

The Jacobsburg Record

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THE MARGARET TAYLOR ROOM

In line with the changing character of the Homestead from Historic House to Museum, the former Parlor will take on more of a museum display appearance as this change develops. As mentioned earlier, the term "Parlor" will no longer apply, and its new name will honor Margaret Taylor, a founding member and generous benefactor.

So far a large glass case has been placed in the room to display china and other small items not able to be seen at close range elsewhere. The corner cupboard is also used for this purpose. As time goes on more display cabinets will be added where books, documents and other valuable memorabilia will be exhibited. Changing exhibits will in time bring a greater number of visitors to the site.

This last month a beautiful Staffordshire tea service has been on display. The set is unusual for its many pieces, containing coffee, tea and hot water pots, cream, sugar and waste bowl, two cake plates, individual plates, cups, deep saucers and cup plates. Visitors have been intrigued by the transfer views on the pieces and the use of the deep saucers (from which the tea was drunk, hence "a dish of tea") and the cup plates on which the cups were placed instead of the saucers. The educational possibilities of these changing exhibits is unlimited, and should enrich our programs greatly.

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ARTIFACTS FOR THE JHS/HENRY MUSEUM - In conjunction with the display changes at the Henry Homestead, as mentioned in the above article, the Society would appreciate receiving any Henry business activity mementos you may have -- old snapshots along the Bushkill, newspaper items, or references to the Matthew Henry Forge, for instance, or Henry Gun Factory items. The old Ice House was a winter center of activity and could have been attractive picture material, to say nothing of the freezing sport of ice fishing.

Since the Society is committed to community educational projects, the museum will be open to the public. All exhibits will be acknowledged and identified as to source. Contact Jim Shedlauskas, President (435-4509) for further information.

Charlotte Sayre

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OPEN HOUSE dates for the balance of the 1994 season are listed below, showing artisans or programs on that date:

- July 24 - Scheduled Open House
Nancy Shelly - Scherenschnitte
- Aug. 14 - Scheduled Open House
- 28 - Scheduled Open House - Scout Indian Dancers
- Sept. 11 - Scheduled Open House
- 24& 25 - Scheduled Open House (25th) - Civil War
Encampment (both days)
- Oct. 9 - Scheduled Open House
- 23 - Scheduled Open House - Jon Marks, Carved Santas
- Dec. 4 - Christmas Open House

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HENRY ARMS COLLECTION ACQUISITION FUND

How does our campaign for raising money to purchase the six Henry-made Underhammer Pistols stand?

As of the afternoon of June 24, 1994 the fund has received from 47 giving units:

Cash	\$4185.00
Pledges	<u>825.00</u>
Total	\$5010.00

As you will recall, the minimum requested was \$6700.00 with any amount exceeding this to be used for further acquisitions.

We are well on the way, but urge that we get a greater participation from our membership regardless of how small or large the contribution may be. Your support is critical. This is the first time there has been an appeal made since the restoration drive 20 years ago.

May we hear from you?

Matthew K. Morris
 Chairman
 Henry Arms Collection Acquisition
 Fund

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WE HAVE LOST AN OLD FRIEND - Many will remember the great English Elm tree between the Homestead and the Spring. Last Fall it was obvious that it was dying and tests of its bark indicated that it was diseased. To protect our visitors as well as our other English Elms, it had to be removed.

A short time ago it was felled, the project being under the authority of the Jacobsburg Environmental Education Center, since the tree was on Park property. The job was not easy as the site

was all but inaccessible to heavy equipment. It was therefore felled in one piece, being directed toward the flag pole and the South West corner of the Homestead. The tree measured fifteen feet in circumference and one hundred and twenty feet tall. Matt Morris and his grandson, Matt III, tried to count the rings on irregular slabs cut from the stump and judged that the tree was somewhere in the nature of 150 years old - bringing its start in life to about 1840.

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GROUNDS (J. Joseph House)

Work continues on repairing winter damage to our grounds. The Boxwood has remained untouched to determine what life may return to them. Roses and other shrubs have been pruned, and look less bleak with dead wood cut away.

The large hedge of Forsythia which edged the pastures at the John Joseph House has been given special attention. This planting had not only grown tall but spread to twice its intended thickness. Winter kill had left but the bottom two feet to bloom this spring. Drastic measures were the only solution, and volunteer Josh Fafard has tackled the job of doing away with the hedge altogether.

This proved to be an arduous task, and a good section of Forsythia has been cut and cleared away, giving us a view of the pastures which could not be seen before. It is planned to let the hedge grow back as a background at the end of the garden, but it will never be allowed to get out of control again.

