

The Jacobsburg Record

SOCIETY OFFICE - 610-759-9029

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SOCIETY OFFICERS ELECTED FOR 1997

At the January 16, 1997 meeting of the Board of Directors, the following officers were elected to serve for 1997:

President	Timothy Lubenesky
1st Vice President	Mary Ann Van Norman
2nd Vice President	Donald Repsher
Secretary	A. James Shedlauskas
Treasurer	John Schlamp

CHRISTMAS AT JACOBSTOWN

On Saturday evening, December 6th, the Board of Directors were hosts at a reception to honor our Volunteers. The Homestead was bright with holiday decorations with the usual Putz in the Taylor Room and the Christmas tree in the Log Cabin Room. Refreshments were served in the lower room. In the absence of Mary Ann Van Norman (who with Earl was on vacation) the Culinary Department was headed by Barbara Schroeder and Estelle Shedlauskas. Though every effort was made to have an outstanding party it was, of course, but small payment for the dedicated services of these Volunteers during the year.

An additional attraction of the evening was driving away in the dark with the window candles shining from the Homestead, the Robert Henry House, the J. Joseph Henry House, and the Stone House at the bridge.

CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE

Our traditional Christmas Open House was held during the afternoon of December 7th. The theme for the exhibit in The Taylor Room was centered about the Putz and included Putz figures from Germany, France, Peru, Poland and Mexico. Also on display were the Stites Nativity Set and two scenes depicting the Holy Family in the Carpenter Shop in Nazareth and the Annunciation. A case of Bryan Cortez's antique tree ornaments added color to the room. The Putz in the bay window drew the usual attention, and was much improved by Jim Shedlauskas' remodeling of the stable. Once again the extension of the desert by use of a mirror fascinated young and old alike.

The Log Cabin Room set a different mood with its "Christmas Garden" under the tree, a village complete with an electric train. Also displayed were nut crackers, dolls and some antique toys.

The Taylor Room display was set up by Robert Frick and Mr. & Mrs. Donald Repsher. Earl Van Norman was in charge of the Log Cabin Room decorations. Those who loaned material used in the two rooms were Mr. & Mrs. James Cox, Mr. & Mrs. Michael Cox, Mrs. Robert Hujisa, James Shedlauskas, and Robert Morris. Matt Morris and grandson Matt II "engineered" the trains and Matt II worked until he got the "Boulton Bullet" running smoothly. Again, Barbara and Estelle took care of the serving of refreshments, including making the Jacobsburg Brew.

As in the past, admission was free to all, our annual gift to the community.

JHS Receives VIP Visitors, and a Grant!

In March and December, the Jacobsburg Historical Society was visited by important and helpful representatives from the *Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission*. The visitors from Harrisburg included Deborah Filipi, Coordinator of Museum Assistance and Local History Grant Program, Dr. Carol Lee, an historian with the PHMC, Brenda Barrett, a PHMC senior administrator and director of the Pennsylvania State Museum, and Greg Van Fleetten, administrator of the Keystone Grant Program. Included in the host delegation at various times were JHS Board members Bill Atherton, Robert Frick, Bob Newell, Tim Lubenesky, Wendy Totani, Jim Shedlauskas, Ron Gabel, Don Repsher, Charlotte Sayre, Phil Schroeder, and Dale Prinkey.

In December, the Society was informed that we have been awarded a *Technical Assistance Grant* by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, which will be funded by the Pennsylvania Federation of Museums and Historical Organizations. The grant will fund a visit to Boulton and Jacobsburg by a museum specialist, Mr. Frank McKelvey, of Wilmington, Delaware. Mr. McKelvey will meet with several members of the JHS Board late in January 1997. After learning about the Society and its resources and dreams, Mr. McKelvey will be able to offer valuable suggestions in a number of areas based on his extensive experience. His advice will undoubtedly help us to better meet our current objectives, but it will be especially helpful regarding the formalization of a long-term vision for the Jacobsburg Historical Society and the development of a path of priorities for bringing that vision into reality.

Mr. McKelvey is currently serving as a consultant to museums and as Director of the Collections Care Training Program jointly sponsored by the Mid-Atlantic Association of Museums and the Museum Studies Department of the University of Delaware. Previously, he spent 17 years at the Hagley Museum in Wilmington, where he served as Curator and as Associate Coordinator of the Hagley Graduate program.

