

THE JACOBSTBURG RECORD

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2002 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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| June 15-16 | Rifle Frolic |
| October | Walk In Henry's Woods (Date to be announced) |
| October 17 | Annual Dinner and Meeting |
| October 19 | Fall Clean-up. Rain date November 2nd. |
| October 26-27 | Fur Trade Rendezvous |

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The Interpreter's Corner by Jim Wilson

"Man's moral dependence on, and affinity to, nature are nowhere more apparent than in those captivating influences exercised upon him by the tree." These are the words of James Henry in the introduction of his first book on forestry, which he wrote in 1886. In all, James wrote nine books on forestry in the 1880s, and scores of articles and other papers on the subject throughout his literary life. While gunmaking was his appointed vocation, forestry was his chosen avocation.

While the Henry family, in general, embraced a strong environmental ethic, James, in particular, was most passionate about nature. So passionate, in fact, that James Henry drafted a forestry bill in 1883 that was successfully lobbied through the state legislature in the 1884-'85 session. "An act to encourage the planting of trees over the springs and water courses of this Commonwealth of Pennsylvania," James Henry's bill, sponsored by Senator Hay from Northampton County, became Pennsylvania's first public law dealing with the reforestation of stream corridors and wetlands across the Commonwealth by establishing a state nursery system.

The Interpreter's Corner (Cont'd.)

With a mind and a heart toward conservation, James Henry saw the desperate need to reforest the state's waterways, which had been utterly denuded in the lumbering heyday of the 19th century, resulting in tremendous environmental impacts from uncontrolled storm water erosion and sedimentation. He knew the onus for restoring the state's forests and water quality rested with the Commonwealth itself. In a letter urging the State Senate to support his bill, James wrote, "*The protection of our streams and springs should be the first avowed object of arboriculture in our State, and the great work naturally falls on the State, it being the proprietor of the waters as it is of the game and the fish.*" And in a letter to the State House of Representatives seeking support of his bill, he wrote, "*The establishment of nurseries for the cultivation of useful forest trees, and offering these for gratuitous distribution to the landholders of our State, is to bring about the recuperation of our woodlands.*" James Henry was a man for his time...and a man ahead of it as well. More than 120 years after James' forestry bill became public law, the conservation of streamside forests - our link between land and water - is today a subject of community concern and greenway initiatives throughout Pennsylvania.

In addition to his legislative feats in state forest conservation, James Henry also lobbied for the establishment of county councils of forestry for each of the counties of the Commonwealth. He also lobbied for the establishment of schools of forestry in all the state colleges and universities in Pennsylvania and across the nation. And he was a councilman for both the Pennsylvania Forestry Association and the American Forestry Congress. To be sure, James Henry was a quintessential and proactive conservationist. In a letter to the American Forestry Congress dated August 23rd, 1884, James Henry wrote, "*I speak for Pennsylvania when I say that our wooded domain is rapidly diminishing.*" And he did something - many things in fact - about it. While names like Rothrock and Pinchot are all too synonymous with our state's forest conservation history, it would appear that our own James Henry is a genuine, unsung hero of Pennsylvania forestry.

IN MEMORIUM

JOHN J. SCHLAMP

It is with sadness we learned recently of the death of John J. Schlamp, a dedicated supporter of Jacobsburg Historical Society.

John served a term as President of the Society and later assumed the role of Treasurer, a position he held for many years.

We, as a Society, extend our deepest sympathy to the Schlamp family.

WILLIAM HENRY OF NAZARETH AND THE BEGINNINGS OF THE ANTHRACITE INDUSTRY IN CARBON COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

“In the words of several prominent American historians such as Thomas Hughes and Alfred Chandler, the development of anthracite transportation on the Lehigh River was a direct catalyst of the advent of the Industrial Revolution in the United States,” states Lance E. Metz, historian at the National Canal Museum, in the introduction to the recent book, “Coal on the Lehigh, 1790-1827,” written by Michael Knies. He adds, “For the first time a much-needed alternative fuel became available to the cities of the Atlantic coast, diminishing their growing dependency on increasingly scarce and expensive supplies of wood and charcoal.”

The book tells how discovery of anthracite coal near the present-day town of Jim Thorpe is credited to Philip Ginder, who stumbled (literally) upon a chunk of “black gold” in 1791. He took it to Jacob Weiss, who carried it to Philadelphia to be examined by people more knowledgeable than himself. There is a legend, not mentioned in the book, that William Henry experimented with the possibility of burning coal, much to the amusement of his blacksmith. What is told in “Coal On The Lehigh” is that one of the first things done as the Lehigh Coal Mine Company was being organized, was to appoint William Henry of Nazareth, his associate Jacob Eyerly and Jacob Weiss to hire laborers for exploring the area for prospective coal mining opportunities.

Michael Knies reports in his book that on May 24, 1794, William Henry submitted a draft of land surveys that had been done, along with a statement that he and Jacob Weiss had purchased land and laid out Lehigh Town, which is now Lehigh. On February 4, 1794, William Henry was instructed to begin shipping coal via the Lehigh River to Allentown, Bethlehem, Easton, and Philadelphia. Jacob Weiss was in charge of mining the coal, and William Henry was in charge of transporting it.

“Coal on the Lehigh” by Michael Knies is a well-written, informative book. Published by the National Canal Museum, it is available at Hugh Moore Historical Park and Museums, 30 Centre Square, Easton, Pennsylvania, 18042-7743. When you purchase a copy, tell them that you were informed about the book by the Jacobsburg Historical Society.

The interest of William Henry of Nazareth was continued by his son, William Henry III, who during the 1840's attempted to find a better way of transporting coal to Philadelphia by way of a railroad to Delaware Water Gap and thence down the canals.

Donald Repsher, Reviewer

Estelle Shedlauskas, Editor