

MUSEUM MUSINGS
THE NEWSLETTER OF THE JEFFERSONTOWN HISTORICAL MUSEUM

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Ester Harlow

Special Notice: Ester Harlow, our beloved and excellent Assistant Curator of Education, will be retiring July 31st of this year. Ester has served the museum faithfully for 14 years, and she will be sorely missed by patrons and staff alike.

We will have a farewell party in her honor at the museum on July 31st from 11:00 - 2:00. We hope you can make it, but if not, please try to stop by the museum before then and give Ester your best wishes.

Thank you, Ester, for the outstanding job you have done assisting in the museum and waiting on our patrons. You definitely have a gift for communicating with people, and not only have you helped promote the museum and City of Jeffersontown for the past 14 years, you have also made a lot of lives the better for it. We love you so much and wish you all the best in your retirement!

EXHIBITS: Our current exhibit, ***1920s JEFFERSONTOWN***, featuring historic photos and artifacts, will run through December 19, 2014. After that, Corn Island Archaeology has generously offered to set up an exhibit on Valentine Conrad's pottery. For those of you who may not know, Valentine Conrad was a potter on the town square in the early 1800s. Anne Bader, the head of Corn Island Archaeology, which is located in the Conrad-Seaton house, has conducted excavations around the historic home and found remnants of Conrad's kiln and pottery sherds, etc. Anne has even managed to get an historical marker for the Conrad-Seaton house. We really look forward to having an exhibit related to one of the earliest businessmen in Jeffersontown.

WEB SITE: We have compiled information on the Jeffersontown, German Reformed Presbyterian, and Lutheran cemeteries, and will hopefully have that information available online in the not too distant future.

Meanwhile, don't forget that you can access several books on Jeffersontown and old *Jeffersonian* newspaper articles through the museum pages of the city website at www.jeffersontownky.gov.

FILM: With the backing of the City Council, Mayor Dieruf has commissioned producer Tim Antkowiak to create a short film history of Jeffersontown that will feature historical photos and information about our wonderful city, from its founding in the late 1700s through the present day. Of course, photos and information from the Jeffersontown Historical Museum feature prominently in the short video, which will be shown at city events and to prospective business owners, as well as local schools. The video will also be available online at www.jeffersontownky.gov.

DONATIONS: Dr. Jewelene Fulton Brown very kindly donated her extensive research on the History of First Baptist Church 1833-1999, The African American Community in Jeffersontown in the 1940s and the 1950s, and Memoirs of African American Families in Jeffersontown in the 1940s and 1950s -- this information is a Godsend to the museum, as we have long sought (and always welcome) any information we can get on the history of the African Americans who were an historical and important part of our community. We greatly appreciate all the hard work Dr. Fulton put into the making of these records, and her extreme thoughtfulness in donating them to the museum so that others can learn about the history of African Americans in Jeffersontown.

Joy Cook, a descendant of Moses Tyler, donated an adorable baby dress her mother crocheted for her in 1937, as well as her Witrock "Little Bo Peep" baby plate and cup from 1938. Dottie First donated a 1909 atlas and a lot of wonderful c1950s ladies accessories; a 1920s Art Deco purse; a hairbrush and sewing kit from White's Beauty Salon, which stood near the current Fire Department on the town square; and an archive of materials from the Younger Women's Club, organized in 1947, and renamed the "Pioneer Women's Club" by the time of its silver anniversary in 1972. Pat Friedman donated a much-needed copy of Col. Jobson's excellent book on Jeffersontown's early history. Barbara Stephens donated some of her c1943 Girl Scout items -- socks, belt, pocket-knife, and patches. Judith Meyer donated a gavel and several c1930s wedding figurines. Fred Deckmann donated paperwork, a medical bag, and a large medicine bottle that were used by Dr. Shacklette, who had an office on the town square.

