

JACOBSBURG HISTORICAL SOCIETY

2004 Calendar of Events

Updated with each issue

(Phone 610-746-2809 for more information and/or reservations)

March 5-7—"Lehigh Valley Outdoor Expo" (Henry gun & gunmakers exhibit at the PA Expo Center in Allentown)

March 13—"Winter Harvest" (video program & artifacts exhibit at Homestead about historical ice harvesting)

April 16—"The History of Pennsylvania Forestry: The Last 200 years" (slide-illustrated program at Homestead)

May 1—"An Evening on Main Street" (Henry gun display & Jacobsburg exhibit at the Kern House in Nazareth)

May 15—"The Amazing Beatrix Potter" (illustrated program at Homestead about British author & environmentalist)

May 15-16—"Warren County Heritage Festival" (Henry gun & Society gunmakers exhibit at Oxford Furnace, New Jersey)

June 11—"History of Belfast" (lecture program at the Henry Homestead about nearby village of Belfast)

June 19-20—"Kentucky Rifle Frolic" (annual living history encampment at Boulton)

June 26-July 4—"Kutztown PA German Festival" (Henry gun & Society gunmakers exhibit at the Kutztown Fairgrounds)

July 23-25—"Dixon's Gunmakers' Fair" (Henry gun & Society gunmakers exhibit at Dixon's Gun Shop, Kempton)

July 28-30—"Junior Historians" (summer youth program at Jacobsburg Environmental Education Center)

July 30-31—"Slate Belt Heritage Days" (Henry gun display & Jacobsburg exhibit in downtown Bangor)

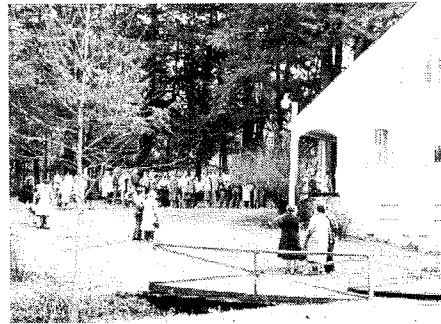
August 21—"Carved in Stone: Family Slate Etching" (hands-on family program teaching art of creative etching on slate palettes)

October 30-31—"American Fur Trade Rendezvous" (annual living history encampment at Boulton)

With its wealth of natural, cultural, recreational and educational resources and rich industrial history, Jacobsburg has been known and loved for generations by people from throughout the Lehigh Valley and beyond.

And this tapestry of resources and history woven across nearly two-square-miles of public open space makes Jacobsburg—the only State Park in the lower Lehigh Valley—an even more precious community gem in this ever-growing and rapidly developing region of Pennsylvania.

The thirty-two-year partnership between PA DCNR, Bureau of State Parks, Jacobsburg Environmental Education Center and the Jacobsburg Historical Society has and continues to stand the test of time, proving time and again the power of positive partnerships in the interpretation and stewardship of public resources. In recent years Jacobsburg has expanded its outreach to include partnering with other local, regional and state programs to conserve and enhance



Throngs of people line up to visit the Henry Homestead during an open house in 1984. Twenty years later, will Jacobsburg draw such crowds again?

resources and promote heritage and tourism development, as well as a local appreciation of the rich resources Jacobsburg is entrusted with preserving and presenting for the public.

This year, the efforts of much of these partnership labors will bear fruit for visitors to Jacobsburg. The Museum of the

Pennsylvania Longrifle will open on a regular weekend schedule at the Henry Homestead. The Boulton Heritage Walk, featuring 24 outdoor wayside exhibits, will open to the public. Another annual series of some 20 community programs will be scheduled and presented both on site at the Historical Society's Boulton campus and off site at venues nearby, across the region and beyond (check out the **2004 Calendar of Events** on the left sidebar of this and every newsletter for program postings and updates with each issue). School and Scout programs will continue to develop as well as partnership building and community outreach. With plenty to see and do, we sure hope to see our members, friends and neighbors around Jacobsburg and Boulton more often this year!

