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**“What a Crock! Johnstown Potteries  
of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century” opens at Heritage  
Discovery Center**

JOHNSTOWN, Pa. -- The Johnstown Area Heritage Association (JAHA) has opened a new exhibit on salt-glazed stoneware pottery manufactured in Johnstown during the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The exhibit, “What a Crock! Johnstown Potteries of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century,” will be displayed in the second-floor galleries of the Frank & Sylvia Pasquerilla Heritage Discovery Center through December 2005.

“One of JAHA’s long-term goals is to document and interpret the fine and folk art traditions of the Johnstown area. This exhibit helps us toward that goal,” said Richard Burkert, executive director of JAHA.

During the 19<sup>th</sup> century, salt-glazed pottery was used to store all types of food products, including dairy products, cakes, preserves and more. Today, these pieces of “everyday art” are highly prized by collectors.

More than 100 pieces are included in the exhibit. About a dozen come from JAHA’s archive, and the remainder have been borrowed from private collectors. The exhibit focuses on the Swank pottery, but pieces from a few other potteries, including Hamilton & Pershing and A.J. Haws, are also included.

An AmeriCorps member, Donna Stromsdorfer, spearheaded the primary research into the history of the Swank family and their pottery. The results of the research, along with more than 150 historic photographs and images of pottery, have been published in a full-color catalog that will be available long after the exhibit is over. The catalog is available for sale in the Heritage Discovery Center gift shop for \$14.95, or may be ordered over the phone at 814-539-1889 x301.

The project has been funded in part by grants from the Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission and the Penelec Fund for Greater Johnstown, a part of the Community Foundation for the Alleghenies.

“What A Crock” occupies the second floor galleries of the Heritage Discovery Center. Admission to the exhibit is included in the Heritage Discovery Center’s regular ticket price of \$6 for adults, \$5 for seniors and \$4 for students. Group rates are available with advance arrangements. Tickets also include admission to the Johnstown Flood Museum.

The Frank & Sylvia Pasquerilla Heritage Discovery Center is located at 201 Sixth Ave., Johnstown, Pa. 15906. The museum, which opened in 2001, also features a permanent exhibit on its first floor, “America: Through Immigrant Eyes.” This interactive exhibit tells the story of Southern and Eastern European immigrants to the Johnstown area around the turn of the century. For more information about the museum, this exhibit and other JAHA programs, visit [www.jaha.org](http://www.jaha.org) or call 888-222-1889.

The Johnstown Area Heritage Association is a non-profit, membership-based organization dedicated to preserving and showcasing Johnstown’s unique history to the nation through high-quality educational, cultural and recreational experiences. JAHA owns and operates the Johnstown Flood Museum and the Frank & Sylvia Pasquerilla Heritage Discovery Center, and produces the AmeriServ FolkFest, a 3-day free music and food festival held annually over Labor Day weekend; events commemorating the 1889 Johnstown flood; and a wide variety of additional cultural programming. The Wagner-Ritter House & Garden will open in 2005, and a Children’s Discovery Center is being planned. For more information on JAHA programs, museums and events, visit [www.jaha.org](http://www.jaha.org).