

PRESS RELEASE

For more information, please contact:
Shelley Johansson, Marketing Manager
Johnstown Area Heritage Association
P. O. Box 1889
Johnstown, PA 15907
(814) 539-1889 x 308
sjohansson@jaha.org

Randy Whittle to present new book At Heritage Discovery Center

JOHNSTOWN, Pa. – Local author Randy Whittle will discuss his newly-published book, Johnstown, PA: A History, Part One, 1895-1936, at the Frank & Sylvia Pasquerilla Heritage Discovery Center on Thursday, April 20 at 7:00 p.m. The free event will be followed by a book signing.

“There’s been a great deal of scholarship about the great flood of 1889, but comparatively little about the post-flood period,” said Richard Burkert, executive director of the Johnstown Area Heritage Association. “Randy Whittle has done a great job of filling in that gap, and JAHA is pleased to host this presentation.”

Randy Whittle is a longtime Johnstown resident and former acting city manager. He served as the executive director of the Greater Johnstown Committee for almost two decades. This is his first published book.

“I believe every community should have a history of itself,” Whittle said. “No comprehensive history had been done since the great flood. I thought it’d be interesting to do and found that I really enjoyed it.”

Whittle describes the key events and issues that preoccupied the community's institutions and leading personalities, recounting the community's history through its government, civic organizations and leading businesses. Topics include the Johnstown economy, the rise of the steel and coal industries, the Prohibition era, Johnstown during World War I, the African-American community, the steel strike of 1919, the Great Depression and more.

Johnstown, PA: A History, Part One, 1895-1936 is the first volume in a planned two-book series. It was published in 2005 by The History Press, which is based in Charleston, SC and Gloucester, Mass. and specializes in local and regional history. The book, which is 288 pages and includes more than 60 black and white photographs and illustrations, is available locally in a variety of stores, including the gift shops of the Johnstown Flood Museum and Heritage Discovery Center, and in the museums' online store at www.jaha.org.

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. JAHA also produces the AmeriServ Johnstown FolkFest, a 3-day outdoor music festival with free admission, 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 soon open, and a Children's Discovery Museum is being planned. For more information on JAHA programs, museums and events, visit www.jaha.org.