HELP WANTED: museum docents to volunteer part time weekend hours at the Museum of the Pennsylvania Longrifle at the Henry Homestead this year from April through October

The Jacobsburg Historical Society will open to the public the Museum of the Pennsylvania Longrifle at the Henry Homestead on a regular weekend schedule this year from April through October. Exactly which weekend days and what hours the museum will be open will be determined this winter.

Regardless of that soon-to-be-established schedule for opening the longrifle museum to the public this year, a number of dedicated volunteer docents will be needed to

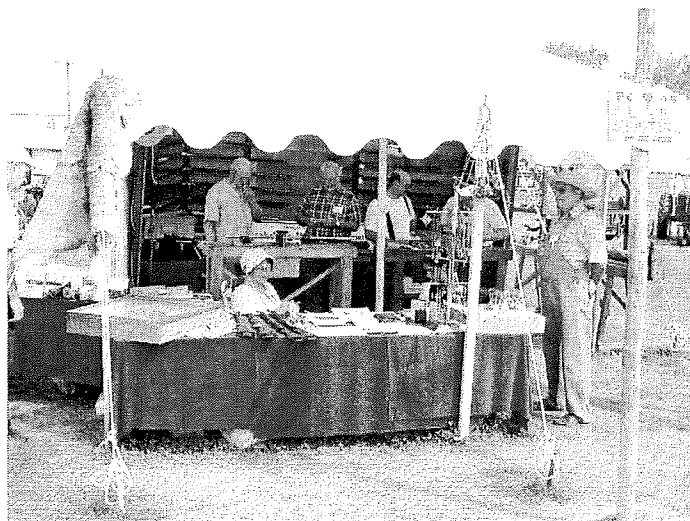
staff the museum and entertain visitors' questions during museum open hours. Additional duties will include unlocking the museum and disarming the security system, and rearming and relocking the museum after hours. Plenty of museum orientation and support will be provided for the Society's volunteer docents.

Sound like something you'd like to do? If so, please contact Jim Wilson at the Boulton Heritage Program Office at 610-746-2809 or at jacobsburg@fast.net for more information.

On tour in 2004, Jacobsburg Historical Society takes it's show—lock, stock, barrel & gunmakers—on the road again this year

Like most every year since its birth over three decades ago, the Jacobsburg Historical Society will again take its show on the road this year. While nearly 2,000 people visited Jacobsburg last year for programs at the Society's Boulton campus, well over 100,000 people were reached last year through the Society's programs at off-site events nearby, throughout the region and beyond.

As one of the only organizations in the country dedicated to the preservation and interpretation of the art and industry of early American gunmaking—which has its roots right here in the Lehigh Valley—Jacobsburg has become a regular at folk festivals and community events everywhere. Each year the Jacobsburg Historical Society sets up its world-class Henry gun display, its gunsmith shop (replete with live gunmakers!) and its entire store of books, clothing and other sales items for week-long exhibition at such popular venues as the Lehigh Valley Outdoor Expo at the Pennsylvania Expo Center in Allentown, and the famous Kutztown Pennsylvania German Festival at the Kutztown Fairgrounds in Kutztown. The Society also sets up its exhibits and demonstrates the industrial art of early American gunmaking at weekend-long events each year, such as the Warren County Heritage Festival at Oxford Furnace in Oxford, New Jersey, Dixon's Gunmakers' Fair at Dixon's Gun Shop in Kempton, and at the Slate Belt Heritage Days festival in downtown Bangor. And throughout any given year the Society also exhibits at one-day shows at local historical society fairs, art and craft exhibitions and special functions, such as the twice-annual *Evening on Main Street* event in nearby Nazareth. See the **Calendar of Events** in this and every newsletter for dates for these annual offsite programs. Many hundreds of volunteer man (and woman) hours are in-



Jacobsburg Historical Society volunteer gunsmiths and merchants man (& woman) the Society's exhibition at the Kutztown Pennsylvania German Festival at the Kutztown Fairgrounds last year. Jacobsburg has become a favorite exhibitor at this enormously popular and ever-growing annual folk festival, which draws over 100,000 people during the week-long event each year.

vested every year in the arduous tasks involved with erecting and dismantling the Society's formidable exhibit systems and gunmaking equipment for these off-site programs, preparing the exhibits themselves, traveling to and from the venues and coordinating volunteer staff schedules for these events. But the Society considers it all time well spent promoting its mission of preserving the art of early American gunmaking and sharing the story of the Henry family and their famous firearms.

