

# THE JACOBURG RECORD

Box 345  
Nazareth, Pa. 18064  
SOCIETY OFFICE - 610-759-9029

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## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

I am reminded of the old gardener who, while laying a stone wall in a country estate, was asked by the owner why he used so many small stones along with the larger ones. "It's like this," he answered, "these stones are like men. Many small men like me are needed to keep those big ones in place. If I leave the small stones out, the big ones will not stay in place and the wall will fall."

So it is with our historical society, our officers and directors are busy making plans for the future of the Boulton historic area, but we desperately need the continued help and support of all our members and volunteers. Without your support, however small, our Society will never reach its full potential.

Our Jacoburg Historical Society's Annual Meeting is scheduled for October 19th at the Holy Family Club in Nazareth, PA. At this meeting we plan to bring our membership up to date on our recently completed \$27,000 Facilities Master Plan for the Boulton Historic District. This will be an exciting opportunity for members to get an advance look at future plans for the district prior to those plans being announced to the general public. Mark your calendars now, you will be delighted with the progress your society has made this year. Make your reservations early; we continue to need your support.

Our last issue of the Record included an interesting article about the recent tragic fire in the 172 year old St. Luke's United Church of Christ on Belfast Road. Due to the Church's close connection with the Henry family, a number of our members have expressed interest in having the opportunity to contribute toward rebuilding the church. Members wishing to contribute should mention their home address, that they are members of the Historical Society, and make their donations directly to:

St. Luke's U.C.C.  
Att: Rebuilding Fund  
474 Belfast Road  
Nazareth, Pa. 18064

*Ron Gabel*

## 2000 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

The Pennsylvania Longrifle Heritage Museum at the Henry Homestead is open to the public every Sunday, 1:00 to 4:00 P.M. until the end of October. There is no admission charge.

- August 19                      Tea Party in the Garden, Pa. State Master Gardener Program  
                                            See enclosed flyer for details.
- September 15                 Speaker - "The Role of Pennsylvania in the Civil War"  
                                            7:30 P.M. Dr. David Valuska, Kutztown University
- September 27                 Start Basic Longrifle Gunsmithing Course-8 wks. 7-10 PM
- Sept.30-Oct. 1                Civil War Event - Civil War Display and Reenactment
- October 19                     JHS Annual Dinner - Details will follow at a later date.
- October 28-29                American Fur Trade & Halloween Rendezvous
- November 4                    Volunteer Fall Cleanup
- December 2                    Volunteer Christmas Get-together
- December 3                    Old Fashioned Christmas Open House

For more information, call our Visitors Center - 610-746-2809; Jim Wilson,  
Program Coordinator, FAX 610-746-5601; or Email - [jacobsburg@fast.net](mailto:jacobsburg@fast.net)

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### **THE INTERPRETER'S CORNER** by Jim Wilson

During each of the last three years, the Jacobsburg Historical Society was awarded three local history project grants through the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission. The grant monies have been used to fund interpretive media projects that help share the legacy of the Henry family and tell the multi-faceted story of the Jacobsburg National Historic District.

The first such project was the production of a compact disc and video. The narrated, 11-minute-long program includes previously recorded video clips, historical and modern photographs, and computer animation to summarize Jacobsburg's rich history, orient visitors to the site, and define the historical society's interpretive partnership efforts and future plans. The video was presented

### The Interpreter's Corner (Cont'd.)

and played for Jacobsburg Historical Society members as part of the Society's annual banquet program last October. If you didn't have an opportunity to see the video at that time (or if you'd like to see it again), it's available for viewing at the Boulton Visitor Center, where you're welcome most any time. The Visitor Center is typically open Monday through Friday from 8:00 in the morning to 4:00 in the afternoon. However I'm occasionally out of the Visitor Center office on business or teaching. So give me a ring or e-mail me before making the trip. The Boulton Visitor Center phone number is (610) 746-2809, and the e-mail address is [jacobsburg@fast.net](mailto:jacobsburg@fast.net).

The second local history project the Jacobsburg Historical Society was awarded a grant for, is the production of wayside exhibits. Seventeen outdoor exhibits will be located at historical points of interest along the Henry Heritage Walk, a one-half-mile long pathway that combines the southern-most sections of the Jacobsburg and Henry's Woods Trails between the Boulton Parking Lots and the John Joseph Henry House. The wayside exhibits will include historical photographs from the Society's photo archives and other graphics, along with interpretive text; all embedded in large, rectangular, fiberglass-like panels mounted on cast aluminum stands. A few of the subjects of the wayside exhibits include maps of Boulton and the greater Jacobsburg National Historic District, the Boulton Gun Works, the Henry Rifle, Henry's Dam, the Henry family, and the Jacobsburg Historical Society. The Society has been working in partnership with the Bureau of State Parks, which has developed a number of wayside exhibits, on the Boulton wayside project. Because the Boulton project is one of the largest wayside exhibit projects in state park history, and because each exhibit is custom-made and requires a lot of technological manipulation of original graphics for permanent outdoor display, the entire project is a long process. The project was begun two years ago and is expected to be complete by next summer.

The third local history project for which the Society was awarded a grant is the creation of a 10'x3' wall mural for exhibit at the Boulton Visitor Center. The large, colorful mural will consist of a collage of the many structures and people that best portray the historical communities of the Jacobsburg National Historic District. Some of the mural illustrations will include the Jacobsburg Gun Factory, the Catharine Furnace, Henry's Forge, the Boulton Gun Works, the Jacobsburg and Boulton Schoolhouses, and the four generations of the most prominent Henry gunmakers in the upper Bushkill Valley. Locally acclaimed landscape artist, Preston Hindmarch, of Easton, was commissioned for the project. Begun earlier this year, the wall mural will be completed later this summer.