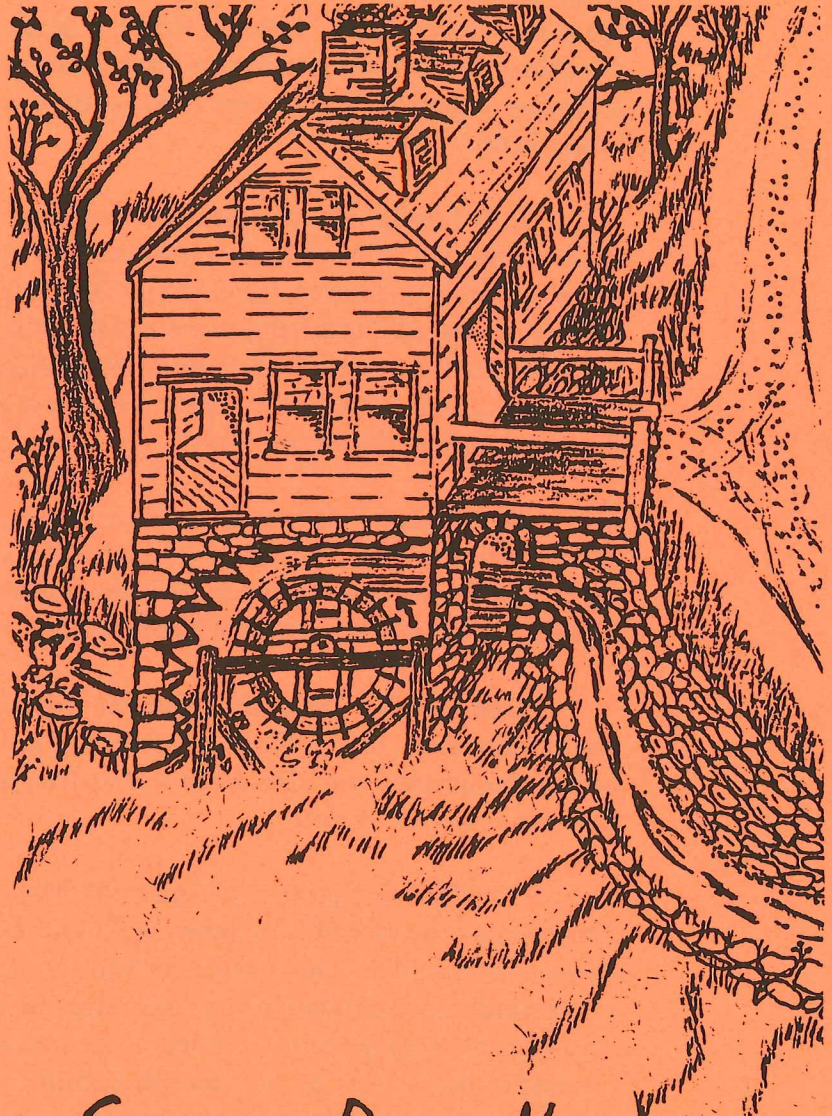
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*Hot Off The Press**Jacobsburg Historical Society's Latest Book By Local Author*

The Jacobsburg Historical Society has published its third book. Entitled *Creeks, Dams and Mills of the Upper "Bushkills,"* the book was written by Claude Jones, a lifelong resident of Plainfield and Bushkill Townships and a charter member of the Society. Its publication was made possible through the splendid generosity and craftsmanship of the Mack Printing Company.

The 200 page book combines Claude's recollections, in narrative and sketches, of many of the mills, dams, mill races and people along the Bushkill Creek in Plainfield and Bushkill Townships, especially in Jacobsburg and Boulton. Based on his many treks throughout the area and his careful measurements, he also surmises about the construction and uses of industrial sites now long gone.

An author's signing party will be held on February 14th from 3:00 to 6:00 P.M. at Nazareth National Bank. In the meanwhile, Society members and friends may obtain advance copies of the book directly from Claude Jones, or by contacting Phil Schroeder at 759-0551. The price is \$10.00 including tax.



CREEKS, DAMS, MILLS
OF THE UPPER "BUSHKILLS,"
"BUSHKILL AND PLAINFIELD" TOWNSHIPS,
"NORTHAMPTON COUNTY" - PENNSYLVANIA.
Claude G. Jones.

CURATORIAL REPORT FOR 1996

The year 1996 saw the Curatorial Department stabilized - Moving from the Blue Room into the larger back office, the **Decorative Arts Crew** acquired adequate work space for the first time. With two desks, a large work table and open shelving, it has been possible to make good progress in our accessioning program. This includes both catalogue expansion and storage of items for future use. **Pam Repsher** has been a faithful helper in this work.

Bob Newell continues to supervise our **Library Program**. Among new books added to the collection are a first edition of J.J. Henry's journal of the Quebec Campaign and a definitive volume on the works of Benjamin West. In addition, several gun books and one on antique furnishings were added. The book, "Papier-mache' In Great Britain and America" was a gift to the Society from Alexander R. Chamberlin. The Curatorial Reference Library and new historical journals are available to members in the Reading Room located on the second floor.