Jacobsburg Historical Society

Officers

President—Robert Sadler III, Bethlehem
 1st Vice-President—Richard Steiner, Wind Gap
 2nd Vice-President—William Hillanbrand, Hellertown
 Secretary—A. James Shedlauskas, Whitehall
 Treasurer—Ronald Gabel, Slatington

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 bimonthly by the Jacobsburg Historical Society, 441 Henry Road, Nazareth, Pennsylvania 18064, 610-746-2809, and is mailed to Society members and supporters.

Board of Directors

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Bill Atherton, today's "William Henry of Boulton," keeps the Henry family presence alive and well at Jacobsburg

Charles M. Sandwick, Sr. chronicles no less than nine William Henrys in his genealogical treatise, *Jacobsburg: A Pennsylvania Community and Its People*. Each one is a direct descendant of that very first and most famous William Henry of all—William Henry of Lancaster. His son, William Henry II, brought the famous Henry gunmaking tradition to Northampton County in 1776. And his son, William Henry III, built the family's Boulton Gun Works and Henry Homestead at Jacobsburg in in the early 1800s, before moving on to found the city of Scranton. Nearly 200 years later, his great-grandson—William Henry Atherton—continues the Henry family presence at Boulton today.

William Henry Atherton, more familiarly known as Bill Atherton, was born in Wilkes-Barre on January 5, 1928. The third of four children of Brigadier General Thomas Henry Atherton and Mary Mish Atherton, Bill grew up in the Orchard House, one of two Atherton family homes in Luzerne County's Wyoming Valley. Bill's paternal grandfather, Thomas Atherton Henry, was born to 59-year-old William Henry III and his wife Sarah Atherton Henry on July 14, 1853. At the age of 17, Thomas Atherton Henry, by an Act of Legislature of Pennsylvania, had his name changed to Thomas Henry Atherton on March 15, 1871. This was accomplished in honor of his maternal uncle, successful Wyoming businessman Thomas Ferrier Atherton, who financed young Thomas' Princeton education and was a benefactor and father-like figure to young Thomas all his life. Henceforth subsequent generations of Henry descendants through young Thomas—including Bill Atherton—are known by the Atherton surname.

Bill Atherton knew from an early age the historical significance of his Henry heritage. As a child growing up in the Wyoming Valley, he was immersed in the ancestral history of both his Henry and Atherton lineages. His parents created a home environment conducive to a rich understanding and appreciation of family history, and were themselves living examples for Bill and his siblings of great character, which was typical of both the Henrys and the Athertons. He was surrounded by Henry family art and artifacts, and his father would frequently recount family stories for the benefit of all the Atherton children. Several times a year the Atherton family would travel from the Wyoming Valley to visit with Henry relatives at Boulton, where young Bill Atherton developed a great love of the place.

In the summer of 1936, eight-year-old Bill Atherton spent a week traveling back and forth to Boulton from Wyoming with his father, who, as an employee of the Historic American Buildings Survey, was assigned the task of making architectural definitions, notes and photographs of the Henry family's Boulton Gun Works as part of a lasting archive of America's historic architecture. Young Bill, who loved to fish, was promised by his father lots of



William Henry Atherton, great-grandson of William Henry III, who built the Boulton Gun Works and Henry Homestead at Jacobsburg nearly 200 years ago, smiles from behind the wheel at his home at Boulton.

fishing time in Bushkill Creek at Boulton in exchange for holding dad's tape measure as he recorded the measurements of the famous, but then-abandoned and deteriorating gun factory. Even at this early age, Bill envisioned one day living at Boulton.