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On June 5th, a School Program was held at the Henry Homestead for 90 students from the Lehigh Elementary School, Northampton School District. Earl and Mary Ann Van Norman, Virginia Lopresti and Jim Wilson presented the program on the history of the Henry family and the production of Henry guns.

## FROM OUR FILES

*Robert Henry, Granville Henry's brother, fondly remembered the closing of the gun factory, and wrote his thoughts to Granville's widow not long after Granville had died.*

*Can anyone tell us what old house is described here?*

The old house has been razed and leveled with the ground. What stories those old logs could tell. Hewn from the virgin forest, and fashioned into the gaunt-looking house, which has stood there for nearly a century, becoming an audience to all the comedies and tragedies enacted in Bolton, witnessing the rise and fall of Bolton. How the old logs must have chuckled at the numerous fights of John and Lucy, amongst themselves, and with the neighbors. With what pride the old logs must have looked upon the hum and activity of a once thriving business. How they watched the advent of the material for guns, and saw the shipping of innumerable boxes of the finished product, let down slowly from the small portico facing the house. How they watched the jolly workmen pitching quoits beneath a tall hickory tree, which I still remember, standing between the Factory and the old house. How they must have trembled at the deep intonations produced by the proving of the rifle barrels a dozen at a time.

However, as the hum of the machinery and shouts of the workmen died out the old logs became lonesome, they felt like aliens to Bolton, they saw there was no more future for them here, and they struggled to be free, to get away, but they were Prometheus bound, all bound together, they must stay where they were, where Fate had ordained them to stay, but they rebelled and struggled so hard to be free, that their foundation was undermined, and one member would fall out of place, then another would follow, until the whole structure trembled, and then at last came the tragedy; for with a little help the old house came to earth with a vibrating crash, and now the old logs, like dead bodies, are being carted off to be put, at some future time, to the ignominious use of building a hog stable, as Mrs. Babp puts it. This is mainly for Mollie's benefit. She wished to have a history of Bolton, so much for the history of the old house.

In anticipation of the tearing down of the old house, I went through the upper floor where a great many things were stored, and I found that vandalism had been rampant here. A great many things, I think, have been stolen, amongst the rest five vices. While going over things I came across the breech loader tools, and while looking at them these cold, hard pieces of steel and iron became almost animate and living things to me, for they bore to me the silent testimony of many hours of mental strain and labor, and many days of hard work on Granville's part, and I thought it would be desecration to have them stolen or hawked about, so I put them all in one box, nailed down the lid securely, and put them away to be disposed of as you may see fit.

*Don Repsher*

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*Estelle Shedlauskas, Editor*

# Tea Party In The Garden

**August 19 \_\_\_\_\_ 10:00am-1: 30pm**

Jacobsburg Historical Society and the Penn State Master Gardeners are proud to present the 2000 Tea Party In The Garden on August 19<sup>th</sup> from 10:00am to 1:30pm in the garden of the JJ Henry House on Henry Rd.. Join us for an exciting morning of garden discussions. Three Penn State Master Gardeners will be presenting informal discussions dealing with a variety of plant topics. Included will be a program on "Hold the Water" Succulents, "Cooking With Herbs"—including samples, and a program on "How to get the most out of your Dahlias". A light lunch will also be served along with a variety of beverages. There is a \$10.00 per person charge for this program, and registration is in advance by mail only. Registration deadline is August 12, 2000. Please send this form and your remittance to:

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**JHS/Tea Part In The Garden  
402 Henry Rd.  
Nazareth Pa 18064**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

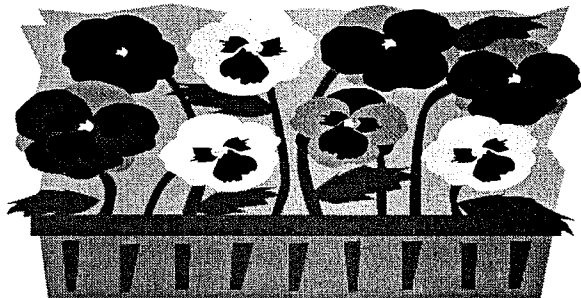
**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City, State, and Zip code:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

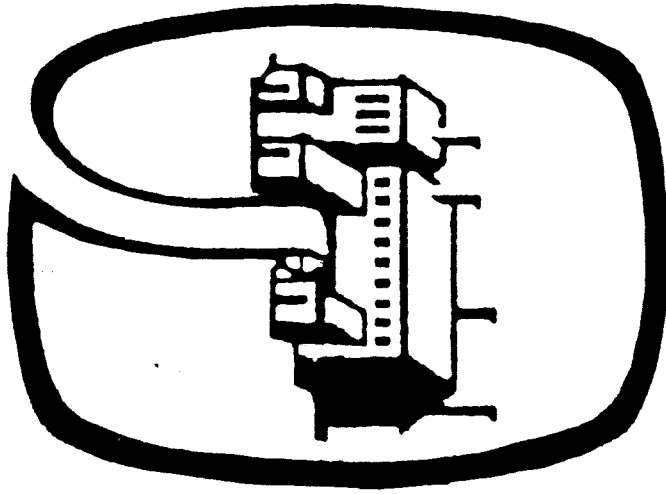
**Number of People Attending:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Amount Enclosed:** \_\_\_\_\_

The JJ Henry House Garden is located on Henry Rd, 1/2 mile west of the Belfast exit of Rt. 33. For more information, call the Boulton



Visitor Center at 610-746-2809, email [historicgardener@yahoo.com](mailto:historicgardener@yahoo.com) or check out our website at [www.nazlink.com/JHS/](http://www.nazlink.com/JHS/).

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