

THE JACOBSTBURG RECORD

Box 345
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JACOBSTBURG HISTORICAL SOCIETY OFFICERS FOR THE YEAR 2002

At the January 17, 2002 meeting of the Board of Directors, the following officers were elected for the year 2002:

President	Howard White
First Vice President	Robert Sadler
Second Vice President	Richard Steiner
Third Vice President	Ronald Gabel
Secretary	A. James Shedlauskas
Treasurer	Wendy Totani

Thank you, Mr. Frick

Veteran Society member, Robert P.L. Frick, recently gave our organization a collection of "Keepsake Books." There are 42 books in all, including a run of Nazareth Keepsakes (1986 - 2000) and an almost complete set of Bethlehem Keepsakes running from 1975 until the last issue in 1993. In particular, the early Bethlehem copies are already considered to be quite rare due to limited printing runs. Most of the books are hard cover versions, and many are still in their original shipping envelopes. Some were collected by Bob's late brother, John. These books are a useful addition to our library as both versions cover a wide range of local topics.

Bob Frick authored Nazareth Keepsake No. 9, issued December 1994. The work is titled The Henry Heritage from Nazareth to Boulton. Many thanks to Mr. Frick for all that he has done for our Society in the past, and for his generous gift of the "Keepsakes."

Bob Newell, Curator

2001 ANNUAL PROGRAM REPORT

The following is an account of all community and school programs that were coordinated through the JHS & JEEC Partnership Heritage Program Office at the Boulton Visitor Center in 2001. Community program attendance in 2001 increased by 71% over the year 2000. On-site school programs for students at the Henry Homestead were suspended in 2001 due to the Homestead Museum renovation project. Nonetheless, overall program attendance in 2001 increased by 120 individuals over last year.

Community Programs:

<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Attendance</u>
Tri-Chamber Heritage Mixer	February 15	150
Winter Harvest	March 24	64
Delawares on the Bushkill	April 21	68
Henry of Boulton	May 24	92
Lehigh Township Heritage Day	July 8	175
Junior Historians	July 25-27	45
Our Cement Heritage	August 30	83
An Evening on Main Street	September 15	429
Bushkill Stream Festival	September 22	50
Archaeology of Jacobsburg	November 17	35

	Sub-total:	1,191

School Programs:

Program Title & Grade Level

Bushkill Creek Watershed Tour (Teacher Workshop)	August 15	25

	Sub-total:	25

Community & School Programs Combined Total: 1,216

A VERY INTERESTING NEIGHBOR

Last November, Bob Newell displayed Henry guns and gave a slide presentation to the Blue Mountain Muzzle Loading Rifle Association at the Blue Mountain Restaurant in Shartlesville, Pa. The club members enjoyed studying the variety of Henry guns, and in turn, told Bob some very interesting stories about their organization.

This Club was officially founded in 1939, but some of the members had been shooting muzzleloaders in competition since the 1920s. A permanent target range was set up a short distance north of the village of Shartlesville in 1941, and by the following year, a Club House had been roofed over, so that matches could be held during rainy weather. At first, shooting was done at 50 and 100 yd. distances, but later, 25 yd. and 200 yd. positions were added.

Many of the first members of the Blue Mountain Club were from local families that had never lost the knowledge and skills that are required to successfully shoot and properly maintain muzzleloading firearms. The guns used in competition during the Club's early years would now be considered valuable antiques.

An early club member was a gentleman named George D. Landis. He and his brother, Henry, owned the Landis Valley Museum in Lancaster County, which is now the Pennsylvania Farm Museum. Mr. Landis had a collection of Pennsylvania rifles, and would shoot some of them at the club. He frequently donated rifles from his own collection to be used as prizes at various matches. After his death in 1955, money from his estate was used to purchase land for the Club.

Some of the original marksmen were very traditional Pennsylvania Dutchmen and still believed in the ability of certain persons to hex, or cast spells. This power could be used for good or evil. A bad hex might spoil your preserved food, put rats in your house, or keep your rifle from hitting the target. This story is taken directly from the Rifle Club's history.

"There is a story about a hexing at the Club that happened about sixty years ago. A shooter had his gun on the bench ready to shoot his target. For some reason he had to walk away from it. (Most of the men felt it was bad luck to leave their guns unattended.) When he came back to his gun he sensed something was wrong. The gun wouldn't shoot true anymore! This man was one of the better shooters at the Club. He tried one more shot, but it still wouldn't shoot straight. He then took the rifle to a pow-wow and had the hex taken off. After that, the gun shot as good as before." Pow-wowing is usually considered to be using hex power for good, such as curing sickness, removing warts, or in this case, making bullets keep on course!