Nearly 50 years later, Bill's vision came true. In 1985, shortly before retiring from a long and successful career in the aerospace industry, Bill Atherton was invited to live with his elderly cousin Mary Henry Stites at the John Joseph Henry House at Boulton. Mary was the great-granddaughter of John Joseph Henry, who built the three-story home at Boulton that bears his name in 1834. After his cousin Mary died in 1989, Bill moved into an apartment on the second floor of the Henry Homestead, just across the road from the John Joseph Henry House. It was Bill's great-grandfather William Henry III who built the Henry Homestead at Boulton in 1812, where Bill Atherton continues to live today. One of Bill's greatest

experiences at Boulton was the time spent living with his cousin Mary Henry Stites for those four years and learning from her so much more about his rich Henry history.

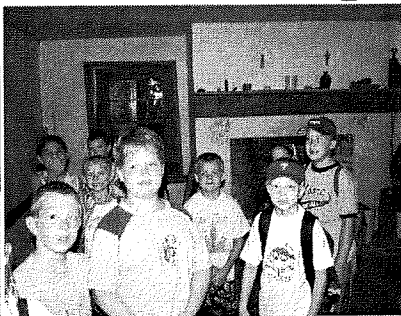
Bill Atherton has become more than a Henry family fixture at Boulton. He's a true champion of preserving his family's legacy at Jacobsburg. Bill has served on the Jacobsburg Historical Society's board of directors since 1985, where he co-chairs the planning and development committee. He serves as the Society's representative to the PA Historical and Museum Commission (PHMC) and other Commonwealth government agencies, including the State Legislature and Senate. He also serves as the Society's representative to Northampton County Council, where he identifies financial assistance opportunities and prepares grant applications. Because of his work with the PHMC in historic preservation at Jacobsburg, Bill was appointed *William Penn Ambassador* through the Pennsylvania Legislature in 1998, 1999 and 2000.

Bill Atherton is one of only a few people—and the only Henry descendant—to live at Boulton today. He is a living archive of Henry history, and his affable and gracious manner is characteristic of his family heritage. We at Jacobsburg wish Bill Atherton many more years of healthy living at



The 200-year-old Henry Homestead at Boulton, home to both the Pennsylvania Longfille Museum and Bill Atherton.

Jacobstown in 2003: The Year in Review



Junior Historians pose for the camera inside the Ironmaster's Office at Henry's Forge last summer.

The year that was, was a very good year indeed for the Jacobstown Historical Society and Jacobstown Environmental Education Center's programming efforts. Nearly 2,000 people attended community programs at the Society's Boulton campus or at venues nearby. Another 470 school students participated in heritage education programs at Jacobstown. And well over 100,000 people visited Jacobstown's Henry gun and gunmaking exhibits while the Society was on the road at off-site events last year.

The table at the right provides a breakdown of Jacobstown's programs, dates, places and attendance figures for the year 2003.

<u>Community Program</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Attendance</u>
Winter Harvest	February 22	Henry's Church	45
Lehigh Valley Outdoor Expo	Feb. 28-Mar. 2	Allentown	12,000 (est.)
Henry's Church 175th Anniversary	March 2	Henry's Church	85
Nature of the Slate Belt	March 29	Henry Homestead	22
Better in the Poconos	April 12	Henry Homestead	15
An Evening on Main Street	April 26	Nazareth	90
The Lehigh & New England RR	May 21	Henry Homestead	66
Kentucky Rifle Frolic	June 14-15	Boulton	426
Cultural History of the Slate Belt	June 21	Henry Homestead	15
Henry's Church 175th Anniversary	June 22	Henry's Church	107
Kutztown PA German Festival	Jun. 28-Jul. 6	Kutztown	114,000 (est.)
Junior Historians	July 23-25	Jacobstown	45
Dixon's Gunmakers' Fair	July 25-27	Kempton	4,000 (est.)
Slate Belt Heritage Days	July 25-26	Bangor	850
The 153rd PA Militia Regiment	August 16	Henry Homestead	31
Back to School at Boulton	September 6	Henry Homestead	10
An Evening on Main Street	September 13	Nazareth	364
Longrifle Museum Open House	October 18	Henry Homestead	22
American Fur Trade Rendezvous	Oct. 25-26	Boulton	340
Lewis & Clark Bicentennial	November 8	Henry Homestead	34

