



**It takes a community to preserve its history!!!**

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Postcard of an artist's rendering of the Thomas J.  
"Stonewall" Jackson birthplace in Clarksburg, WV 1907

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## Calendar of Events

- Christmas Party - 12/9 - 12pm -2pm - PWA Building Clarksburg
- Open Meeting - 1/27 - 12 pm - Vance House
- Valentine's Day Speed Dating - 2/11 - Location TBA
- Intro to Geneology Research Workshop - TBA

Harrison County WV Historical Society

# HOLIDAY BOOK SALE

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Your Life

## Cemetery Clean-Up With Dominion Energy & Thrasher Engineering



On September 21st the historical society partnered up with Dominion Energy and Thrasher Engineering to clean and rehabilitate the Ross Cemetery located near the White Oaks Development in Bridgeport. The Historical Society received a grant from Dominion Energy to purchase items such as fencing, signage, and D2, a cleaner created by the National Parks service to clean monuments and gravestones. With the help of volunteers, we were able to rake away leaves and clear brush, place fencing, and clean three gravestones and multiple footstones. Markers were also placed on unmarked graves in the cemetery. We are grateful to partner with businesses to ensure the preservation of local historical sites. If you are interested in learning to clean gravestones please contact us at [hcwvhs@gmail.com](mailto:hcwvhs@gmail.com).

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## Jackson's Vision for Early Clarksburg

Doing research from any type of academic or public media is tedious. Especially with the on-going tussles over what is fact and what is not.

For the past year, I have become involved in the study of Harrison County's Jackson family including Thomas J. Jackson more famously known as "Stonewall" Jackson. Issues surrounding his service in the War Between the States, slavery, statues and the use of his name are now ongoing. I'm not writing to comment on that Jackson. However, his uncle, John George Jackson, is the man whom Harrison County owes much.

John George Jackson (September 22, 1777 - March 28, 1825) has become the hero of my most recent journey through a time walk through Clarksburg. Recently, I became aware of a publication entitled *Voice of the New West: John G. Jackson, His Life and Times*. Published in 1985, the book is a result of a doctoral dissertation by Nitro, WV native, Stephen W. Brown, a WVU graduate. Brown, a professor of history at Mercer University in Georgia, was aware of the Jackson book by our beloved local historian, Dorothy Davis. How or why Brown became involved in the life of J.G. Jackson, I have yet to determine. Davis' books are full of meticulous facts on Jackson's life whereas the Brown dissertation and book more directly concern the energetic, frontier-born, self-taught, entrepreneur, and federally groomed Jackson.

I will discuss Jackson's busy and - unfortunately short - personal life at another time, but now we'll join arm in arm with him and wife, Mary Payne Jackson, to walk west down Main Street. An on-going fuss with the city of Clarksburg is the reason to begin our stroll near the Maxwell-Duncan House at the top of Main Street on the south side of the street and east of the Stealey-Goff-Vance House.

George Jackson, father of John George, earlier laid claim to the original stretch of land comprising most of Clarksburg. Later, he would operate the Jackson's Ordinary near Second Street. George assigned John George to land surveying.

He assumed ownership of a large portion of the area we'll be discussing in the late 1790s. He named it "Merchant" Street. By this time, young Jackson was deeply involved in reading law, engaging in regional and federal politics, and land speculation. By 1800, at the age of 23, he married Mary "Polly" Payne, sister of President James Madison's wife, Dolley Payne Madison. The Jacksons' knew some pretty impressive politicians in Washington!

John George Jackson developed a plan to lay out a road in Clarksburg that he surveyed as early as 1795. Currently, the Maxwell-Duncan House and property is now situated on lot number one in that early plan. That property was the land on which Jackson eventually built his home.



Sketch of John George Jackson

The road ran west down the hill, over Elk Creek, and up the hill to the corner of Second Street. The current Presbyterian Church now stands proudly on the south corner of the street. Originally, the corner lot held the first courthouse constructed between 1787 and 1810. The jail, complete with stocks and whipping post, was next to the courthouse heading east.

All in all, John George Jackson's vision was to lay out lots on both sides of Merchant [Main] Street for small workshops and homes from Second Street up to the top of the hill. In the twentieth century on the north side of the street, shoppers would find the Sears & Roebuck store, Palace Furniture, and other assorted older buildings turned into businesses.

