THE JACOBSBURG RECORD

ATTN: BOULTON HISTORIC SITE
Run and Managed by:
THE JACOBSBURG HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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Nazareth PA 18064
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Summer 2011 Volume 38, Issue 3 *Boulton - Where History Lives!*

JACOBSBURG HISTORICAL SOCIETY

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE

EVENT REPORT ~ RIFLE FROLIC *Page 4 & 5*
UPCOMING 'NEW' EVENTS *Page 7 & 8*
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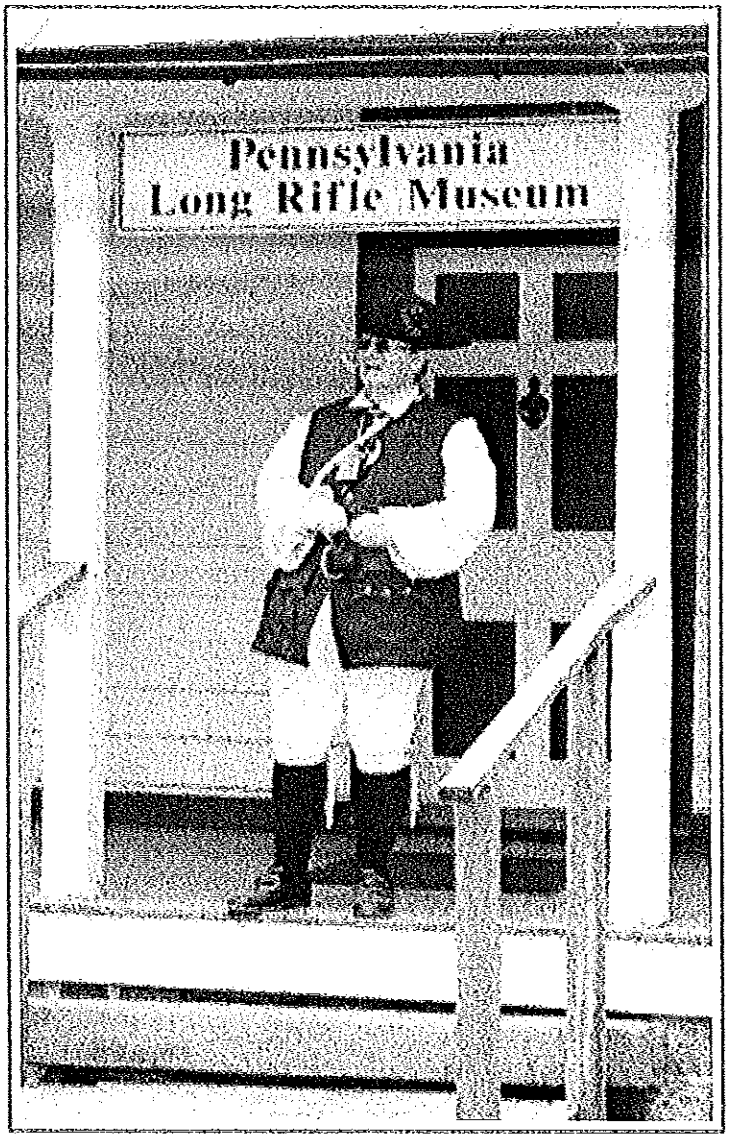
"To Everything There is a Season"



FAREWELL, TOM

HISTORIC INTERPRETER TOM VARENCHICK DIES AT AGE 62

Tom Varenchick, devoted volunteer and member of the Jacobsburg Historical Society, died on Friday, April 22, 2011, from natural causes. His love of history and his passion for sharing his knowledge and excitement with others made history come alive at the Boulton Historic Site. Tom will be remembered for his commitment, his character, and his smile.

Two efforts are underway to preserve Tom's memory at Boulton. The first is a "Please Touch" History Education Kit, containing many of the items Tom used to share the past with children of all ages. Dan and Rita Gordon of Nazareth have generously funded this project.