School, Scout & Civic Programs Combined 701

Community, School, Scout & Civic Programs Combined Total: 123,268

PA Bureau of State Parks invites Jacobstown to participate in developing new education programs on Pennsylvania history

As a result of its longtime partnership with the PA Bureau of State Parks' Jacobstown EE Center in developing history and heritage education programs, Jacobstown Historical Society will assist the Bureau of State Parks this year in developing educational lesson plans on history for use at State Parks and State Forests throughout Pennsylvania.

First published in 1989 for school students visiting PA Parks, the Bureau of State Parks' *Activities for Environmental Learning* curriculum (AEL) is being revised after 15 years and will now include lessons on cultural history. One of the

educational themes new in the revised AEL is *Pennsylvania Past, Present & Future: Heritage & Cultural Resources*. The Jacobstown Partnership has been invited to join the Bureau of State Parks' AEL Redevelopment Committee and to produce one or more lesson plans for inclusion in the revised AEL relative to this new theme.

The lesson plans Jacobstown will produce will serve as models for teaching about the history of any State Park or Forest site relative to Pennsylvania history. The lessons will be designed to enable teachers and students to meet academic standards for history recently mandated by the Pennsylvania Department of Education.

Like Jacobstown, every State Park in Pennsylvania has a rich human history and cultural heritage. The 1-1/2-hour to 2-hour lessons will help school students learn how people have used the land at any given State Park or Forest and why, who some of the cultural heroes are that have lived there, and what those people have contributed to Pennsylvania history.

Using Jacobstown's cultural history as a model, the first AEL lesson Jacobstown is working on is titled, *Legacy of Land Use: Study of Human History in Pennsylvania State Parks*. Other lesson plans may follow later this year.

The Ahry family of Jacobsburg is remembered in honor of February's "Black History Month"

The account of the Wolle family reunion, which was held at Jacobsburg and Boulton on July 20, 1866, contains this comment, "*At Jacobsburg, Nathaniel Ahry, an old neighbor, and often a help in the family, in days of yore, now 82 years of age, was also present.*" This venerable gentleman of color, known familiarly as Tan Ahry, was a lifelong resident of Jacobsburg and was regarded as an authority concerning its folklore.

Captain Frank Ellis in his *History of Northampton County, Pennsylvania, 1752-1877*, published by Peter Fritts, in a section devoted to Bushkill Township, said of him, "*Tan Ahry, an old man... was long looked upon as an authority in matters pertaining to the early history and traditions of the township. He often spoke of the beaver dams, that he affirmed existed at one time in the Bushkill, near Jacobsburg.*"

The original spelling of Nathaniel's surname was "Ari" or "Arie." Sometime before 1850, he adopted the phonetic spelling "Ahry." The registers of the nearby Schoeneck Moravian Church disclose that Nathaniel, son of friend and neighbor Jacob Ary and his wife Margaretha, was born November

7, 1784 in Plainfield Township (now Bushkill Township) and was baptized on December 14 at his parent's home one mile from Schoeneck by Rev. Wolfgang Michler.

In the Bushkill Township censuses of 1830 and 1840, Nathaniel Ahry's household is listed under the heading of "Free Colored Persons." In the 1850 census of Bushkill Township, the household contained a family of four. The obituary of Nathaniel Ahry in Book 4 of the registers of the Schoeneck Moravian Church states that he died December 23, 1872 at the age of 88 years, 1 month and 15 days. During most of his life, Nathaniel Ahry lived in a house on the east side of the road from Cherry Hill to Wind Gap, less than one mile south of the Jacobsburg Inn. The historical home site today is located on Jacobsburg Road, in the southwest corner of the Pennsylvania Bureau of State Parks' Jacobsburg Environmental Education Center. In a deed from his parents dated February 29, 1812 the occupation of Nathaniel Ahry was given as forgerman. In 1820 he described himself to the census taker as a weaver. In the census of 1850 he was listed as a laborer.