In this article, we included the surveyor's map laid out by Jackson. It is remarkable to imagine the vision he had in 1800 and what it would become today. At the end of the eighteenth century, John George envisioned small log buildings close to each other for protection from Indian attack. Artisan workshops where pottery and other small business would thrive were often invited by Jackson himself to come to Clarksburg to set up their trades, hostels, and ordinaries (taverns) to serve travelers. Jacob Stealey would be one such tradesman who traveled from Morgantown by crude wagon with his wife and small child to work in Jackson's tan yard next to Elk Creek.

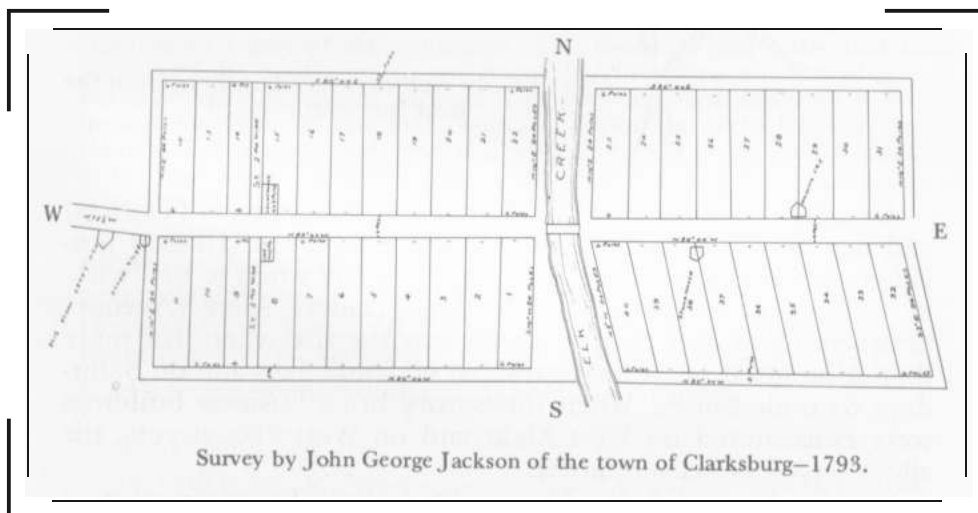
In future WAGs\*, we will continue our walk from the corner of Second Street to the Duncan-Maxwell house above Elk Creek. Any further information or memories from our readers would be appreciated.

Main sources of my information are the books, *History of Harrison County* and *John George Jackson* by Dorothy Davis. The dissertation by Stephen W. Brown, and his subsequent book on Jackson and Henry Haymond's *History of Harrison County*; and papers and documents collected by Dr. Helen Jones.

Written by: Carol Schweiker



Clarksburg Court House 1787  
Courtesy of History of Harrison County  
by Dorothy Davis





## Stonewall Commemorative Medal

In this newsletter, we will be highlighting an interesting artifact in our collection. In 1863, Clarksburg born General Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson was killed after the Battle of Chancellorsville. After his death, officers under his command wanted medals that they and their men could have to memorize Jackson. However, there is conflicting information on how the medals were commissioned. Some sources say that the medal was privately funded by Charles A. Lamar, a famous slave trader who is also believed to be the last person killed during the Civil War(1). The other story and, the most likely scenario, was that the funds were raised in Richmond by public subscription in late 1863(2).

The medals were designed by Armand Auguste Caque. Caque was a French medalist who, under Napoleon III, was appointed Engraver to the Imperial Cabinet. They were designed with Jackson's profile on one side and a list of battles he served in on the other. Since Caque, never met Jackson the coin does not have a great likeness to the general. Some even believe that it looked too similar to Abraham Lincoln. This is no the only issue with the medal. Firstly, it has Jackson's birth year as 1821 instead of the correct 1824. There are also issues with the battles listed. The "First Battle of Bull Run" on the medals was referred to as the "Battle of First Manassas" by Confederate forces, making Bull Run a strange choice for a Confederate medal. This is the same with the "Battle of Sharpsburg" being named the "Battle of Antietam", its Union name.

