

The Jacobsburg Record

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 1990

VOL. XVIII NO. 1

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Members:

Your Society is entering upon a new and crucial period in its history. Formerly, we rented the Henry Homestead from the State for one dollar a year, opening it once a month to interpret the history of the Henry Family, exhibiting Henry guns which we had collected, as well as doing research and archeology at the site.

Today we not only have the same program to attend to, but in addition have the care and operation of an enlarged area consisting of three houses and twenty-five acres of which we are the owners. In making this gift to us, Mary Henry Stites asked us to maintain this property as a perpetual memorial to keep alive the story of the Henry Family and its operation of the gun Factory, as well as its contribution to the community in which it lived.

We are, in accepting this task, involved in a very serious endeavor, a trust, if you will, to which the Society now dedicates itself. It is no longer a matter of administering one site owned by the State, but in addition being solely responsible for the perpetual care of a much larger and valuable area.

Obviously, this involves a more serious program, more work, more dedication and sacrifice on the part of the Jacobsburg Historical Society. No longer will it be possible to place the entire burden on a Board of Directors or an Executive Committee. The job is too big for that.

In the past we have tended to regard the Board of Directors as "The Society". We must correct our thinking. It is the Membership that is the Society, and we need an active membership to make this obvious.

In short, it is time to draw each member into the program, each contributing what he or she can do best by serving as a volunteer, offering services of one kind or another, or for those who are unable to give of their time, additional financial support is another form of welcomed service. There is much pleasure to be found in such activities, including new friendships, broader historical knowledge and the satisfaction of being part of a worthy project. When the call comes to you, I trust you will rise to the occasion.

Bob Frick, President

BOARD NOTES

The following have been elected Officers of the Society:

President	Robert Frick
Vice Presidents	Joseph DiGerlando Phil Schroeder
Secretary	Nancy Houck
Treasurer	John Schlamp

Bob Frick succeeds Earl VanNorman who was commended for his two years as President. Plaques were given to Mr. and Mrs. Charles Sandwick in recognition of their service to the Society as founding members and chairmen of the Research Committee. Mr. Sandwick was editor of the society's book on the history of the Henrys and the gun-making chronicals "Jacobsburg, a Pennsylvania Community and its People".

Acquisition of two "Robin Hood" revolvers that were distributed by the Henrys in the late 19th century was announced by Robert Newell. A Henry manufactured shotgun made with re-worked Civil War barrels was purchased last Fall.

A series of Open House events will be held the fourth Sunday of each month beginning in April. The board announced that the high point of the year will be a Civil War encampment October 27 and 28.

OAK TREE ADOPTED

We are happy to report that the magnificent Oak Tree near the Boulton barn has been pruned by Burns Tree Service. In addition, the very interesting curved lower limb has been protected by a cable. It has been some time since it received attention, and much dangerous rotted wood was removed.

Such work is expensive and well beyond the normal budget of a Society such as ours. It was our good fortune to have a member "adopt" this tree and provide funds for the project. We are deeply grateful for this anonymous gift. From time to time we will be faced with similar situations where a much needed project falls outside of budget allotments. It is hoped that other members will be found to "adopt" such projects (possibly) memorials to the great benefit of their Society.

**REPORT ON JOHN JOSEPH HENRY HOUSE
KNOWN AS BOULTON**

Under the will of Mary Henry Stites, the Society was directed to select what household items were thought best to remain in her home; those deemed not desirable for the purposes of the society to be sold, the proceeds to be equally divided between us and the Moravian Historical Society. The Nazareth National Bank as Trustee asked Bob Frick and Matt Morris to act as the Bank's agents and the Society confirmed these persons to act on their behalf. The task was to produce an inventory needed by the Bank for legal purposes, and to select items to be released for sale not desired for the Society's purposes. This work has continued since July, often three or four days a week. The vast amount of stored material made it anything but an easy task.

It is proper to inform members how the criteria for retention or disposal were established. First, of course, was the saving of any item either original to the house or of historical value by Family association. The second consideration was to hold on to any items which would serve to complete furnishing of the various rooms to assist in our future interpretation of how the Henry Family lived, expressing the several generations of occupancy. The third category dealt with items valuable for practical use such as maintenance or use for social functions and the like.

One of the most difficult areas was selecting objects which might lend themselves to future exhibits (whose subjects were yet to be determined!). Many of these will be instructive to younger people who find it difficult to believe such things ever existed. Many are common things once in every-day use, and, of course, part of the every-day lives of the Henry Family. A number of items were just too ugly to cast aside... reflecting a taste not in harmony with our own standards today.

For the sorting of manuscripts, books and other printed matter, Walter Peters offered his services, as well as in the matter of Oriental rugs, subjects in which he has a deeper knowledge than most of us. It was he who saw the value in saving much material on Dr. Thomas Stites, Mary Henry's father. Although his story lies beyond our own involvement with the Henry Family, Dr. Stites' importance to the medical world made it wise to hold such material for some future researcher wishing to know more about the history of Tuberculosis treatment, Dr. Stites' special field.

Since the entire house had to be "undressed" to produce this inventory and uncover all the furnishings that lay in basement, attic and barn, the present task is to get the place back in order again. It will require much re-packing, storing in established areas as to category, and once again putting the rooms back in order. This will take time (and volunteers), and will be completed to a point, it is hoped, where the house can be opened to members at a special event in the spring. Certainly, the grounds will be able to be enjoyed by members in the near future.

MAINTENANCE WORK PARTY

Two Saturdays have been spent by a work party in the Homestead. The Maintenance Committee called for volunteers and Earl VanNorman, Jim Shedlauskas, John Morrow, Bob Newell and Bob Frick answered the call.