Nathaniel Ary was the youngest of six children born to Jacob and Margaretha (Christler) Ary, whose first five children were born at nearby Christian's Spring.

Jacob Ary was born in Berbice, Guyana, on September 13, 1745. A party of Moravian missionaries who had been serving in Guyana came to Bethlehem in 1749, bringing with them three-year-old Jacob Ary. He was sent to the Moravian school in Frederic Township, Philadelphia County. He was baptized at Bethlehem on March 31, 1755 at nine years of age. On July 30, 1771, Jacob Ary married Margaret Christler, a young black Moravian woman, at Lititz, after which time the newlyweds went to live at Christian's Spring, Northampton County. Both Jacob and Margaretha Ary are buried in the Moravian Cemetery at nearby Schoeneck, just south of Boulton.

Alexander Ahry, a son of Nathaniel Ahry and grandson of Jacob and Margaretha Ary, was born in Bushkill Township on July 25, 1829. He died on April 2, 1898 and was buried at Schoeneck.

The ethnic and religious heritage of Jacobsburg is truly fascinating. And the early American story of the Ahry family is yet another rich example of the diverse cultural history of the Jacobsburg reach of the upper Bushkill Creek Valley in Northampton County's northern tier.

RCN Cable TV crew videotapes, produces two episodes at Jacobsburg for local television magazine program

A cable television crew from RCN Cable TV, the Lehigh Valley's "*live wire of telecommunications*," spent an afternoon one day last fall videotaping two segments for its television magazine program, *Lehigh Valley Time Out*.

One segment is focused on the Pennsylvania Longrifle Museum at the Henry Homestead. It includes an on-camera interview with William Henry Atherton, longtime Jacobsburg Historical Society board member and great-grandson of William Henry of Boulton, who established the Henry Homestead in the early 1800s after building the family's Boulton Gun Works nearby. The interview

with Bill Atherton, who resides in a second floor apartment at the Henry Homestead, provides an overview of the Henry gunmaking history in Northampton County, as well as the current status of the longrifle museum and future plans for its continued development.

The second TV segment is focused on Jacobsburg Historical Society's early American Gunsmithing Program. It includes on-camera demonstrations and interpretation by two of the Society's master gunsmiths, Rich Hujsa and Jim Correll, about the industrial art of hand-crafting Pennsylvania Rifles and other early American firearms. It also provides

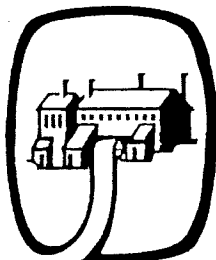
background about the Society's one-of-a-kind gunsmithing program at Jacobsburg, which is held twice a year in the basement gunshop at the Pennsylvania Longrifle Museum.

The videotaped segments are slated to air on RCN's *Lehigh Valley Time Out* sometime this year. They may air as segments of a larger TV magazine piece or they may be further produced together as one feature presentation. If RCN is your cable provider, stay tuned to their TV programming guide this year for new episodes of *Lehigh Valley Time Out* that feature last fall's videotaped programs at Jacobsburg, and let us know about it!

Jacobsburg Historical Society

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Email: jacobsburg@fast.net



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HISTORICAL
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The mission of the Jacobsburg Historical Society is to preserve and present the art and industry of making early American firearms and the character of the individuals and community that created and sustained that enterprise. The Society was founded in 1972 to save and interpret the historical Henry family estate and industrial properties, the family's gun and iron making heritage, and to help establish the Jacobsburg National Historic District. In partnership with the Pennsylvania Bureau of State Parks, Jacobsburg Environmental Education Center, the Society also preserves and presents the cultural history and interconnected story of human life and land use in the Jacobsburg reach of the Bushkill Creek watershed with interpretive and educational programming.

JACOBSBURG,
WHERE HISTORY
LIVES!

Membership Form

___ Renewal.....OR.....___ New Member

Please check appropriate category

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All contributions are tax deductible as provided by law

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