A bench in Tom's memory is also planned, to be placed on the south side of Henry Road. Tom loved Boulton and could often be found sitting quietly, smoking his

Continued on Page 3

JACOBSBURG HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Board of Directors

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Scott Paul Gordon, 2nd Vice President
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Tom Turtzo
Howie White
Frank Willis

Ex Officio
Lyndsey Brown Frigm, Executive Director
Mike Jones, Manager, JEEC
Lance Metz, Historian

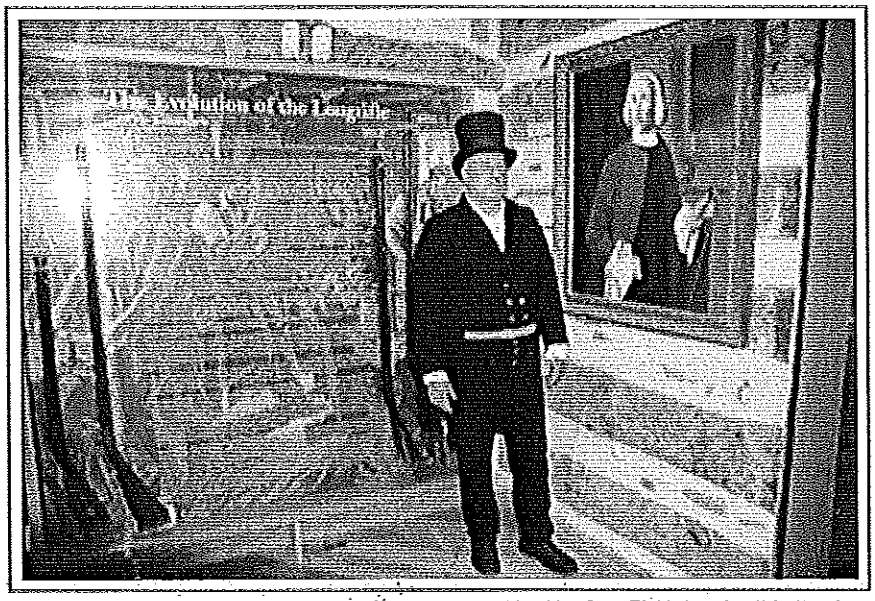
The Jacobsburg Historical Society Board of Directors meets on the third Monday of each month at 7 p.m. in the basement of the Pennsylvania Longrifle Museum, 403 Henry Road, Nazareth. Meetings are open. **NOTE: the August 2011 meeting will be on Monday, August 22nd.**

The *Jacobsburg Historical Society* is a member-supported nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving and presenting the art and industry of making early American firearms, and the character of the individuals and community that created and sustained that enterprise.

The Jacobsburg Record
is published by the
Jacobsburg Historical Society
P. O. Box 345,
402 Henry Road
Nazareth, Pennsylvania, 18064
610-759-9029
jacobsburg@rcn.com
www.jacobsburg.org

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Coming of Age



Board President Dave Ehrig, dressed as John Joseph Henry, poses by the portrait of William Henry of Lancaster during the 17th Annual Rifle Frolic event.

"What people say, what people do, and what they say they do are entirely different things."

Margaret Mead, Anthropologist

I indelibly remember these words from Margaret as she addressed my wife's graduating college class of 1969. It was shortly after Mead's profound publication of "Coming of Age," in which she defined the challenges that women had for recognition in our world; seemingly a silent and ongoing problem in many of the world's cultures. Now we face a new and different, silent danger: a drastically downturned economy.

School districts are furloughing dedicated school teachers; budgets for non-profits are entering the red zone because foundations, investments and state historical commissions are being negatively impacted by a shrinking economy. And all the while, while students can't remember who their country's first president was; why we were threatened in 1812 by a foreign country; why we should bother celebrating the sesquicentennial of the Civil War; our United States history is being threatened by those who would rewrite it in the face of an uninformed populace.

In some small and yet seemingly, very significant way, the Jacobsburg Historical Society is challenging this trend, thanks to the far-sighted bequeath of Boulton's Grand Dame, Mary Henry Stites. You, like the

