

THE JACOBSTOWN RECORD

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OBSERVE THE OYSTER!

There once was an oyster, whose story I'll tell, Who found that some sand had got into his shell. Just one little grain, but it gave him a pain, For oysters have feelings, altho' they're so plain.

Now did he berate the workings of fate that brought him to such a deplorable state? Did he curse the government? Call for an election? Or cry that "The Sea should be given protection"?

"No," he said to himself as he lay on the shelf, "Since I cannot remove it, I'll try to improve it."

Well the years rolled by, as years always do, and he came to his ultimate destiny.....**STEW!** And the small grain of sand that had bothered him so, was a beautiful pearl, all richly aglow.

Now this tale has a moral, for isn't it grand, What an oyster can do with a morsel of sand? And what couldn't **WE** do, if **we'd** only begin, by **improving** those things that get under **OUR** skin?

Jacobstown needs to know what things "Get under your skin". There always is and always will be room for improvement in our Society's activities. Don't just sit on the sidelines, *participate in our programs and offer to take the lead in **implementing** improvements.*

We are fortunate to have a large number of dedicated volunteers plugging away at the projects they are involved with. Don't only help them by pointing out those things that "give you a pain", *offer to personally help improve the things that "Get under your skin".*

The best way to implement change and improvement is to take on the responsibility to affect that change. Get involved, offer your services, make yourself available to help, show up at activities, make it happen. It is often not sufficient to remark, "Call me if you need me". Busy volunteers may remember someone offered their help, but seldom remember who it was.

Remember the Oyster! Help our Society improve the things that "Get under your skin". With the active help of all our members the Bouldon complex will become the pearl we all want it to be.

Ronald G. Gabel
President

THE INTERPRETER'S CORNER

by Jim Wilson

Since January 2001, the Henry Homestead at Boulton has been under major renovations as the Jacobsburg Historical Society works toward fulfilling its vision of creating The Museum of the Pennsylvania Longrifle. The interior spaces of the Henry Homestead will be transformed into a rustic museum that will tell the story of the Pennsylvania Rifle and its place in American History. While future plans for capitol development of a multi-million-dollar museum complex elsewhere at Boulton, interim plans call for a much smaller, modest, rifle and gunmakers' museum to be located in the historical Henry Homestead at Boulton. And what better place for such a museum than the Henry Homestead?

Both recent and historical research points out that the Pennsylvania Longrifle was the unique product of gunsmiths living right here in Northampton County in the mid-1700s, and in Lancaster, Bucks and lower Berks counties at the same time. These gunsmiths greatly improved upon the old European rifle design, and produced a firearm that was better suited to the demands of the American frontier. Thus was born the Pennsylvania Longrifle. Also known simply as the Pennsylvania, Kentucky or American Rifle, the Pennsylvania Longrifle has become a monument to colonial ingenuity. It has been called the "*truest kind of American invention*".

Chief among the early gunsmiths was American patriot and pioneer Pennsylvania Riflemaker William Henry of Lancaster. It was William of Lancaster's eldest son, William Henry of Nazareth, who later took the small workshop business of Pennsylvania Riflemaking to a water-powered industry at Jacobsburg and Boulton. William Henry III, son of William of Nazareth, established the family homestead at Boulton while supervising construction of the Boulton Gun Works in 1812. The lives of the Henry gunmakers are so tightly woven into the history of American Riflemaking, from the time William Henry set up his gun shop in 1749 in Lancaster to the time Granville Henry closed the Boulton Gun Works in 1895, that it only makes sense at this opportune time to begin the Museum of the Pennsylvania Longrifle at the historical Henry Homestead.

The Pennsylvania Longrifle Museum at the Henry Homestead will define the Pennsylvania Rifle, the people who made them and the places they were made, while showcasing the Henry gunmaking heritage of the Jacobsburg National Historic District. Because of its historical and cultural resources, Jacobsburg has been called "*a national treasure*". Nowhere else does a museum exist dedicated exclusively to interpreting the art and industry of making early American firearms, and the character of the individuals and community that created and sustained that enterprise - an enterprise that was essential to the settlement and expansion of the United States of America. The Jacobsburg Historical Society will utilize its collections of firearms, gunmaking tools and equipment, photographs, documents, letters, artifacts and custom built exhibitory to tell the story of the Pennsylvania Longrifle, its makers and its history.

The museum project at the Henry Homestead is extensive, and involves far more than just the professional design and fabrication of exhibits and cabinetry. Project work plans include major maintenance and repair of the overall structure and infrastructure of the Henry Homestead, and to make the Museum of the Pennsylvania Longrifle handicap-accessible. The Jacobsburg Historical Society wants to create for you a modest, but quality museum that tells the story of early American Riflemaking in the upper Bushkill Creek Valley and beyond, while building support for capitol development at Boulton of a larger and more comprehensive Museum of the Pennsylvania Longrifle.

The Interpreter's Corner (Cont'd.)