Garden Weeding started - At last the big garden is showing signs of care, thanks to the volunteer work of John Brzyski. John has spent many hours clearing weeds, wild grass and the spent leaves of Spring bulbs, bringing order out of chaos.

So far, the front beds on either side of the arbor have been cleared, as well as one short bed on the southern side of the garden. He has also cleared wild growth from the end border which is on top of a low stone wall, and cleared grass cuttings from one bed of August Lilies.

As these beds are cultivated, it is planned to add some annuals for immediate color. This Fall a selection of more hardy flowers will be added to assure better looking beds next year. Last year we were given some Blackeyed Susan plants which have become well-established, and will soon be in bloom. Any members who are weeding out excess plants in their own gardens should consider passing them on to us. If the donors would like to plant them themselves or help John with this garden project, they are more than welcome to do so!

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NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

- If you have been calling the Society Headquarters and not getting an answer recently, do not be discouraged, we have solved the mystery. An errant bolt of lightning during one of our summer thunderstorms destroyed a telephone handset, the phone answering machine and a portion of our electronic security system.

The security system has been repaired and upgraded to include smoke detection devices which we did not have before. The telephone set is out for repairs, and the answering machine should be replaced by the time you read this.

- On the brighter side, I would like to report that some volunteers have set Wednesdays to meet at the Plantation (the Society properties) and work on various projects.

For example, Bob Newell has begun the fascinating project of cataloging the hundreds of books in our collection. One of the most significant results of the Book Cataloging will be the re-establishment of the libraries of James and Granville Henry. Once they have all been identified, it is expected that they will be displayed in the secretaries in the back parlor of the John Joseph House. As of this date the oldest book found was printed in the 17th Century in London, England. From time to time others are assisting Bob and I know he welcomes as much help as he can get.

Another area that holds a lot of promise is the great accumulation of family correspondence, photographs and keepsakes. Examples of some of the interesting items already uncovered are the playbill autographed by Sarah Bernhardt, and an original copy of the 100th anniversary booklet published by the Tryon Gun Company in 1911. (Interesting from another point is the fact that one of the guns made by E. Tryon for his close friend and business associate, J. Joseph Henry, and pictured in the booklet, is presently in our Arms Collection.)

There is much much more to be found, read, cataloged and filed. You, too, can be one of the researchers who uncover such items and add to the general knowledge of the Jacobsburg/Boulton history. As an enticement for any volunteer, please know that the third floor workrooms are AIR CONDITIONED!

This job progresses slowly, in fits and starts, because the same people that are trying to work on this also are doing the maintenance chores, repairs and staffing the properties for Open House and many special programs.

- During a recent work day a preliminary survey of the exterior of the John Joseph House was begun. So far we have identified thirty-six (36) specific projects which need attention to

NOTES (Cont'd.)

maintain our prize property in good condition. None of these projects are in the restoration category. These are such things as construction of window well covers, scraping and painting windows and siding, repair and painting of window shutters, replacement of rotted porch posts and floor boards, and removal, repair and cleaning of storm windows, and so on and so forth.

Unless we can organize some volunteer labor and skills to correct these items they are going to turn into major problems and require large sums of money to correct.

Volunteers for any of the above projects should contact Jim Shedlauskas (435-4509), Bob Frick (691-6233) or Matt Morris (746-1089).

JACOBSBURG HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Office 759-9029

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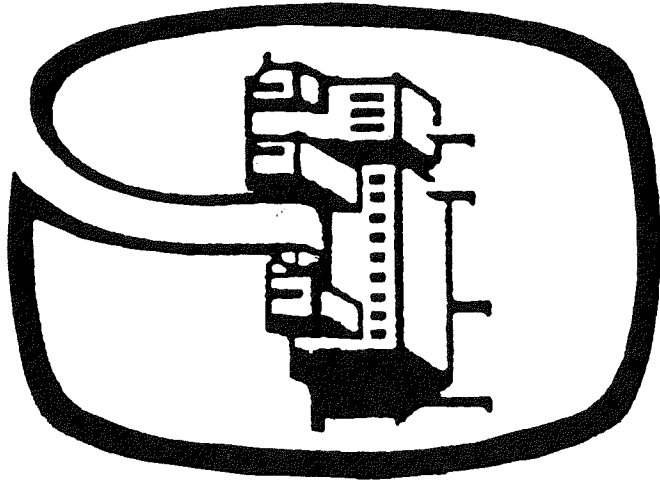
YES, I would like to be a Volunteer. My interest is _____

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Please mail to JACOBSBURG HISTORICAL SOCIETY, Box 345, Nazareth, Pa. 18064

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