

# The Jacobsburg Record

SOCIETY OFFICE 759-9029

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## THE SPRING DINNER MEETING

will be held on Thursday, April 30, 1992 at the Stockertown Memorial Hall. The cash bar will open at 5:45 and Dinner will be served promptly at 6:30 P.M. The traditional menu will be served. Our program will disclose the extensive research into the three Henry industrial areas, based on the archeology of the Loprestis and intensive study by Jim Shedlauskas, Dale Prinkey and others. The cost will be \$10.50 for Adults, \$5.25 for children (5-12). A separate Dinner Notice will be mailed shortly.

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## OPEN HOUSE

The first Open House will start the season on Sunday, April 12. This will involve both houses. Thereafter the dates will be the second and fourth Sunday afternoon of each month, April through October.

While the Homestead will be cleaned by volunteers, the John Joseph House, being a much larger task, will have a professional cleaning company prepare for opening day. This job will, of course, be supervised by Society members. The curtains in the two parlors are being repaired and washed, and we will need help with polishing silver and brass items throughout the house.

This year we hope to set the Dining Room table, using various sets of china, as an added interest and an opportunity to display our fine collection of china now stored out of sight. Who would find it fascinating to "do" a table, with flower arrangement to match, the setting being for lunch, formal dinner, an anniversary or a tea? We ask that each setting be a "one time only" job so

OPEN HOUSE (Cont'd.)

that various volunteers will produce a variety of interpretations. If you are interested in this type of activity, please contact our President, Bob Frick.

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PRELIMINARY OPEN HOUSE SCHEDULE FOR 1992

April	12	Ron Gabel - Early Rifles (other than Henry)
	26	Henry Gun Display
May	10	John Joseph Summer Kitchen - Opening and Demonstration
June	14	Joan Vanover - Quilting Demonstration
	28	Henry Gun Display
July	12	To Be Announced
	26	Henry Gun Display
Aug.	9	50th Anniversary WWII
	23	Henry Gun Display
Sept.	13	To Be Announced
	26 & 27	Civil War Encampment
Oct.	11	Shirley Frey - Band Boxes
	25	Henry Gun Display

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VOLUNTEERS AT WORK

Fortunate is the Society which has craftsmen in the wings to answer emergencies as they arise. We have several, and their services are invaluable to us. Charles Feather has been mentioned before as to clock repair. His most recent job was repair of the tall clock pendulum at the John Joseph House which mysteriously broke in two pieces a few weeks ago.

Another good friend is Claude Jones, who has repaired numerous pieces of ours including a bellows, a spinning wheel and a high chair. Last week we took a delicate chair to Claude which had a broken back. This had a bad repair done long ago as well, and the job looked impossible to us. The chair is now repaired and only a close examination discloses where both breaks have been mended. The chair has now joined its five mates so the set remains intact.

VOLUNTEERS AT WORK (Cont'd.)

All this work has been without charge and has not only saved our objects, but saved expense as well. We are sure other members have valuable talents. Why not "join the Club?"

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THE RESEARCH COMMITTEE, headed by Virginia Lopresti, has been meeting at the Homestead on Fridays for the past three weeks. The work centers around the industrial areas of Jacobsburg, Henry's Forge and Boulton, and is combining the Archaeology at these sites done some years ago by the Loprestis and the interpretation of Jim Shedlauskas and Dale Prinkey of the sites through plot plans and miniature building models done to scale.

An order has been placed with the Library of Congress for the complete Historic Architectural Buildings Survey holdings pertaining to the Gun Works at Boulton and one workman's house. Bill Atherton generously donated the cost of this order. It was his Father who measured the buildings and relayed the information to the draftsman. These sheets give four exterior elevations, internal floor plans and details of hardware and wood trim.

Joe and Virginia have numerous slides of their digs as well as copies of deeds pertaining to the Henry properties, and numerous maps which help to locate old roads and the location of the various mill races. The slides were shown during one session, with Virginia and Joe explaining each on a tape recorder.

This is gathering together all that is known at present of the industrial era of Jacobsburg, The Henry Forge and Boulton. With this information at hand we will have material on which to build a splendid interpretive program which will bring to life again an area now consisting of building foundations hidden in brush and wild tree growth.

So interested were the participants in their work that they did not leave the building during lunch hour. Instead, some five or six people brought various foodstuffs and Virginia, as Chief Cook, provided a soup as well. A congenial hour was spent in the Homestead Kitchen which made the 9 to 5 work hours pass more quickly.

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SOCIETY OFFICES - We continue to improve the working conditions in the offices. Files which were transported from the old office room at the Homestead are being organized. Material has been placed in designated categories and much extra space obtained by the disposal of unnecessary duplication.

The Maintenance files, records and equipment catalogues have been moved to the Maintenance Office where they are at hand for reference. Matt Morris and his grandson, Matt II, are repainting the drafting table, desk and file cabinet which furnish this area. The Shop Office is electrically heated and has seen much use this winter.

The Meeting Room, or Back Office, in the John Joseph House now contains our computer, microfilm reader and telephone message recorder and has been cleared of household furniture. At present the large center table is a work area for Matt Morris who is cataloguing and storing slides and photographs. The house is still exuding photos of all eras and subjects so Matt's job is both important & continuous.

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#### REPORT ON 1991 by the Maintenance Committee

We would like to take this opportunity to say "thanks" to all the folks who have helped to maintain the Society properties. 1991 saw some significant happenings around the leased and owned property. Repair and stabilization of the Homestead barn roof were done. With those repairs out of the way we can move on to closing up the damaged doors and siding on the barn and proceed towards making it a secure warehouse.

This being "the year of the roof" we also applied two coats of aluminum sealer to the metal roof on the back of the Homestead Carriage House, this had developed some serious leaks. Last but not least, the slate roof on the John Joseph House was inspected, some loose slates replaced, and all of the metal roofs were scraped and given two coats of red paint.

A major inside operation consisted of installing a new larger capacity furnace in the Homestead which has greatly reduced the dampness problem in the lower level.

We started off 1992 with two major projects. The first was putting in a new gravel driveway to the Homestead and then extending the gravel road from the Carriage House across the back lawn to the parking lot.

In the middle of March we built and installed a new barn door. We were able to reuse all the hardware including the unique forged hinges for the "man door," built into the larger door. Now we can proceed to renail the loose siding and replace the missing boards on the sides, and to remove and recondition the door track on the ground floor cow barn.

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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 - \$500.00      Henry Rifle Club-\$1,000

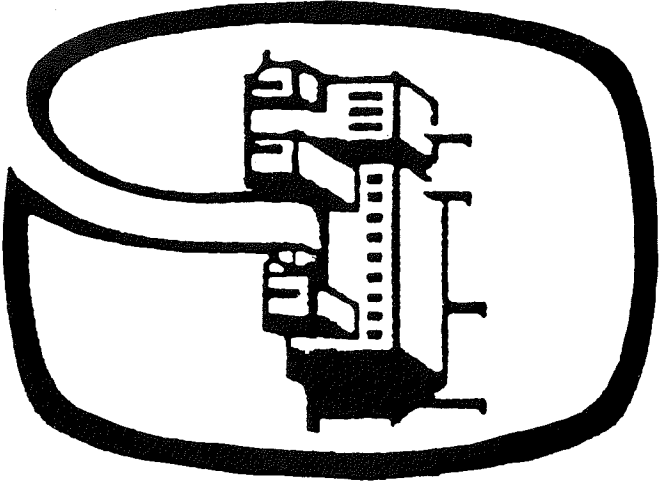
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