Ron Gabel continues to work on photographs and has provided enlargements for exhibits when needed. Negatives of old local scenes were requested by the new owner of the Belfast Hotel, now known as "Stefano's of Belfast." These photographs will be exhibited in the newly decorated dining rooms.

Don Repsher heads the **Research Division** consisting of Library, Photography and Manuscripts. He continues to produce a prodigious amount of typed copies of handwritten documents, and filing them in acid-free sleeves. The most important items are kept in a fireproof cabinet.

The third section of our Curatorial Division concerns the Henry Arms Collection. This is under the care of Tim Lubenesky. Our exhibit of Henry Arms won a trophy at the Pennsylvania Antique Gun Collectors Show. A portion of the collection was taken on tour several times during the year, including the nationally known Dixon Gunmakers' Fair. Five guns were added to our collection, as well as some Gunsmith's Tools which were donated to the Society by **Mr. Joseph Schultz**. Eight iron spikes were given to the Society by **Rich and Bob Hujsa**. On one of their adventures, back in the 50's, the Hujsas retrieved these spikes from some rotting planks still in the foundation of the Gun Factory site. Now the spikes are back home at Boulton.

Robert Frick, Curator

JAMES HENRY AND HIS COUSINS

James Henry and his cousins, John Woolf Jordan and Francis Jordan, enjoyed a warm and cordial relationship, tinged with humor. In 1875, Francis Jordan visited James Henry at Boulton and, upon his return to Philadelphia, purchased a roll of paper 1 inch wide and 785 inches long. Upon this he wrote a thank-you note, making sure to fill all 785 inches of paper, and enclosed it in a small round cardboard box simply addressed to "James Henry, Esq., Nazareth, Northampton County, Pennsylvania," along with three 3-cent stamps. Here are excerpts:

Philadelphia, October 28, 1875. Dear Cousin James. -- The advantages of a sojourn at Nazareth are not to be accorded on an ordinary page...I cannot tell you how much I was impressed by that quiet afternoon. The complete quiet of a wooded scene, with a stream of water flowing so quietly, only now and then a leaf or twig falling into it -- to disturb that quiet -- so impressed me, that my reflections crowded in my mind...

With the chickens we went to roost, but Billy with his independence asserted his rights, and with a key he obtained entrance into the Hotel, and with Kramlish did he talk till midnight, and would have disturbed the dreadful silence of Nazareth, but for the snoring of Colonel Hammel. The Colonel rested immediately under my chamber and Billy explained that the row was not an Elephant, but the descendant of the heir of the famous skating pond. It was quite a question with us -- "does the bed shake or not?"...

(Comment on the 1876 Centennial of American independence:)

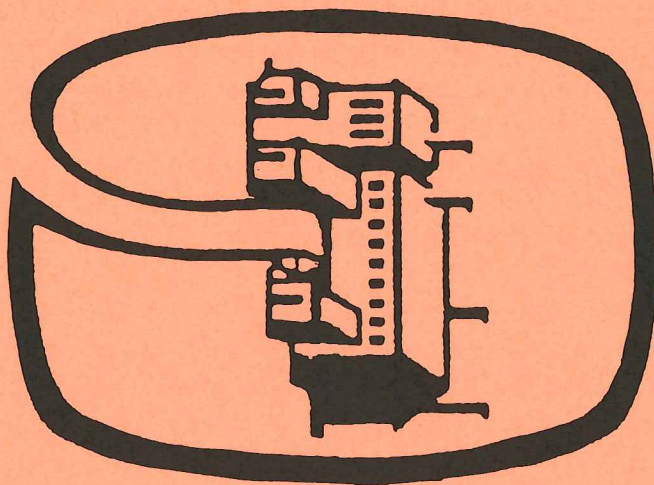
The Centennial is the first topic of conversation now before us. The five million already expended now begins to show, and it is now asserted that every building will be completed in time next year. Over one hundred thousand visitors are on the ground weekly. The excursions from Reading 52 cars contained 3200 passengers. Contracts for butter for next year have been made in Montgomery, Chester, Delaware, and other counties, and other ample preparations are being made to accommodate three million five hundred thousand strangers, in addition to our population of 890,000 people....

John W. J. tells me the Committee appointed to determine what kind of a hat William Penn wore has made their report. The great statue is to surmount the height of 350 feet on our new City building. It seems there was a difficulty about the hat, which has been finally settled by John W. Jordan and his Committee -- hence the Statue will be famous for the influence, the interest of the Jordan and Henry family. This should be recorded....

Meanwhile I am, with love to you all affectionately, your Cousin Francis Jordan.

(Submitted by Donald Repsher)

JACOBSTBURG HISTORICAL SOCIETY



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