The project was to clear out the very damp Milk Room or Spring Room, located behind the utility kitchen. For some time this convenient catch-all has been collecting tools, folding chairs, and other items not doing well in a moist area. The project calls for a better climate control, repairs to ceiling and flaking walls in order to return the room to its original use and exhibit the preservation of food in a cool room before the era of home refrigeration.

Many of the folding chairs have rotted because of the damp conditions and will be discarded. Rusty tools and other artifacts are to be cleaned and placed in a better storage place --Virginia Lopresti was able to establish the sources of these materials.

WORK PARTIES WILL BE VERY FASHINABLE THIS YEAR!!!

HAVE YOU PAID YOUR 1990 DUES?

THE RECORD

We welcome Bea Schlamp as Editor of this edition of the JACOBSBURG RECORD. The RECORD is a very important function of our program and is, perhaps, the most important way to keep our Society both informed and held together.

The publishing of the RECORD is not an easy task - it takes much effort to get articles together, type them in proper form and then fit them into a well-designed format. Once this is done, the individual pieces must be addressed and mailed. For this last job we have John Schlamp to thank.

It really should not be necessary for the Editor to spend hours on the telephone "milking" news from members. If each Committee who has some important development to report will get in touch with the Editor, much news of interest to members will be at hand for publication. There is no reason why any member with a suggestion or complaint should not communicate this fact to be made known to the Society through the RECORD. Such thoughts can often be of great service.

You may have noticed that the RECORD has languished recently and the normal bi-monthly schedule not maintained. This was due to no fault of the Editor but rather to be blamed on ourselves for not supplying material to print. No one person can be expected to print an entire paper without help. Let us show by our support that we appreciate the work done by the Editor of the JACOBSBURG RECORD.

SURVEY RE TRIPS

We need your input so that determination can be made about any future bus trips. A postcard to the Society, P.O. Box 345, Nazareth, PA 18064, indicating your thoughts and ideas will be very much appreciated and very helpful.

1. Are you interested in Society sponsored bus trips?
2. If so, where would you like to go?
3. Do you prefer one (1) day trips --- or
4. Would you also be interested in overnight trips?

LET US HEAR FROM YOU!

DON'T FORGET! MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

FIRST 1990 OPEN HOUSE
SUNDAY, APRIL 22

JACOBSBURG HISTORICAL SOCIETY

OFFICERS - 1990

Robert Frick, President	Bethlehem	691-6233
Joseph DiGerlando, 1st Vice President	Wind Gap	759-7239
Phil Schroeder, 2nd Vice President	Nazareth	759-0551
Nancy Houck, Secretary	Tatamy	252-2916
John J. Schlamp, Treasurer	Nazareth	759-0302

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Term expires end of 1992

Dallam E. Blandy	Bethlehem	867-6849
Joseph DiGerlando	Wind Gap	759-7239
Virginia Lopresti	Stockertown	759-1580
Walter L. Peters	Nazareth	759-1530
James Shedlauskas	Allentown	435-4509
Mary Ann Vincent	Easton	250-0204
James A. Wright	Nazareth	759-9119

Term expires end of 1991

William Henry Atherton	Stockertown	759-7710
Robert Frick	Bethlehem	691-6233
Nancy Houck	Tatamy	252-2916
Matthew K. Morris	Nazareth	746-1089
Robert N. Newell	Nazareth	759-5423
Kathryn Schlamp	Nazareth	759-0302
Phil Schoreder	Nazareth	759-0551
Earl VanNorman	Easton	250-0204
		or 252-2463

Term expires end of 1990

Bobbie DiGerlando	Wind Gap	759-7239
Joseph Lopresti	Stockertown	759-1580
John D. Morrow	Phillipsburg	1-201-859-2498
Charlotte Sayre	Nazareth	746-1163
John J. Schlamp	Nazareth	759-0302

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FOR JACOBSBURG HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Student	\$2.50	Sustaining	\$10.00	Contributing	\$15.00
Individual	\$5.00	Family	\$12.50	Organizations	\$25.00

NAME CONTRIBUTIONS

Tannery Club	\$100.00	Boulton Club	\$500	Henry Rifle Club	\$1000
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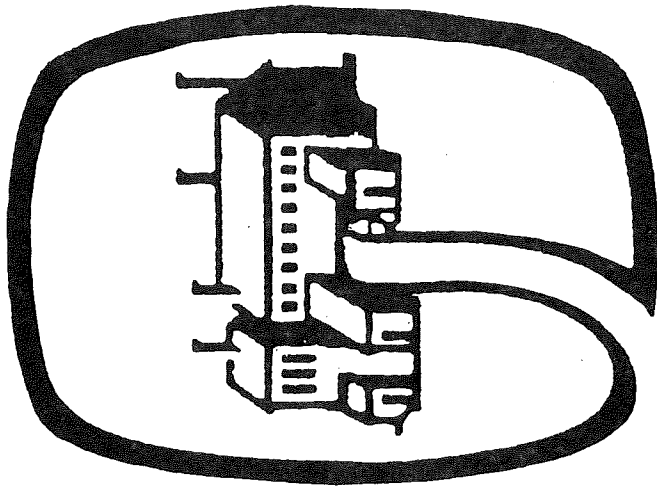
NAME AND ADDRESS _____

TEL.NO. _____

Please return this slip with your check, payable to Jacobsburg Historical Society. Send to P.O.Box 345, Nazareth, PA 18064. All contributions are tax deductible to the extent provided by law. Cancelled check is your receipt.

Jacobsburg Historical Society
Box 345
Nazareth, Pennsylvania 18064

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