A VERY INTERESTING STORY (Cont'd.)

Some of our own Society members have been a part of the Blue Mountain story. George Dech, Jim Correll, and Rich and Bob Hujsa have all been active shooters on the Shartlesville ranges, and they now use their knowledge to help make possible our popular gunmaker's classes. Shartlesville matches are held monthly from April to November. Visitors are welcome to drop by. Membership dues are very reasonable, and there is a category for beginning shooters. Matches for women have been held since 1945.

Bob Newell thanks Dr. J.W. Bahorik of the Shartlesville Club for both providing information on the Blue Mountain Muzzle Loading Rifle Association, and for being a friendly and generous host.

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The Horseback Rides of William Henry III

(Excerpts from an autobiographical letter to his nephew, James Henry)

Wyoming, Pennsylvania
October 10th, 1874

...During my school years, which ended in June 1807 when nearly 12 years of age, I was not only errant [errand] boy, on foot as also on horseback, and made repeated trips to Berks, Lancaster, Bucks, and Philadelphia counties on business for my father.

On one occasion, when about eleven years of age, I was sent to Andree's furnace near Reading, Pennsylvania, about 56 miles. Detained beyond the allotted time, I fell short of expense money, having but 25 cents left when starting for home. It was a hard ride. I stayed at Bethlehem where my Aunt Schropp gave me supper and breakfast....

Subsequently in 1807 (at age 13), I borrowed a fine young black horse from Phillip Weiss at the Friedenthal Mill upon condition that I travel to Reading with him the first day. Mr. Weiss told me his boys were afraid to ride him, but if I could do so, I could take him, which I did. When going up hill, beyond what was Beitel's farm, the horse reared up and I slid off his back. Having a-hold of the bridle rein, I threw him backwards on his back and then mounted him as soon as he was ready.

I stopped half an hour at my home to take breakfast, and then put a saddle on the horse, and when opposite to "Handshew's" dwelling, about two miles from Nazareth, my horse was unruly and I left him run. And when he was willing to lessen his speed I applied the cow-skin [whip] and arrived at Bethlehem (10 miles) in three-fourth of an hour. Daddy Thomas came out of the tavern (Sun Hotel) and said, "Nein mein lieben sie sind gar sehr in der Eile" ["My friend, don't be in such a sinful hurry!"] "No sir," said I, "it is the horse that is in a hurry."

Horseback Rides (Cont'd.)

I allowed the hostler to give him a mouth full of hay and a little cool water, and then proceeded to Trexler-town where I gave him a little water, and stopped an hour at Fistler's in Kutztown to take dinner, having come 38 miles, and had 17 miles to Reading, where I arrived about three o'clock, having ridden 55 miles, a longer route than I had ever ridden before, in 7 hours -- nearly 8 miles per hour on the average.

The next morning, I made 30 miles farther to the city of Lancaster, where I arrived sore and tired. My horse, also, was pretty tired and quite gentle..... He never afterwards (I owned him nearly eight years) offered to run away and was a very fine animal.

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DATA ON GUN COLLECTION BEING UPGRADED

Partly in response to requests for detailed information on markings on different types of Henry firearms in our collection, all guns are being carefully re-examined. Measurements are taken of barrels, locks, and stocks. Stampings or carvings on both wood and metal are noted, as is overall condition of each piece.

So far, forty individual rifles and muskets have been checked out and data logged in, which puts the study at the approximate half-way point. Eventually it is hoped that all items in the gun collection can be photographed in detail, as well. Such a project will certainly help future research or publication efforts.

The gun collection now includes almost 100 pieces, including rifles, military muskets, fowlers, pistols and the later Henry breechloading rifles and shotguns.

Bob Newell, Curator

The National Canal Museum and the Pennsylvania Canal Society are sponsoring a Spring Lecture Series at the Two Rivers Landing auditorium , National Canal Museum, Easton, Pa.

March 21 - "The Anthracite Railroads of Northeast Pennsylvania" by Lance Metz.

April 18 - "Canal Aqueducts of Great Britain and the United States" by Abba Lichtenstein

May 16 - "The Career of George Harvan, Anthracite Photographer" by Thomas Dublin.

For more information, call the National Canal Museum at 610-559-6613.

Estelle Shedlauskas, Editor

Horseback Rides (Cont'd.)

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