

# The Jacobsburg Record

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 1987

VOL.XV, No.1

## 1987 DUES ARE DUE!

We have all received reminders that 1987 dues were due January 1. Please make checks payable to Jacobsburg Historical Society and send to P.O.Box 345, Nazareth, PA 18064. We are indebted to our Treasurer, Reginald Banks, for these first-of-the-year dues reminders. If you have mislaid the notice please use the Membership Application from the last page of this issue of THE JACOBSTURG RECORD.

Remember, a check for \$100.00 will make you a member of the Tannery Club, \$500 of the Boulton Club, and \$1000 of the Henry Rifle Club. Thanks to any and all who have become members of these Clubs.

## OFFICERS FOR 1987

At the Board's first meeting in 1987, January 7, officers were nominated and elected. Congratulations to Earl Van Norman, president, Dallam E. Blandy, 1st vice president, Hilton E. Rahn, Jr., 2nd vice president, Elizabeth L. Morris, secretary, and Reginald M. Banks, Jr., treasurer. Names were presented by John J. Schlamp, chairperson of the nominating committee.

Earl, columnist for the Jacobsburg Environmental Center, is the author of the very interesting and informative articles about the Benade House. One of the best ways to show our support for Earl is to visit the Benade House on any Sunday and see first-hand what he and his very able volunteers have accomplished, and continue to accomplish.

## THANK YOU TO MATTHEW K. MORRIS

We acknowledge with heartfelt appreciation Matt's great leadership during 1986. He has promised to "not do less" even though he is no longer wearing the president's hat. His contributions are too numerous to itemize - so thank you, Matt, for everything.

## BOARD NOTES

The Board rejoices that the Sandwicks, after a bout of illness and broken bones, are again able to be with us. Welcome back, Charlie and Jessie.

The Acquisition Committee reported two donations: (1) a treadle lathe given by Mrs. Norman Granda; (2) a Windsor Chair, ca 1820, given by Mr. and Mrs. James McGinnis, and (3) a collection of tools and instruments given by Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Gaumer.

Permission was granted Dale Prinkey, Superintendent of the Jacobsburg Environmental Education Center, to use the facilities of the Henry Homestead for three programs to be conducted under the auspices of the center: (1) BUDS AND TREAS - February 22; (2) DESIGNING A WILDLIFE FRIENDLY BACKYARD - March 29; (3) WILD FOODS PREPARATION - April 15, May 20, and June 20.

## BENADE HAUS REPORT

EARL VAN NORMAN

The Benade Haus complex was closed down for a few Sundays following the December 7th open house to allow the volunteers and the public to finish their Christmas shopping. Consequently, there isn't anything to report on the month of December but on January 4th we were back at full tilt and welcoming all the cross-country skiers and hikers.

One of the visitors that came was a beautiful northern harrier. His white undersides and slender black tipped wings sometimes give you the impression of a shore bird but, after you watch for a minute, you soon know that this low flying hunter is anything but. The wind was blustery that day and it was all he could do to stay aloft, much less dodge all the brush and fences and still keep an eye out for field mice. After four unsuccessful tries, he finally made a kill and straightway headed for his perch on the hedgerow to partake of his nice warm lunch. I'm sure it tasted every bit as good to him as my beef stew did to me a little later on that cold January day. Shortly he returned to his hunting, in and around the bakehouse and parking lot, and made one more kill. Not too bad for a half hour's work. Then he departed for good and left me in the company of another companion.

My newly arrived companion and I went into the spring house and pulled the settle up close to the fire to wait for Mary Ann and the first visitors to arrive at the park. As we sat there in the quiet warming ourselves by the fire, we soon began to relax and slowly become absorbed in our surroundings. The hiss and the murmurings of the slow fire were like a balm to us. The glowing coals put on a beautiful display of yellows and oranges as the flames danced and twirled and consumed the split oak logs. The flames kept reaching higher and higher on the logs, first charring them and then making them glow and, finally, catching on fire and producing flames of their own. As our eyes were drawn upward by the flames, we could see the black soot on the back of the fireplace from many previous fires. We wondered how many men came in from their chores, struggles, wars and other things that men are wont to do, to warm themselves by this thing we call fire and which the ancients considered one of the four elements.

