

JACOBSBURG HISTORICAL SOCIETY, Inc.

P.O. Box 345 Nazareth, Pa 18064

NEWSLETTER

Vol. 2 No. 3

June 1974

President: Mrs. Lewis Beers Secretary: Hilton Rahn
Vice President: Joseph DiGerlando Treasurer: Miss Margaret Taylor

Congratulations to all our June graduates, brides and grooms, and parents that are relieved to see that they were able to survive another school year without too many scars and bruises. Summer is rapidly coming upon us and very soon many of our younger members will be looking for activities to occupy their leisure time. Some programs that should be considered are the activities of our Society, which include archeology field work, documentary research, gardening and landscaping activities, construction and repair work, and many other projects that can be tailored to an individual's time and ability. These are continuing programs that we hope to expand over the summer with the help of volunteers. Consult the directory on the last page and contact the committee head for more information.

Colonial Craft Fair

Our nation's 200th birthday is approaching and in anticipation of this celebration, our Board of Directors searched for an appropriate project to help to commemorate the Bicentennial. We searched for a project that would be beneficial to the community as well as fostering a festive air for the celebration. With these and many other thoughts in mind, the plans for a colonial craft fair were agreed upon. This year's fair will be held at the Northampton County 4-H fairgrounds in Bushkill Center, on Saturday, July 20, from 10am-5pm. (see map and directions on back page) The theme of the fair will be primarily educational with displays of Colonial period tools, maps, artifacts, and demonstrations of period crafts including candlemaking, soapmaking, silversmithing, pottery, bullet making, weaving, woodcarving, blacksmithing, and many, many more. Mrs. Peg Johnson, the head of the fair committee has commented that the response from area folk has been tremendous. New demonstrations and displays are being added daily, as hobbyists and craftsmen learn about the fair. If any of our members are interested or know of a craftsman that would be interested in displaying or demonstrating his or her skill, please contact Mrs. Johnson.

We are also looking to our members to donate baked goods for sale at our refreshment area, so please call and tell us which prize recipe of cake, pie, or what have you, we can expect on fair day. Mark July 20 on your calendar and plan

to come for the whole day. Hot dogs with sauerkraut, BBQ, cake, pie, coffee, and soda will be available.

TANNERY VERIFIED

Our archeologists, under the direction of Mr & Mrs Lopresti have verified what had been supposed to be the Tannery at Jacobsburg. Through much back-breaking work and ardent research they have proven that a very substantial tanning business must have been carried on at Jacobsburg for some time. Their summer program will include further excavations at the Tannery and other sites surrounding it, depending on the weather and the availability of volunteer labor.

HISTORY NOTES

In his History of Northampton County of 1851, Mathew S. Henry tells us that in the seven miles from Schoenek to Wind Gap there were only two houses to be found in 1784, but that by 1851 over 100 houses and farms had sprung up in that area. He also tells us that three small villages of Cherry Hill, Filetown, and Jacobsburg had developed by this time. Cherry Hill had a store and a tavern and about six or seven dwellings including the .."ingenious musical instrument maker by the name of Martin", world known for his superior guitars. Filetown, about 1/2 mile north, had 12 to 15 dwellings and shops, the inhabitants being employed in filing the parts of gun locks and door locks, hence the name of the town.

About 4 miles from Nazareth on the same road was the village of Jacobsburg, containing at that time a tavern and store, a tannery, a grist mill, a saw mill, and some dwellings. Here in 1792 Wm Henry erected a factory to produce several thousand muskets for the Governor of Pennsylvania. In 1808 he set up a forge to produce bar iron, and on May 12, 1809 the first bar of iron made in Northampton County was made here.

HELP WANTED

We have a great potential at Jacobsburg to make a valuable contribution to our community by researching and preserving these important pieces of our local history. We should become especially aware of the importance of our work at this time when we are preparing to celebrate the 200th birthday of our nation. These hard working settlers in isolated communities were what made our nation what it is today. The United States is not founded on machines, plastics, oil, and computers, as many would have us think, but on blood, sweat, tears, and determination--all human factors. The others are necessary to maintain our present society but they are worthless without the human factor. This is what our Historical Society is trying to rediscover and preserve - the local history, the personalities involved, the events and circumstances that affected their lives and thus affected the entire community and nation. History does truly repeat itself and by learning about our past we may be better able to meet the needs of the future. To do this, though we need help. We need researchers diggers, workers, writers, and more, to do this important work.

No experience is necessary though some would be helpful. We will train you if you have the desire to help. Make your own hours. The pay - that depends on your outlook on life. Money is not the reward for this kind of work, but get a personal satisfaction out of knowing that they are helping to preserve an important part of our heritage and that this will be a real and lasting contribution to our community.

RESEARCH MEETING

A meeting of the research committee is scheduled for 8:00 pm on Monday June 17 at the home of Mr & Mrs Sandwick in Easton. All members of the committee as well as any other interested members are urged to attend to learn of the past findings and map out future plans.

MAY MEETING REPORT

We were priveleged to have Mrs Marjorie Penny Paschkis as our speaker at our last meeting. Those of you that could not attend missed an excellent talk about using history as a teaching aid to help people to live and work better with our fellow man. Mrs Paschkis is director of the Fellowship Farm near Pottstown and has helped to develop some very innovative programs using historical events and persons as the basis of demonstrating a humanistic approach to life. The programs at the farm have a special interest to the thousands of children that visit there annually. We thank Mrs Paschkis for taking her valuable time to share some of her experiences with us.

