

GREATER JEFFERSONTOWN
HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

June 2020

Volume 18 Number 3

The June 1, 2020, GJHS meeting is Cancelled.

As of now everything is moved to Monday, August 3, at 7:00 P.M. By then hopefully all will be settled and we can safely meet in the library meeting room. I have not heard if the Jeffersontown Branch Library is going to open on June 8. We hope all of our members, their family, and friends are still doing well.

E-Mail Addresses – Newsletter - A Reminder

A few more members sent me their email addresses. I would appreciate any member with an e-mail address, if you haven't, please send it to me at plasticitu@aol.com. Your information will go no further than me. In a situation like the one we are now in, it will make it easier, faster, and cheaper to send a short notice to everyone. When you send your email address, also tell me how you would rather receive the newsletter, by e-mail or snail mailed letter.

August Meeting

The 100th anniversary of the passage of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution, which ended the 72-year struggle for the right of women to vote in the United States, is being celebrated this year. With that in mind, we will try for the presentation of "PerSisters: What is a Vote Worth?", in August.

Enjoy a riveting historical presentation of the women's suffrage movement in America as told by Susan Look Avery (portrayed by Margaret Young), Anna Howard Shaw (portrayed by Jeanne James), Patty Semple (portrayed by Mary Popham), Lucy Burns (portrayed by Ann Coffey), and Sophonisba Breckinridge (portrayed by Andi Dahmer). Each woman poses the question, "What is a Vote Worth?" and explores the theme of suffrage in her own era. This will ultimately leave us to ponder the worth of a vote in our own democracy today.

Jeffersontown's History

In the last newsletter I told you that last December Jim Holmberg, Curator of Archives for the Filson Historical Society, called Beth with a deal we couldn't refuse. To make space they were clearing their storage of the physical copies of many of the smaller local Kentucky newspapers they had, since most had been transferred to electronic files. They had offered the copies of the *Jeffersonian* to the University of Kentucky, who lucky for us, had declined the offer. With our relationship with Jim and The Filson over the last few years, he suspected we might be interested.

Everything the Filson gave us filled the back of my van. They are copies from the first day into the 1970s. Not all issues, but some are ones that Beth doesn't have on microfilm. Beth has now scanned everything and unfortunately Beth has found that many are issues covering the Buechel area, with minimal articles on Jeffersontown. She finished a week or so ago and has spent most of her time this year, searching through each page for Jeffersontown information, and scanning articles and advertisements with a 10-inch, hand-held scanner. After scanning, each page was put in archival tissue paper and boxed. Unfortunately we didn't take a photo of the stacks of papers. They covered one-half of the long table in the museum office, 18-24 inches tall.

I will put them in the newsletter at times. Here are a few more items, as printed, again, not in any order.

January 23, 1908 –

Two dollars that had been taken into a till were holding a conversation together. This was not an unusual circumstance, because everybody understands that money talks. "I would hate to be the wife of the man who owns us now," said one dollar to the other. "If he squeezes her as he does us, he will break every bone in her body." "I notice, however," said the other coin, "that man who squeezes a dollar hardly ever squeezes a dollar hardly ever squeezes his wife."—Ex.

If you are the kind of a fellow that squeezes the dollar suppose you bring it in for a year's subscription to The Jeffersonian, and let us squeeze it—we have no wife.

April 29, 1909 –

And on it goes, have things changed

FROM the report of the Jefferson-town Board of Trustees it looks like old "Brunerstown" is about bankrupt. Our people are doing so well, we suppose, they have quit trying to do any better. The gardeners are making money on their truck patches, the merchants believe everybody goes to Louisville to trade, we get to see the CARS COME every hour—and what's the use to try to build up a town? Let's get out of our morbid state of lethargy, attend the meetings of the Trustees and see if we can not help improve conditions. We can do it, if we try. We wonder if one-half of the citizens of Jefferson-town know who the Trustees are. Ask about them. Find out who they are and what they are doing, and then wake up and help make this town the most beautiful of any in the county.

