

# The Jacobsburg Record

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER

1989

VOL. XVII NO. 2

## MARY HENRY STITES 1907-1989

Gentle, kindly, gracious-these words come to mind when we remember Miss Mary Henry Stites. Before there was a Jacobsburg Historical Society, there was Mary Henry Stites. Her mind was an encyclopedia of history and lore of Boulton and the entire Jacobsburg area, and the families-particularly her own Henry family-which were identified with the history of that area. Miss Stites was a double descendent of William(II) and Sabina (Schropp)Henry, through their sons John Joseph(1785-1836), who married Mary Rebecca Smith(1785-1871) and William(III)(1794-1878) and his second wife, Sarah Atherton(1813-1895).

On her father's side, Mary Henry Stites was a great-granddaughter of William(III) and Sarah(Atherton)Henry. On her mother's side, she was a great-great-granddaughter of John Joseph and Mary Rebecca(Smith)Henry.

Mary Henry Stites was born in Harrisburg, Pa, November 20 1907, and died in Nazareth, Pa, May 6, 1989, daughter of Dr Thomas Henry Atherton Stites(1875-1959) and his wife Mary Adeline Henry(1873-1974). Her parents were second cousins once removed, by common descent from William(II) and Sabina(Schropp) Henry.

Miss Stites was a teacher at the Boulton school which was located near the Henry Homestead in Bushkill Township. She retired in 1949. She served from 1966 to 1983 as secretary of the Moravian Historical Society. She was a member of Nazareth Moravian Church. She was a charter member of the Jacobsburg Historical Society, which was founded in 1972. The title of Directress Emerita was conferred on her by the board of directors of the Jacobsburg Historical Society in 1981. She was a former officer of the Daughters of the American Revolution and the Colonial Dames.

Charles M. Sandwick, Sr.

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The nominating committee(Bobbie DiGerlando, Claude Jones, Charlie Sandwick, Jr.) present the following nominees for Board membership for a three-year term: Dallam Blandy, James Wright, Jim Shedlauskas, Joseph DiGerlando, Virginia Lopresti, Walter Peters and Mary Ann Vincent.

According to the Society Bylaws, these names must be in the hands of members for consideration for at least 10 days before the election. Nominations from the floor are welcome; just be sure the person being named has agreed to serve.

ANNUAL FALL DINNER MEETING

The Jacobsburg Historical Society Annual Fall Dinner is just around the corner. Jay Gaynor, Curator of Mechanical Arts Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, is the featured speaker. The topic of discourse will be "Tradesmen and Technology: Making Things In The Eighteenth Century."

As curator of mechanical arts for the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, Mr Gaynor is responsible for the tools and imple-ments, scientific instruments, and arms and armor in the Foundation's collections. Much of his time is spent assisting local craftspeople and interpreters with the selection and presentation of shop and domestic equipment, furnishings, and products.

Mr Gaynor joined the Colonial Williamsburg staff in 1981. Prior to that time, he was co-owner of Jamestown Tool Co., makers of reproductions of nineteenth-century English metal woodworking planes; director of the High Point Museum in High Point, North Carolina; associate curator of history, Ohio Historical Society; assistant curator in charge of crafts and interpretation, and acting curator/manager of Ohio Village, Ohio Historical Society, Columbus, Ohio.

Many of the qualities and characteristics of eighteenth-century objects were determined by the technology used to make them. The materials from which they were made and the techniques used to fashion them were basic factors, but the decisions artisan made about the use of materials and the ways in which they applied their skills were often just as important.

Artisans' attitudes and approaches were influenced by a number of considerations. This program looks at three of them: the way artisans were trained; the costs of raw materials and labor-intensive methods used to fashion goods; and the fact that most eighteenth-century English and colonial American artisans were not isolated but worked within a complex commercial system.

The dinner will be held at the Glass Slipper, 1770 Stefko Blvd., Bethlehem, PA. Thursday October 19. There will be a cash bar at 6:00PM and dinner 6:30PM. The fee for this years family style dinner is \$15.00 in advance. Tell your friends and join us for a pleasurable evening. Please send your checks and reservations to:

Jacobsburg Historical Society  
Box 345  
Nazareth, PA 18064

Jacobsburg Historical Society  
Annual Fall Dinner-October 19, 1989-6:30PM

Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ dinners at \$15.00 each,

for \_\_\_\_\_

phone: \_\_\_\_\_

(You will not recieve tickets. Your reservations will be registered)

Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## NEWS AND NOTES

Bobbi Morrison of Bethlehem, Publicity Chairperson and Boiler Plate, has reluctantly given up her position and now we find ourselves faced with finding a replacement. Ms Morrison's contributions to our society will be missed, and we wish her all the best! If someone is interested in filling this position, we would greatly appreciate the assistance. We would provide you with the contacts for all the local media people to get you started. Please contact Earl Van Norman or any of the other Board members for information.