Not a single word was passed between my companion and myself during this whole encounter, but he made me become aware of the lintel above the fireplace. It stretches the entire width of the fireplace and supports the rest of the structure and chimney with its brawny oaken shoulders. This 7 x 9 inch beam has sides that are square to each other and its length is absolutely straight. Originally this beam was a sill in the Benade Haus upon which the rafters sat for over 200 years before it was installed in the springhouse as the fireplace lintel.

I don't know the man's name who crafted this beam but I do know him. He chose his wood well. Straight grained heart wood and well seasoned, probably oak, but maybe chestnut. There are no knots or checks in it and the few remaining axe marks indicate that no unnecessary cuts were made and the smooth sides tell us he had a good eye and a sharp axe. I know, too, without hearing him say it, that he was determined that he would build a house for "my children and my children's children and, therefore, I must make each and every part just right." He couldn't have known the words of Longfellow who wrote..."In the elder days of art, builders wrought with greatest care each minute and unseen part, for the gods see everywhere", but he was completely aware of the accumulative wisdom of the principle which passed on to him through countless years by countless craftsmen before him.

(Continued on page 5)

## SOME CALLED IT HENRY'S CHURCH

By Charles M. Sandwick, Sr.

Before 1828, the nearest churches accessible to the people of the Jacobsburg area were the Schoeneck Moravian Church, St. Peter's Union Church southeast of Wind Gap, and Salem Union Church of Forks Township (commonly called Forks Church) southeast of Stockertown.

From 12 Feb 1792 through 28 Feb 1828, the number of children of members whose baptisms were recorded at Schoeneck was 224, while in the same period the baptisms of 284 children of nonmembers were recorded there, sixty more children of nonmembers than of members. By far, most of the nonmembers served by the Moravian Church at Schoeneck were of the Lutheran and Reformed denominations, and many resided in the Jacobsburg area.

On 24 Feb 1828, at a meeting of laymen of the Lutheran, Moravian and Reformed denominations who lived in the southeastern part of Bushkill Township and an adjacent strip of Plainfield Township, action was taken to establish a union church to serve that area. Apparently this was strictly a lay movement, with no official sanction from the denominational authorities. The meeting was held at the home of William Henry III in Tria, now a part of Belfast. At this first meeting, Lewis Micke was made chairman and Matthew S. Henry secretary. (See Jacobsburg, page 45, for Matthew Henry's minutes of this meeting.)

Trustees, representing the three denominational groups, were chosen as follows: Lewis Micke, Reformed; J. Joseph Henry, United Brethren (i.e. Moravian), and Thomas Gold, Lutheran. A building committee was elected, consisting of William Henry III, Thomas Gold, Lewis Micke, Matthew S. Henry and Dr. John J. Rogers. William Henry III was elected treasurer, and the following building fund collectors were named: John Joseph Henry, Abraham Ward, Michael Fehr, Lewis Micke, John J. Rogers, Matthew S. Henry and Martin Frey, Jr.

Dr. John J. Rogers, one of the founders of the Union Church, gave a little more than an acre of land for the church and its cemetery. His property was on both sides of the boundary of Plainfield and Bushkill Townships. The church lot was located in Bushkill Township, just west of Belfast, on the north side of the present Belfast Road which links Belfast and Jacobsburg. The site is now occupied by St. Luke's United Church of Christ, formerly the Evangelical Reformed Church of Belfast, successor of the Union Church. John Jarvis Rogers was born 3 Mar 1783 and died 27 Oct 1845. His wife, the former Ann E. Sevilly, was born 21 Apr 1785 and died 23 Dec 1841. The graves of both are in the old part of the cemetery, behind the church.

Although the Henry brothers, Peter Steiner, and various other Moravians continued to be active supporters of the Union Church, they retained their membership in the Schoeneck congregation. The baptisms of their children were recorded in the Schoeneck registers, and their dead were buried in the Schoeneck Moravian Cemetery. However, Moravian involvement with the Union Church at the lay level continued until 21 Mar 1903, when Edward T. Henry, the trustee representing the Moravian members, issued a deed conveying their one-third interest to Charles

Gold, representing the Lutherans, and Oliver T. Reagen, of the Reformed congregation.