January 2, 1908 -

Small Fire.

Fire, the origin of which is unknown broke out Tuesday night about 1 o'clock at "College Heights," the residence of Mrs. Helen Mittler, in Jeffersontown. The Mittler family, with a few friends, were having a watch party, and some one discovered smoke on the second floor. They investigated the matter at once and found that the floor and a couch in the storeroom was ablaze. J. P. Frederick and David Fenley, nearby neighbors, were immediately notified and gave valuable assistance in extinguishing the fire. Julius Mittler, in removing the couch from the room received several burns on his hand which are very painful but not serious. The damage is estimated to be about \$100.

January 16, 1908 -

Building Improvements.

Jeffersontown seems to have awakened from its peaceful slumbers, as there are quite a number of new buildings going up and prospects of a great many more. Chas. Pound is erecting two cottages in Gregg's addition, Walker Bros. are building a handsome residence of seven rooms in Livingston Heights; Dr. D. A. Floor is having the foundation laid for a new house on the lot adjoining his residence on Main street; W. S. Strong is building a new addition to his residence in Livingston Heights, and J. C. Bruce is erecting a new cottage in Gregg's addition. Mr. Bruce also expects to begin work in a few days on his new business house to be built on the eastern side of the public square, and which promises to add much to the looks of our town. Jeffersontown, situated as it is on the interurban electric railway, besides many other advantages, has a great future.

Small Fire article. College Heights was located where the Good Samaritan Home is now at 10617 Watterson Trail, across Bluebird Lane from the Senior Center and Library. The original building on the site was constructed in 1836 by the Lutheran Church as a home for their pastor, George Yeager, who started the well attended Jefferson Academy that went through several owners. In 1905 it was sold to the Mittler family and was named College Heights. The Lutheran Church repurchased the property in 1925. If you know Jack and Betty Mittler, this was his family.

Building Improvements. If you built your house, was it noted in the newspaper when it was built? Livingston Heights, a suburb of Jeffersontown, as E. R. Sprowl called his 30-acre development, was located on the north side of Market Street (Taylorsville Road) from roughly Grand Avenue and Snively to about the railroad viaduct. Beth Wilder has seen a Livingston marker back in that area. See the next insert. Gregg's Addition was located on the west side of Main Street (Watterson Trail) starting at Maple Road.

E. R. Sprowl was into everything, including being on the Board of Trustees.

January 2, 1908

As it is my intention to move to Texas in the next six months, I am now in the position to give you the BARGAIN OF YOUR LIFE in way of over thirty acres of land in Livingston Heights, a suburb of Jeffersontown. This land is divided into lots from 1-4 acre to 11 acres. ALSO, MY ELEGANT COUNTRY HOME. In order to make a QUICK SALE, I have put this property on the "BARGAIN COUNTER." You will never have the opportunity to buy as cheap in this section again. CAN MAKE TERMS TO SUIT. Call on, or address

E. R. SPROWL, Jeffersontown, Ky.
Cumberland Phone.

January 16, 1908

**To My Fire Insurance Customers
And Whom It May Concern :**

Dec. 19, 1907.

I have this day sold to Messrs. Monroe & Miller my insurance business covering all policies now in force in the following companies: The Home Insurance Company of New York, the Ohio German of Ohio, and the Eagle Insurance Company of New York, and the said Monroe & Miller are agents in my stead and authorized to renew said business, attend to making changes and endorsements on all business now in force.

Very respectfully,
E. R. SPROWL.

N. B.—Please understand that the sale of my insurance agency has nothing whatever to do with my Real Estate and Auctioneer Department. I am still very much in the Real Estate and Auctioneer business, which I expect to continue for some time, and a continuance of your liberal patronage is solicited.

Yours very truly,
E. R. SPROWL.

In answering advertisements please mention The Jeffersonian.

Contact Us

The telephone contact is your newsletter editor, John Ulmer, 491-6463.