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The new walk at the Homestead should be under construction around October 1st.

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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

October 19 -(Thursday) Annual Fall Dinner Meeting, Glass Slipper Lounge. 1770 Stefko Blvd., Bethlehem, PA., 6:30PM

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October 29 - Open House 2:00 to 5:00PM-Autumn Harvest-Another bountiful harvest is celebrated by the Apple Festival. Visitors are invited to operate an antique apple press and taste our special cider recipe.

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December 3 - Open House 1:00 to 4:00PM-Moravian Christmas-The annual Christmas celebration this year is in the Moravian tradition featuring punch, sugar cake and a Putz(German creche). Learn how to trim candles and form Moravian stars...yours to take home!

## OPEN HOUSE REPORT

April-Tim Lubinesky and Bob Hujsa started off our season with a display of TIMBER FRAMING tools. They also showed us how to use some of them. Tim squared off a log and maybe we will make a bench out of it.

May-Jan Russell favored us with SPINNING. She is also going to help us with our spinning display.

June- Joan Vanover came and taught us how to QUILT. She came and endured the heat with a cast on her foot and also told us she made a couple of new friends.

July-Bob Winters from Brunswick, NJ showed us how to KNAP FLINTS AND ARROW HEADS. Our president was on hand to explain 18th century gun use and repair.

August-Jim Stulz was on hand to do some BRASS CASTING. He made a copy of a Henry gun trigger. Jim's wife Ginny was on hand QUILTING A WALL HANGING. We also had home-made ice cream with peaches and home-made peach deserts. Thanks to John Morrow, Virginia Lopresti, Bobbie DiGerlando and Mary Ann Vincent.

\*October will bring more home-made ice cream and apple desserts.

\*Through all these events, Bob Newell has been on hand to show the Henry guns and answer the many questions fired at him.

#### ADDITIONS TO THE ARMORY

This past June, our society took possession of firearms that had been the property of Mary Henry Stites.

Over the years, Miss Stites shared several of these pieces with us, bringing them over to our regular programs at the Homestead. It was, however, quite a shock to see all of her former guns together at one place. There were a dozen of them, including a number that we weren't familiar with.

Several of the Henry rifles in the group are virtually "factory fresh." One rare twist-action rifle is still actually unfinished, never having been provided with sights. Most of the guns are Henrys, including two late Granville Henry Pat. breech loading shotguns that were among the last of the arms manufactured at Boulton. Another interesting piece is a Henry version of the U.S. model 1830 cadet musket. In 1835, Boulton made 100 such guns for the State of South Carolina, and stamped the state name on the barrels in large letters. This Henry cadet musket will make a nice companion piece to our South Carolina-marked militia rifle, which was the first Henry gun to be owned by the "Society".

We also acquired a pair of model 1826-type flintlock pistols from the Stites Estate, as well as a beautiful custom-made 22 cal. breech-loading rifle made for Mary Henry Stites mother when she was a girl. We are showing the new pieces at our regular "open house" programs at the Homestead.

This past August, the society purchased a rare Henry War of 1812 era flintlock musket in good original condition (it was even loaded!). This gun was one of a large lot manufactured for the state of Maryland during the war period, and a prominent brand(Maryland) between the lockplate and rear band area. These muskets saw service during the campaign that gave rise to our national anthem, "The Star-Spangled Banner."

Bob Newell

JACOBSBURG HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Officers and Board of Directors, 1989

*JHS: Box 345  
Naz, PA 18064*  
*work:  
201-  
859-1118  
x8530*

OFFICERS

Earl Van Norman, President	Easton	252-40204
Dallam Blandy, 1st Vice President	Bethlehem	867-6849
Hilton Rahn, 2nd Vice President	Bethlehem	968-1789
Nancy Houck, Secretary	Tatamy	252-2916
John Schlamp, Treasurer	Nazareth	759-0302

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Term expires end of 1990

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Earl Van Norman	Easton	252-0204

MEMBERSHIP FORM FOR JACOBSBURG HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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

Name Contributions

Tannery Club \$100.00 Boulton Club \$500.00 Henry Rifle Club \$1,000.00

Name.....

Street.....Tel. No. ....

City.....State.....Zip.....

Please return this slip with tour check made payable to Jacobsburg Historical Society. Mail to:

Jacobsburg Historical Society  
Box 345  
Nazareth, PA 18064

All contributions are tax deductible to the extent provided by law. Your canceled check is your receipt.