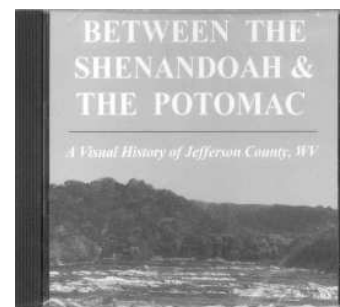
Embracing the idea that "...no people who are indifferent to their past need hope to make their future great," combined with good leadership has ensured the livelihood of The Jefferson County Historical Society. With continued respect for the past while preparing for the future the Society looks forward to continuing to provide an organization for all "...who have an interest in the history of Jefferson County."

PLEASE HELP US REACH YOU!

In an ongoing effort to improve communications to and between all members, if you have not already done so, **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)

Publications published by the Society and our partners are available for purchase by mail or on our web site, which also includes brief descriptions of each of the following products. (<http://jeffersonhistoricalwv.org/thestore.html>)



- ***“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."
- ***Between the Shenandoah and Potomac: Historic Homes of Jefferson County, WV. hardbound book. \$49.95***
- ***The Magazine of the Jefferson County Historical Society*** is mailed annually to each member and contains articles about local historical places, people, and events. Prices for purchase and shipping of the magazines are as follows:

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|---------------|-----------|
| 1935-1964: | \$20/copy |
| 1965-1994: | \$15/copy |
| 1995-Current: | \$10/copy |
- ***The Washington Homes of Jefferson County. \$10.***
- ***Prominent Men of Shepherdstown. A.D. Kenamond, 1962 \$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***
- ***Tombstone Inscriptions, Jefferson County, W. Va 1687-1980,*** Compiled by the Bee Line Chapter, National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), 1981. \$22
- ***Burials in Jefferson County, West Virginia, 1978-97.*** Compiled by Hugh E. Voress, 1998, \$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!!

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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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