From the Executive Director's Desk

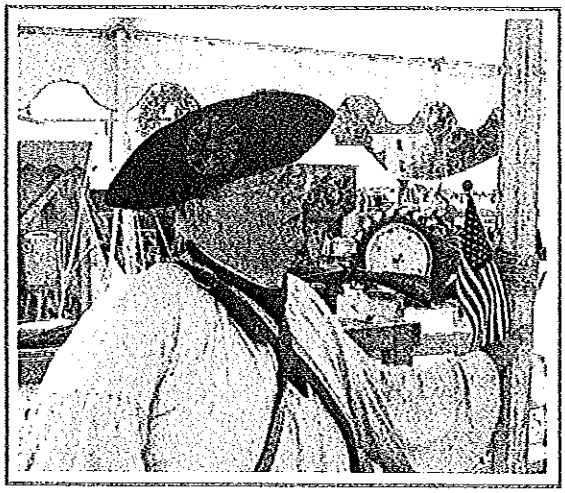
One of my fellow historians and I have a running joke that she has the necessary skills to come and work at the Jacobsburg Historical Society. Currently that list includes the ability to load and fire a flintlock rifle and to humanely end the suffering of a fatally-injured groundhog. Be that as it may, the most important skill for an employee at a historic site is the ability to share with others one's fascination with how we in the present experience the past. To paraphrase a famous movie line, if one can build this connection, they will come, be they visitors, members, or donors. I've been very excited this summer at the increase in membership and volunteers. We still have work to do regarding museum visitation. Will you help? Please spread the word about museum hours for the remainder of the season.

~ Lyndsey Brown Frigm, Executive Director

Varenchick, Continued from Page 1

pipe, enjoying the natural beauty around him.

Gifts in Tom's memory will be used for these two purposes. Checks should be made out to the Jacobsburg Historical Society and mailed to JHS, PO Box 345, Nazareth, PA 18064. Please make a notation "Varenchick Memorial" in the memo line.



Historic Interpreter Tom Varenchick during the 2010 Kutztown Folk Festival.

President's Message, Continued from Page 2

school teacher and mentor, Mary Henry Stites, are the members of a small, but mighty group of historians, and we have shown what people can do! We continue to exhibit, promote, display and share with classrooms, home scholars, area institutions, colleges/universities, the casual observers, and local/state/national press organizations the facts of a proud nation. Our public museums, the Pennsylvania Longrifle, John Joseph House, Nicholas Hawk Log Cabin, and soon to be open, JHS Craft Workshop and Education Center, are sending a loud and strong message: "We do what we say!"

JHS is the legacy of Mary Henry Stites and ALL of the good people who have lived, worked and extended the culture from this corner of Northampton County. It is a shining light of United States History, culture and values that refuses to be shunned by a downturned economy. Families, researchers, scholars, visionaries, historians, re-enactors, writers, novelists, telecasters, TV documentarians, collectors, Scouts, educators, environmentalists, hikers, equestrians, hikers, and the curious, You are the reason that we are surviving when other venues fail. Be proud of that fact and please continue to share with your friends and neighbors the "vision of Boulton." We look forward to your contributions to the future, doing what you say; we are definitely "coming of age!"

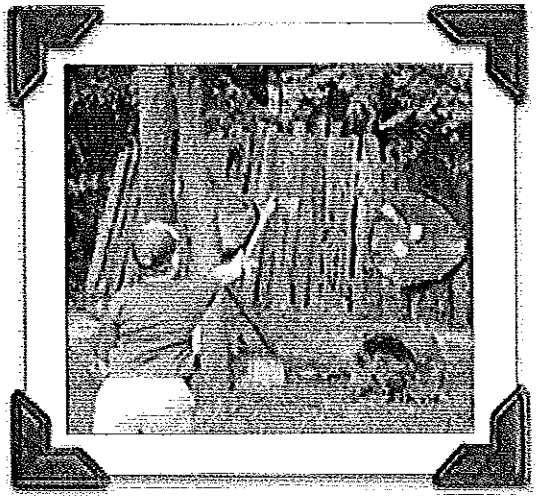
~ Dave Ehrig, President, JHS Board of Directors

EVENT REPORT

17th Annual Rifle Frolic

Saturday & Sunday, June 18 & 19, 2011

The weather was beautiful for the Jacobsburg Historical Society's 17th Annual Rifle Frolic, held at the Boulton Historic Site on Father's Day Weekend. This pictorial report is just a section of the available pictures. Visit our Facebook page "Boulton Historic Site ~ Jacobsburg Historical Society" for more pictures and to stay in touch about future events.