The coins were run past union blockades by Gazaway Bugg Lamar to the Port of Wilmington, NC and traveled to Georgia. However, once in the Confederacy the medals were not dispersed. Some believe it was because of the likeness of Lincoln while others think it was the war effort beginning to wind down.



After the war, a cache of medals stayed in a Customs House in Savannah, Georgia where they sat for thirty years before being found in 1894. After their discovery, the medals were given to the Ladies Auxiliary of the Confederate Veterans of America who sold them at one dollar a piece. The profits of the coins were donated to benefit disabled Confederate Veterans. We are not sure how we ended up with this unique item in our collection.

By: Sydney Stapleton  
Preserve WV AmeriCorps Member



### The Stonewall Jackson Medals,

Illustrated above, were presented to the Ladies' Auxiliary so C. V. A., of Savannah, Ga., to be sold for the benefit of disabled Confederate Veterans. As historic souvenirs of the war they are of great value, being the only medals that were made at that time, and commemorating all the victories of the great general. They were brought to the South through the blockade, and lay in an old Savannah warehouse nearly thirty years. The price of these medals is One Dollar each, and all orders sent to S. A. Cunningham, Nashville, Tenn., or to Mrs. Geo. W. Lamar, Pres. L. A. C. V. A., Savannah, Ga., will receive prompt attention. The medals are the size of engravings, and very handsomely executed.

Ad for the medals in the Confederate Veteran 1894 via archives.org

### STONEWALL JACKSON MEDALS. Interesting Find in an Abandoned Warehouse in Savannah.

From The Savannah (Ga.) News, Jan. 24. Over a thousand Stonewall Jackson medals were found yesterday in the office of the old Lamar warehouse, adjoining the Baltimore steamship wharf, where they have lain hidden away for over a quarter of a century. A number of years ago a drayman named Nolan found one of these medals on the wharf, and, being curious to know something about it, took the medal to Mr. William Harden, the librarian of the Georgia Historical Society, and he, knowing nothing about it, made a wax impression of it and sent it to Mr. Brock, Secretary of the Confederate Historical Association at Richmond, with a request for such information as he could give on the subject.

Article from the New York Times about the finding of the medals. Via coinbook.com

Mr. Brock's reply said that shortly after Gen. Jackson's death the officers of his command, desiring to have some memorial of him, decided upon a medal which could be distributed among the officers and members. The idea of the medal was sent to an artist in Paris, who drew up a design which was engraved, and from which a number of medals were struck. The medals were shipped to this country, but arrived during the closing scenes of the war, and in the general confusion prevailing at the time were lost sight of. The medal found by Mr. Nolan was presented to the Georgia Historical Society, which still has it in its possession. The medals are about twice the size of a silver dollar. On one side is a raised figure intended as a portrayal of the head of Gen. Jackson, with the inscription: "Lieut. Gen. T. J. Jackson, Stonewall. Born 1821. Died 1863." On the other side is a list of the battles in which Gen. Jackson participated, "Kernstown, Front Royal, Middletown, Winchester, Strasburg, Harrisburg, Port Republic, Mechanicsville, Cold Harbor, White Oak Swamp, Malvern Hill, Cedar Mountain, and Manassas," occupying the centre in the order named. On a scroll around the wreath the following are inscribed: "Bull Run, Sudley, Harper's Ferry, Shepherdstown, Fredericksburg, the Wilderness, Antietam, Martinsburg, Chantilly." The scroll and wreath spring from a mass of arms at the bottom, under which are the words, "Deo Vindice."

The workmanship of the medal is very good, but the likeness of Gen. Jackson is very poor, and might easily be taken for that of Abraham Lincoln. The metal appears to be a composition of nickel and copper. Most of them could be put in good condition by a person experienced in cleaning metals.

1. [http://www.coinbooks.org/esylum\\_v16n28a25.html](http://www.coinbooks.org/esylum_v16n28a25.html)
2. [http://www.coinbooks.org/esylum\\_v16n29a10.html](http://www.coinbooks.org/esylum_v16n29a10.html)

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## Italian Community Donation

We want to thank Rose Ann Policano and David Patsy of the Glen Elk Memories Facebook group for facilitating the donation of the Jennifer La Rosa-Ward collection to our Neff-Hardesty Memorial Archives last month. We also want to thank Jennifer La Rosa-Ward for contributing this important collection documenting the strong Italian heritage of Glen Elk. The collection includes over 100 framed photographs and newspapers of those who grew up and worked in the Glen Elk neighborhood. Back in the day, you may even remember seeing these photos displayed on the walls of Phillips Ballroom.