In 1904, the Lutherans decided to build a church of their own; so repairs to the existing structure were undertaken by the Reformed congregation. Articles of Separation were adopted by both bodies, and were signed on 11 Jan 1908, whereby Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church of Belfast, for fifty dollars, conveyed to the Reformed body its one-half interest in the Union Church, but reserving its one-half interest in the Union Cemetery, including the old graveyard. The former Union Church, rebuilt and enlarged, is now St. Luke's United Church of Christ.

We return now to the birth of the Union Church in the early months of 1828. The founders, in alphabetical order, were George Fehr, Michael Fehr, Martin Frey Jr., Thomas Gold, Jacob Greg(?), John Joseph Henry, Matthew S. Henry, William Henry III, Daniel Kind, Lewis Micke, Henry Mohn, John J. Rogers, Frederick Saylor, Jacob Stocker, Johannes Uchlen(?), Abraham Ward and John Wright. Of these, Micke, Mohn and Rogers were Reformed; Michael Fehr, Gold, Ward and Wright were Lutheran, and the three Henry brothers were Moravian. We haven't determined the denominational affiliations of the other seven. Within a year, Samuel Heaney, Reformed, and Peter Steiner, Moravian, were among those who became members.

A baptismal register was opened at the Union Church on 4 Mar 1829. Parents of children baptized there in 1829 were Frederick & Sarah Saylor, Michael & Elizabeth Fehr, Martin (Jr.) & Magdalena Frey, John & Elizabeth Fortner, John & Mary Rader, George & Franico (i.e. Veronica) Stadler, and George & Rosena Pifer. The witnesses, respectively, were John & Caty Wright, Abraham & Sarah Ward, Isaac & Susana Stenger, Jacob Deahl & Elizabeth Hahn, Phil Steinmetz & Wilmena Blottenberger (i.e. Wilhelmina Plattenberger), Christian & Elizabeth Gold, and Daniel & Elizabeth Rissmiller.

The constitution as tentatively approved on 24 Feb 1828 contained two controversial provisions, one limiting the right to vote for trustees to subscribers of at least one dollar annually who resided within two miles of the church, and another entitling each annual subscriber to one vote for each dollar he contributed. Three weeks later, on 16 Mar 1828, amendments were adopted, one giving only one vote to each subscriber, and another eliminating the distance restriction.

As we have seen, Edward Theophilus Henry (1842-1925) was the last Moravian trustee of the Union Church. His illustrious father, James Henry (1809-1895) was elected the Moravian trustee on 5 Feb 1837, along with Jacob Cope, Lutheran, and William Koch, Reformed. The prominent involvement of members of the Henry family in the affairs of the Union Church led at times to its being called Henry's Church. For example, when Sarah (Fehr) Cope died 28 Oct 1877 at the home of her son, Dr. Thomas Cope, in Nazareth, her obituary in the Easton Argus stated that she was buried "at Henry's Church, in Bushkill Township."

By now my companion and I were completely in the company of this ancient man. We couldn't see him or hear him but we could sense him, and we wondered if he felt warmed by the fire and thought deep thoughts. Did he hear the wail and moan of the wind going through the cedar shakes in the roof? Did he become alert at the sound of the shutter banging against the house or a mouse scurrying in some hidden place, or the unexplained noises that raised the hair on his neck? Did he think of "ghoulies and ghosties and four legged beasties and things that go 'bump' in the night," or did he throw more wood on the fire and draw nearer to it? Did he draw nearer to the Lord? Did he feel comfort in the strength of the fine solid house that he had laboriously laid up stone upon stone following the scriptural advice to build his house upon a rock, so that when the rains descend and floods come, and the winds blow and beat upon it, that it will not fall.

It is easy now to feel a sense of nearness with this ancient man as my companion and I allow him to show us the molding on the chair rail and the bench on which it was fashioned; the hand-polished wooden planes shaving off long thin curls of wood, testifying to their sharpness; the benches on which we sat with the legs held in place by wedges that were placed crosswise to the grain in the seat so that it would not split. He showed us the tongs and the pokers and the trammel for his cooking pot, the knives and tools of his trade, all of which he forged with his own hands. As we looked at each item, you could see the pride with which they were made. Yes, my companion and I are beginning to know this man intimately now and feel that we can call him "Brother".

My silent companion stayed with me all through this reverie and it was one of the most pleasant visits we have ever had together. There have been other visits when they were not so pleasant, even bitter, but on this day, in this place, it was wonderful to share with him. Suddenly, our reverie was shattered by a knock on the door and my companion instantly fled to his place without a "Good-Bye".