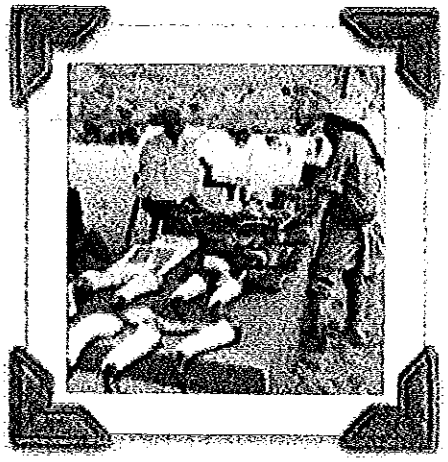


Dedicated volunteer and board member Bobbi DiGerlando *(above left)* rallied a team of new volunteers and offered expanded children's activities this year. From blueing, washing, and wringing clothes to playing in a box of corn kernels, to the ever-popular tomahawk throwing range, kids of all ages had fun with hands-on history. A washpan of water and a metal cup kept the littlest ones both entertained and cool! *(right)*

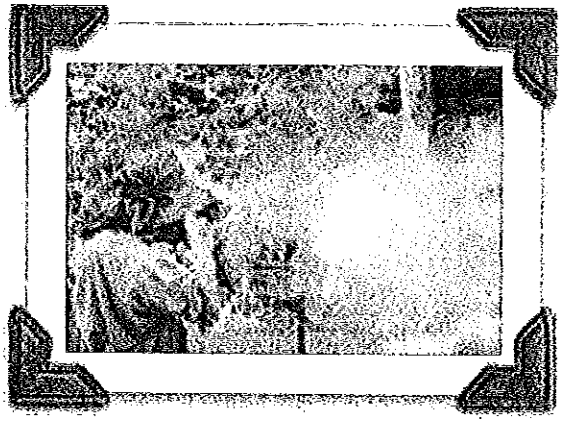
EVENT REPORT

Rifle Frolic, continued

Early American Craft Education (EACE) coordinator Frank Willis speaks to a member of the re-enactment team about upcoming classes. In the foreground are powder horns and leather bags crafted by students in the EACE program. (above) Master blacksmith Bob Chatin works the forge behind the Pennsylvania Longrifle Museum. (below)

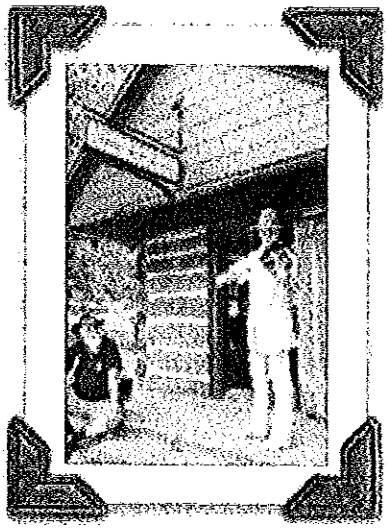


This year's Rifle Frolic was complemented by a new opportunity. The Nazareth Arts Center featured the Boulton Gardens on their Annual House tour. The gardens and grounds saw an influx of new visitors, including a resident artist or two! Our thanks to the NAC.



Master gunsmith, Jim Correll from his post in the Nicholas Hawk Gunshop.

The grill team of Paul Lopresti & Joe DiGerlando was back this year, to great acclaim, with assistance from Bobbie DiGerlando and Jeannie & Brian Krenicky.



William Dixon performs on the fiddle for an audience of visitors, re-enactors,, and volunteers.