Additionally, Rose Ann and David have been posting copies of the photographs on the Glen Elk Memories Facebook group because not all of the people or locations are identified. So, we encourage present and former Glen Elk residents to join the Glen Elk Memories Facebook group to help us identify these people. Their group has been very helpful with identifying people over the past few weeks, and we appreciate their assistance. If you have any Glen Elk or Italian community-related objects or photos that you would like cared for future generations please consider the Historical Society.

Support us on Black Friday  
& Cyber Monday

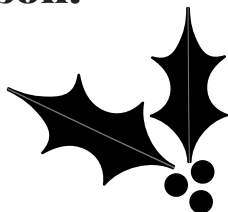
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**The Holidays Are Almost  
Here!**

**Think About Us This  
Holiday Season!**



**Black Friday. Cyber Monday.**

**#GIVINGTUESDAY™**

**November 28, 2017**

## Archives Wishlist

Here at the society, we are always in need of archival materials to store and protect our objects. We have created a list of items that we want, in order of need. If you have any questions on specifics on an item we will be happy to answer them for you. If you wish to donate money or purchase one of these items for the society please call or email to let us know.

Shelving Units - \$89.99

Oversize Archival Folder (10) - 20.65

Artifact Labeling Paint - 9.99

Folding Table - \$40.18

Archival Folders (100) - \$45.79

Archival Boxes - \$11.89

UV Film For House Windows - \$239.99

Object Tags - \$23.65

Cotton Twill Labeling Tape (For Clothing) - \$23.89

Legal Folders - \$14.00



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## Spooky Tales on the Rail Trails



On October 6th the Harrison County WV Historical Society and the Harrison Rail Trails partnered for the 2nd Annual Spooky Tales on the Rail Trails. The event was well attended with an estimated 450 people attending the two tours! We at the Historical Society are always happy to partner with the Rail Trails and other local partners to celebrate the great resources that Clarksburg and Harrison County has to offer. See you on the trails next year with even more spooky stories!



# ★ Wanted ★

## We Are Recruiting Board Members!

Do you see local history, culture, arts, and historic preservation as means to improve the quality of life and future economic development of Harrison County?

Are you ready to partner with diverse organizations in innovative ways to present local history?

We are looking for driven individuals with positive attitudes to fill a variety of leadership roles to help us make local history matter in Harrison County.

If you are up to the challenge, we want you to serve on our Board of Directors! We have three at-large board member positions open, and the selected candidates will be mentored into officer-level board positions.

If interested in joining our awesome team, please mail a letter of interest to the HCWVHS at P.O. Box 4695, Bridgeport, WV 26330 by December 31, 2017.

These Preserve AmeriCorps position made possible through Preservation Alliance of West Virginia grant from Volunteer WV, the State's Commission for National and Community Service, and the Corporation for National and Community Service. Opinions and points of view expressed in this documented are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the position of, or a position that is enforced by, CNCS or the AmeriCorps program.

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P.O. Box 4695, Bridgeport, WV 26330- 123 W. Main Street, Clarksburg, WV  
Archives Office- 215 South 3rd Street 8th Floor, Site 801 Clarksburg, WV

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[harrisoncowvhistoricalsociety.org/contribute](https://harrisoncowvhistoricalsociety.org/contribute)



### Membership Dues Reminder

\$20 Single

\$30 Family

\$5 Student

\$15 Senior

\$250 Corporate

Send dues to P.O. Box 4695  
Bridgeport, WV 26330 or go to  
[harrisoncowvhistoricalsociety.org/join](https://harrisoncowvhistoricalsociety.org/join)

Open 9-5 Monday - Friday  
E-Mail : [hcwvhs@gmail.com](mailto:hcwvhs@gmail.com)  
Phone Number : (304) 709-4902

The HCWVHS is lacking archival treasures and memories from the last half of the 20th Century, 1940's through now. We invite your consideration of passing on to us special items and remembrances for preservation and future research. Walk down memory lane, downtown Clarksburg, Shinnston, Salem, Lumberport, etc., and all our wonderful county streets.