My companion's name was "Solitude".

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## NEWS AND NOTES

We are pleased to report that Matt Morris is doing well after his second knee replacement. Good going Matt --- better going soon!!!!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS --

May 14 - Lopresti Night - Dinner to honor Virginia and Joe  
Stockertown Memorial Hall.

October 22 - Annual Meeting - Stockertown Memorial Hall.

More details on these two events at a later date.

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HAVE YOU PAID YOUR 1987 DUES?!!!

HOMESTEAD OPEN HOUSE DATES: 2 - 5 p.m., Sunday - -

April 26	August 23
May 24	September 27
June 28	October 25
July 26	

DECEMBER 6 - CHRISTMAS PARTY: 1 - 4 p.m.

AND DON'T FORGET - - THE BENADE HOUSE IS OPEN EVERY SUNDAY!

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#### S P R I N G T R I P

Are you thinking Baltimore-Inner Harbor? The dates are  
Tuesday and Wednesday, May 19 and 20. The trip will include:

Transportation via Bieber Bus

Overnight lodging at the Omni International Hotel

Lunch at Haussner's

Admission to the Aquarium and Science Center

Luncheon cruise on the "Lady Baltimore"

There will be free time on Tuesday evening (dinner on your own), and on  
Wednesday morning. You will be receiving detailed information very soon.

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This issue of THE RECORD is the first for the new editor, and the first  
to be printed by QuickPrint in Bethlehem. We gratefully acknowledge the great job  
done by Nazareth Area High School, and particularly, Doris Yavorski, for the past  
several years. We especially acknowledge with heartfelt appreciation Charlotte  
Sayre's excellent editorship and are grateful for her continued support and en-  
couragement. YOU'RE A HARD ACT TO FOLLOW, CHARLOTTE!!!

# JACOBSBURG HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## Officers and Board of Directors, 1987

### OFFICERS

Earl Van Norman, President	Easton	252-6579
Dallam E. Blandy, 1st Vice President	Bethlehem	867-6849
Hilton N. Rahn, Jr., 2nd Vice President	Bethlehem	868-1789
Elizabeth L. Morris, Secretary	Nazareth	759-0751
Reginald M. Banks, Jr., Treasurer	Nazareth	759-6696

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

#### Term expires end of 1987

Bobbie G. DiGerlando	Wind Gap	759-7239
Joseph A. Lopresti	Stockertown	759-1580
Elizabeth L. Morris	Nazareth	759-0751
Charles M. Sandwick, Sr.	Easton	252-1290
Jessie Sandwick	Easton	252-1290
Charlotte C. Sayre	Easton	253-9516
John J. Schlamp	Nazareth	759-0302

#### Term expires end of 1988

William Henry Atherton	Stockertown	759-7710
Janet A. Gum	Nazareth	759-1862
Matthew K. Morris	Nazareth	759-9751
Doris Kennedy	Bethlehem	694-0122
Ellis Neuner	Manheim	717-664-3727
Robert N. Newell	Nazareth	759-5423
Kathryn Schlamp	Nazareth	769-0302
Ann Marie Trbuza	Bath	837-9925
Earl Van Norman	Easton	252-6579

#### Term expires end of 1989

Reginald M. Banks, Jr.	Nazareth	759-6696
Dallam E. Blandy	Bethlehem	867-6849
Joseph T. DiGerlando	Wind Gap	759-7239
Virginia Lopresti	Stockertown	759-1580
Walter L. Peters	Nazareth	759-1530
Hilton N. Rahn, Jr.	Bethlehem	868-1789
James A. Wright	Nazareth	759-9119

### Emerita Member of the Board

Mary Henry Stites

## ----- MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FOR JACOBSBURG HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Student	\$2.50	Sustaining	\$10.00	Contributing	\$15.00
Individual	\$5.00	Family	\$12.50	Organizations	\$25.00

### NAME CONTRIBUTIONS

Tannery Club	\$100	Boulton Club	\$500	Henry Rifle Club	\$1000
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NAME AND ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

TEL. NO. \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this slip with your check, payable to Jacobsburg Historical Society. Send to P.O. Box 345, Nazareth, PA 18064. All contributions are tax deductible to the extent provided by law. Cancelled check is your receipt.