OUTREACH REPORT

Kutztown Folk Festival

July 2 -10, 2011

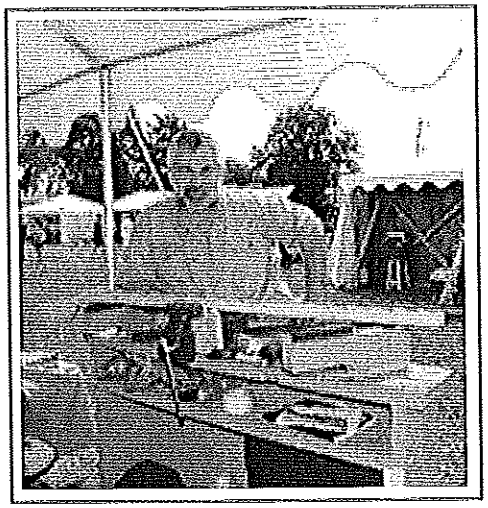


Photo Credit Dave Ehrig

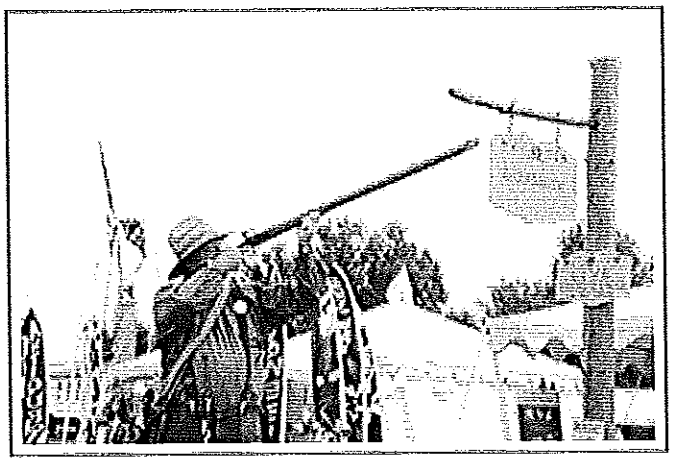


Photo Credit Carl Hess

A dedicated team of JHS volunteers once again braved the July heat and spent nine days sharing Early American industrial history and skills with visitors at the Kutztown Folk Festival. Nine days in the sun with hourly presentation is an enormous feat, and gift. Volunteers for next year are being recruited **now**, especially those with a gift for flair and presentation, who will enjoy interacting with the crowd and sharing the story of the longrifle. For more information, contact either of next year's co-chairs Dave Ehrig (dehrig@aol.com or 610-360-6787) or Frank Willis (ftwillis@ptd.net or 908-965-0388.) A very sincere thank you to all who volunteered this year.

OUTREACH REPORTS

Supporting the Civil War Road Show

Networking with other organizations for the presentation of history has been a practice of the Society since its conception. Early this summer, we lent our support to two sister organizations in their service as sites for the Civil War Road Show. Bob Newell travelled to the Quiet Valley Living Historical Farm in Stroudsburg, PA on June 24th to share his knowledge of Henry firearms and family involvement during the Civil War. Bob then joined up with Howie and Sarah White, on Sunday, July 10th, for Easton Heritage Day, where they took up their traditional posts within the Bachman Tavern, a long-standing collaboration with the Northampton County Historical and Genealogical Society.

The Civil War Road Show is sponsored by Civil War Pennsylvania 150 (CWPA 150), a statewide partnership of major history organizations convened by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (PHMC) and the Pennsylvania Heritage Society (PHS) to develop programming and content for the commemoration of the Civil War. For more information, visit http://www.pacivilwar150.com/.

SAVE THE DATE - UPCOMING EVENTS

A Picnic at Boulton ~ Saturday, August 27th

Without question, the Henry Family estate of Boulton is stunningly beautiful, especially in the summer months. The Henrys celebrated the outdoors and family by hosting formal picnics, often two or three a week! In our modern day, the grounds at Boulton are most often enjoyed by visitors, while our volunteers and members glance at the landscape as they scurry on to their next task. This cannot continue! Its time to stop and smell the flowers!

On Saturday, August 27th the Jacobsburg Historical Society will host **"A Picnic at Boutlton"** from four until eight in the evening. As the goal is for no one to work and everyone to relax, the event will be catered. Cost is $20 for adults, $10 for children 12 and under, and free for infants. Dinner options will include chicken, hamburgers, hot dogs and other picnic fare. Dessert is a communal effort - we invite you to bring your favorite picnic dessert to share. Entertainment for the evening will include performances by Master William Dixon on the fiddle. Flyers were mailed in early August. To request another copy or to reserve your space, please contact the Society office at 610-759-9029. **Please note:** payment can be received at the door but reservations are requested by August 17th so we can provide the caterer with an accurate count.

This is a wonderful opportunity to introduce friends and neighbors to the JHS and Boulton. See you on the 27th!