While the Henry Homestead is under museum renovations this year, many of the Jacobsburg Historical Society's community programs will be hosted at Moravian Hall Square in Nazareth. See our Calendar of Events for details. We hope to have the Pennsylvania Longrifle Museum at the Henry Homestead open and visitor-ready by Summer 2002. Please visit our website at www.jacobsburg.com to check on the progress of The Museum of the Pennsylvania Longrifle, and on other Jacobsburg Historical Society happenings as well!

2001 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- April 21*** "Delawares on the Bushkill" - Guest Speaker, Chuck Gentle Moon DeMund. Slide Program and Artifacts Exhibit. 10:30 AM
- May 19-20**** Oxford Furnace Heritage Event, Oxford, N.J.
- May 24*** Bob Newell will present a slide program on Henry of Boulton. 7:30 PM
- June 15-17** Rifle Frolic & Primitive Rendezvous Camp
- June 23*** "Art of the Stone Mason" - Speaker Ian Cramb is a fifth generation international stone mason. 10:30 AM.
- July 25-27** Annual Youth History Camp - Junior Historians, 9 AM to Noon
- August** Tea Party in the Garden. Penn State Master Gardener Program. (Date to be announced)
- Sept. 26** Start Basic Longrifle Gunsmithing Course - 8 wks. 7-10 PM.
- Sept. 29-30** Civil War Event - Civil War Display, Reenactment, & Camp.
- Oct. 18** Annual Fall Dinner & Meeting.
- Oct. 26-28** American Fur Trade & Halloween Rendezvous.
- Nov. 3** Fall Cleanup 9AM. Rain date Nov. 17.

* These programs will be held at Moravian Hall Square Retirement Community, Kortz Hall, in Nazareth, Pa.

**Denotes events on the road.

Semi-annual Clean-up Day, April 7, 2001

Wendy Totani, LaVerne Evans, Howard White, Mary Ann & Earl Van Norman, Rich Steiner, Jim and Estelle Shedlauskas, Joe Flemish, Ron Gabel, Bill Atherton, and Jim Stephan, were the volunteers who turned out on a cloudy, damp day to get the Jacobsburg Historical Society grounds in shape for our summer season. A big "thank you" to all. If I have missed anyone, I'm sorry, but you did not sign the check-in sheet.

Before it began to rain in the afternoon, many branches and leaves were cleaned up and some grass planted where necessary. The first floor of the J.J. House was vacuumed and dusted, thanks to Wendy and LaVerne. Mary Ann and Estelle worked in the kitchen to prepare lunch and keep the coffeepot cooking and the soda cold.

Our twelve volunteers contributed 56 hours of their time to work on the property.

Unfortunately, we were unable to get anything accomplished on the Homestead property due to a lack of volunteers. Mark your calendar now as a reminder of our Fall clean-up on November 3rd. Your help will be appreciated.

GIFTS TO THE SOCIETY

In the past few months, Jacobsburg Historical Society has been the recipient of the following gifts:

An oil painting of William Henry of Lancaster, which has been loaned to the Society by Jane Henry Ives of Connecticut.

A bequest of \$3,499.01 from the Estate of James E. Henry.

A bequest of three items of furniture and nine pictures from the Estate of Ruth Clewell.

2001 OUTDOOR EXPO, MARCH 1-4

The Expo was held in Agricultural Hall at the Allentown Fairgrounds. The Society once again had our favorite location, a 30 foot display area in the center of the event.

This year, the display featured some of the earliest rifles in the Society collection, including the circa 1812 military rifle, to some of the last rifles made at the Henry factory in Boulton. Once again, the center of attraction within the booth was work being done by our instructors and students of the Gunsmithing Course, as they worked on their rifles.

Sixteen volunteers donated their time setting up, tearing down, and manning the booth for a total of 110 hours.

Outdoor Expo (cont'd.)

The Show closed at Noon on Sunday because of a heavy snowstorm.

I would like to extend a special thanks and appreciation to all involved. If you have never had the pleasure of manning the booth and talking to visitors about the Society, why not try it next year? We'll be looking for help.....

Howard White, Chairman

National Canal Museum Lecture Series

On May 17, the Spring Lecture series concludes with the presentation of "Germany's Canal's, Castles and Railroads in 3-D" by Mitchell Dakelmann, film librarian for the National Railroad Historical Society. Mr. Dakelmann is no stranger to the National Canal Museum. For more information, call the National Canal Museum at 610-559-6613.

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Did you ever consider including in your Will, as a beneficiary, the Jacobsburg Historical Society? To fulfill its purposes, the Society would indeed be aided with such a remembrance with appropriate acknowledgment.

Two illustrations of testamentary gifts are:

1. "I give and bequeath to Jacobsburg Historical Society for its corporate purposes the sum of \$ _____ Dollars."
2. "I give and bequeath unto Jacobsburg Historical Society for its corporate purposes (here describe in some detail the object such as Henry firearms)."

There are no federal estate or Pennsylvania inheritance taxes on these testamentary bequests.

When considering in your Will a bequest to the Society, consult with your attorney. Any officer or director of the Society is pleased to discuss with you the matter of gifts.

Estelle Shedlauskas, Editor