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

Congratulations are in order to Don Fowler of the County Extension Service and all of the members of the committee that assisted him in securing a grant of \$40,000. for the first year of a three year project. The grant is funded by the federal government ESA Title III program and is administered by the Pa Dept of Education. Programs will be developed for the Colonial Northampton Intermediate Unit which includes Northampton and Monroe Counties and a district from Pike County. 48 teachers will be working on programs that will be made available to the 3500 teachers in the unit. All work is being very closely coordinated with the Pa Bureau of Parks through the Environmental Education Center at the Nolde State Forest near Reading. Our Society has given our support to this project and will be assisting in developing the historical aspect of the program. In recent weeks, school groups have been using the facilities of the Jacobsburg Park as outdoor education areas. Most notable was a three day project conducted by the Nazareth school district. We were told that this was very successful.

HENRY HOMESTEAD PROGRESS

In a recent meeting with Park officials, the Board agreed in principle to the terms of a proposed lease for the development of the property. All that remains in the way of the acquisition is the preparing and signing of the final lease agreements. This should be completed in the next month or two. Our Society will greatly benefit from this agreement for this will give us a permanent location to house and display our collections and materials, and also give us an area close to Jacobsburg to be used as a laboratory in our archeological program.

We are currently accepting applications from prospective caretaker-tenants to live in this historic house in a beautiful country setting. Address any inquiries in care of the president or contact any board member.

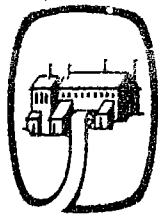
CALENDAR OF EVENTS

June 17, 8:00pm research committee meeting
July 1, 8:00pm Board of Directors meeting
July 20, 10:00 am - 5:00pm Colonial Craft Fair

COMMITTEE DIRECTORY

President: Mrs Lewis Beers Easton 2534547
Vice President: Joseph DiGerlando Nazareth 7597239
Archeology: Mrs Virginia Lopresti Stockertown 7591580
Research: Charles Sandwick Easton 2521290
Construction: Joseph Lopresti, Joseph DiGerlando, Albert Toth
Belfast 7592153
Membership and Field Trips: Mrs Henry Fluck 2531146
Public information: J. DiGerlando
Colonial Craft Fair: Mrs Peg Johnson Bangor 5880828

COLONIAL CRAFT FAIR



JACOBSBURG
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

Candle making

Blacksmith
Silver Smith

Pottery

Weaving

SAT JULY 20, 1974

10:00 AM - 5:00 PM

DEMONSTRATIONS - EXHIBITS - REFRESHMENTS

NORTHAMPTON 4-H FAIR GROUNDS - 4 mi N. OF
BUSHKILL CENTER NAZARETH

From Easton:

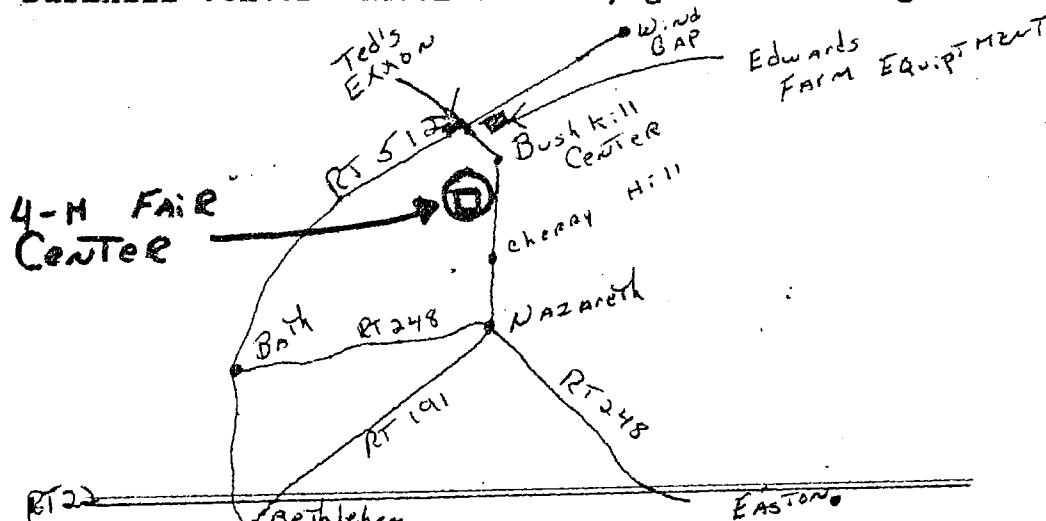
North - Rt 248 (25th st) to Nazareth, Turn Right at 1st light onto Broad St. Follow through town, to Cherry Hill (becomes Bushkill Center Rd) and continue for about 3 miles. Grounds are located on the left.

From Bethlehem-Allentown:

North on Rt 191 from rt 22. Follow into Nazareth till 191 turns onto Broad St. Follow as above.

From Wind Gap and North.

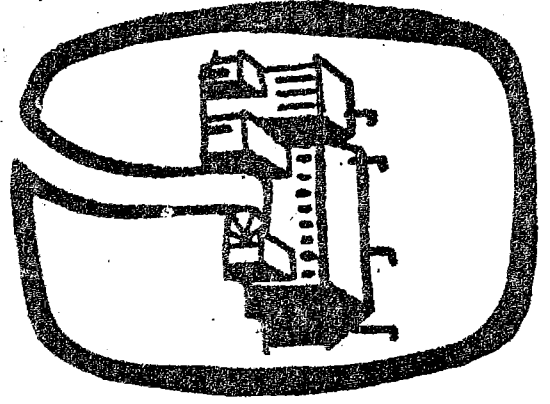
South on Rt 512 to Exxon Station at Clearfield intersection. Turn left onto Bushkill Center Rd, proceed about 3 miles (pass Bushkill Center School on left) grounds on Right.



Box 345, Nazareth, Pa. 18064

NOT drawn
To scale

JACOBSBURG
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY



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