Family Camp Out ~ Saturday, October 8th

Looking for a fun, safe family activity? Camp out at the Boulton Historic Site on Saturday, October 8th. Pitch your tent in the side pasture. Set up any time in the afternoon, with check in at 3 or 6 p.m. at the Nicholas Hawk Gun Shop. The Pennsylvania Longrifle Museum will be open from noon until 4 p.m. and free to campers. At 4 p.m., there will be a Woods Walk in honor the Jacobsburg Historical Society's earliest event. Tour guide (and board of director's first vice president) Howie White will lead an approximately 45 minute tour of Henry's Woods, including the remains of the Boulton Gun Factory. Afterwards, campfires will be available in the two stone fire pits for those who wish to cook out. (Bring your own food and supplies.) A bonfire, complete with s'mores, will commence at 7 p.m. (so that the little ones can join the fun). Bring your roasting sticks, camp chairs, stories, and songs. On Sunday morning, an ecumenical worship service is planned for those who wish to participate. We encourage everyone to breakfast at the Bushkill Township Fire Hall, where the volunteer fireman will offer the best breakfast in the county from 7:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Logistical notes: Cost is $20 per family. Potable water is available. Bathroom facilities limited to portable toilets. Please no washing at the spigots. Shallow sump holes may be dug if filled in properly and grass plug is restored. *Flyers available shortly online at jacobsburg.org/events or by calling the Society office at 610-759-9029.*

SAVE THE DATE - UPCOMING EVENT

Inaugural "Black Powder" Golf Tournament

Monday, October 17, 2011

GOLF EVENT PLANNED

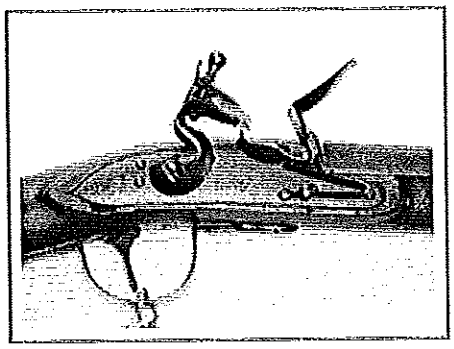
On Monday, October 17, 2011, the Jacobsburg Historical Society will host the inaugural "Black Powder" Golf Tournament at Southmoore Golf Club in Bath. Spearheaded by Rich Steiner, Jeff Marsh, Dale Marsh, and Miguel Cano, the golf tournament is designed to raise both funds and awareness for the Society, while adding a fun twist to the standard charity golf tournament.

At 9:45 a.m. instead of a shot gun start, there will be a "Black Powder Start," as a re-enactor fires a Pennsylvania Longrifle to mark the beginning of the tournament. In addition to traditional tournament games such as the opportunity to win a car with a hole in one and a "closest to the pin" pot of gold, one "closest to the pin" game will provide an opportunity to fire a longrifle. The after tournament party and prize ceremony will be held at Miguel's Restaurant and Lounge, 5881 Sullivan Trail, Belfast. During which a collectable mid-19th century Henry made and marked smooth bore rifle with a back action percussion warranted lock will be auctioned off, along with other golf-themed prizes.

JOIN US!

ENTER A FOURSOME
SPONSOR THE EVENT
VOLUNTEER

To request a tournament brochure or for more information, please contact the JHS office at 610-759-9029 or by email at jacobsburg@rcn.com.



SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Serving as an inaugural sponsor earns you a place in our organizational history and demonstrates your commitment to the preservation of local history. Each level includes a generous donation to the Jacobsburg Historical Society. Benefits for each level listed below. Please contact the JHS for the amount of each donation that may be tax deductible, as allowable by law.

Henry **$2000**
Foursome entry, hole sign, gift certificate to Miguel's, company-provided banner hung at dinner, optional table at registration (must be staffed by sponsor), brochure & web recognition.

Boulton **$1500**
Foursome entry, hole sign, gift certificate to Miguel's, company-provided banner hung at dinner, brochure & web recognition.

Jacobsburg **$1000**
Foursome entry, hole sign, company-provided banner hung at dinner brochure & web recognition.

Stites **$500**
Company-provided banner hung at dinner, hole sign, website recognition.

Atherton **$250**
Company-provided banner hung at dinner, hole sign.

Bushkill **$100**
Hole sign.

UPDATES AND INFORMATION

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

Board of Directors

Nominations now being accepted for the Jacobsburg Historical Society Board of Directors. To nominate a candidate or for more information on expectations and responsibilities, please contact Board President Dave Ehrig at dehrig@aol.com.

Lifetime Achievement Award

The Lifetime Achievement Award recognizes a community leader whose sustained commitment and demonstrable achievement exemplifies exceptional service to JHS and its areas of interest (documenting, preserving, and promoting the art and industry of making early American firearms and the character of the individuals and community that created and sustained that enterprise).

Nominations are being accepted for recognition of living individuals who fit the above criteria and also for names of deceased members whose efforts clearly qualify them for inclusion on a "Wall of Honor." Last year's LAA inaugural recipients were Robert Frick, Virginia Lopresti, and Robert Newell, Jr. Nominations should be directed to Scott Gordon (spg4@lehigh.edu) and Earl Van Norman (EVanNorman@ptd.net).

Correspondence can also be sent % JHS, PO Box 345, Nazareth, PA 18064 or a message left at the Society office (610-759-9029).

WREATH CLASS HELP NEEDED

For two years, Kay Tomko has run a **very** successful and enjoyable wreath making class. She is looking for a co-chair who can help plan and implement this year's class. Please call the office and leave a message for Kay if you can help.

GARDEN THANK YOU

Last newsletter we asked for help with the gardens, in preparation for the Nazareth Arts Center Garden Tour. We wish to give a very sincere thank you to all who answered the call, especially Julia Sotory, Andrea Smith, and Jim & Tess Wagner.

Thank you,

Bobbie DiGerlando & Carolyn Flemish

FUNDRAISING ACTIVITY

Nazareth Night of Lights

Raise funds for the JHS with this community-building activity. Call the Society office at for flyers or with orders. (610-759-9029)

October 31st is the day

Nazareth Chamber of Commerce,
Jacobsburg Historical Society, &
Moravian Historical Society

Presents

The Nazareth Night of Lights

Luminaries Sale

This is a great way to light up your Holiday night!
Included will be: Twelve (12) Luminaries, Sand,
& Candles all included for only $12.00
No need to get anything more

Be the first
on your Block or
out side your Store Front to show your Support
Kits are available at all three Locations
Nazareth Area Chamber of Commerce
610-759-9188
Jacobsburg Historical Society 610-759-9029
Moravian Historical Society 610-759-5070

Early American Craft Education at Boulton

CLASSES UPDATE

Beginning Gunsmith Class
Register now! Fall classes start on September 10th. Cost is $750. Contact class coordinator **Carl Landis** at 610-342-6260 or poniexp1@rcn.com for paperwork.

Leather Bag Class
Space may still be available for this beginning leather-working class to be held in September 2011. Cost is $250. Please contact **Frank Willis** at 610-965-0388 or ftwillis@ptd.net. *Note: this class is held off-site in Emmaus.*

Powder Horn Class
The next beginning powder horn class will be held the four Saturdays in January 2012. Class cost is $250. Please contact **Frank Willis** 610-965-0388 or ftwillis@ptd.net to register.

PROJECT UPDATES

~ The Early American Craft Education workshop project funding is nearing the goal of $40,000. A $2,000 donation from the Keystone Nazareth Charitable Foundation was received in June. Thank you to all of our partners at KNBT!

~ Local volunteer engineers are hard at work drawing specs required to receive the necessary building permits.

UPCOMING AREA HISTORICAL EVENTS

GOVERNOR WOLF HISTORICAL SOCIETY WALKING PURCHASE AND OPEN HOUSE

Sunday, July 31, 2011
5 - 7 pm
Rain or Shine

To celebrate their newly acquired 1½ acres of land adjoining our historical society park and tour their three historic buildings. Complementary hot dogs and refreshments. For more info visit www.govwolf.org.

HISTORIC BARN TOUR AND LECTURE

Lower Macungie Township Historical Society in an unprecedented way is sponsoring its first ever combination barn tour and lecture. On Friday night, September 16, 2011 at 7 p.m. there will be a 45 minute lecture on the barns of the Lehigh Valley, especially those in the Lower Macungie area. On Saturday the 17th from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. an array of seven barns in the township will be offered for public viewing. Inside, outside and all around each barn will be viewable by barn tour attendees. A detailed description of each barn is contained in a barn tour guide booklet authored by Greg Huber, barn historian.

The barns offer a splendid opportunity to see and know the diversity of how local barn builders built their structures in differing construction eras and manners of building expressions. You will learn that not all barns were created equal. These agricultural marvels date from the early nineteenth century to the first or second decade of the twentieth century.

Meet at the Lower Macungie Township Municipal Building at 3400 Brookside Road in Lower Macungie. You must pre-register. For more info call Craig Bartholomew at 610-967-3653 or Greg Huber at 610-967-5808.

Jacobsburg Historical Society Membership Application

MAKE HISTORY LIVE AT BOULTON

BECOME A MEMBER TODAY

(or give this form to someone whose talents and interests will strengthen the Jacobsburg Historical Society!)

This is a: ☐ New Membership ☐ Renewal ☐ Renewal after lapse

Please check desired membership level: ☐ Student $10.00 ☐ Individual $20.00 ☐ Family $35.00

If you wish, amount of additional gift: ☐ $25.00 ☐ $ 50.00 ☐ Other: _____

Name(s)_____

Email_____ Phone(s)_____

Address _____

City_____ State_____ Zip Code_____

How did you hear about the Boulton Historic Site/Jacobsburg Historical Society (JHS)?

☐ Newspaper ☐ Website ☐ Facebook ☐ Word of Mouth ☐ Magazine ☐ Flyer ☐ Email ☐ Saw Sign ☐ _____

What are your areas of interest in Boulton?

☐ Local History ☐ Henry History ☐ Industrial Early America ☐ Moravian History ☐ Genealogy ☐ _____

☐ Pennsylvania Longrifle Museum ☐ John Joseph Henry House ☐ Summer Kitchen ☐ Gardens ☐ Nicholas Hawk Gun Shop

Please detach and mail along with payment to: Jacobsburg Historical Society P.O. Box 345 Nazareth, PA 18064

All contributions are tax deductible as provided by law.

OFFICE USE ONLY

☐ Received_____ ☐ Processed_____ ☐ Database_____ ☐ Letter & Card_____

BOULTON RUNS ON VOLUNTEERS

Yes, I'd like to volunteer in the following areas:	**Weekly**	**Monthly**	**Maybe**	**No**
Docent (guide) in the Pennsylvania Longrifle Museum	☐	☐	☐	☐
Docent (guide) in the John Joseph Henry House	☐	☐	☐	☐
Costumed historic interpreter in the Museum or House	☐	☐	☐	☐
Remote tasks or jobs that can be done from out of town	☐	☐	☐	☐
Gift shop volunteer	☐	☐	☐	☐
Office tasks such as stuffing mailings, filing, organizing	☐	☐	☐	☐
Collection cataloguing (includes database work and photography)	☐	☐	☐	☐
"Cinderella Squad" (Keeping the museums clean)	☐	☐	☐	☐
Property maintenance or event set up (outdoor "muscle" work)	☐	☐	☐	☐
Gardens & grounds volunteer (planting, weeding, raking)	☐	☐	☐	☐
Outreach volunteer (represent JHS at fairs, festivals, etc.)	☐	☐	☐	☐
Sign and poster distribution throughout the Valley	☐	☐	☐	☐

For more information, contact Lyndsey Brown Frigm, Executive Director, Jacobsburg Historical Society, PO Box 345, Nazareth PA 18064
Jacobsburg@rcn.com ~ www.jacobsburg.org ~ 610-759-9029

Dates to Remember

Upcoming Events

August 27	A Picnic at Boulton ***open to all***
October 8	Family Camp Out
October 29&30	Fur Trade Rendezvous
November 10	Annual Dinner
December 10	Christmas at Boulton

Museum Hours

Pennsylvania Longrifle Museum
May - October ~ Saturday & Sunday ~ Noon - 4 p.m.

John Joseph Henry House Museum
Sunday, August 14th ~ Noon - 4 p.m.
Sunday, September 18th ~ Noon - 4 p.m.

Directions to Boulton: Take the Belfast exit off PA Route 33. Turn West towards the woods. Pass the Boulton Historic Site parking lot and over the William Henry Atherton Bridge. **Either** turn right into the driveway for 401 Henry Road and follow long drive to parking lot beyond the barns **or** pass 402 Henry Road and turn left onto Schoeneck Ave, driving past the red-roofed barn complex on the left to the pasture beyond.

Photography Credits: Unknown, p. 2. Carl Hess, p. 6. All other photos, Dave Ehrig.

Jacobsburg Historical Society
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Nazareth, PA 18064

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