

# The Jacobsburg Record

SOCIETY OFFICE - 610-759-9029

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 1998

VOL.XXVI NO.1

APRIL 4, 1998

9:00 A.M.

## PLEASE MARK THIS DATE ON YOUR CALENDAR NOW !!!

On April 4th, we have scheduled our Annual Clean Up Day. At this time we hope to have enough Volunteers to do some major yard work, cleaning two floors of the J. J. House, and cleaning the Homestead. The date is a little early this year because our first scheduled event has been set for May 2nd & 3rd, "The Fisherman's Fair on the Bushkill." There are more than enough jobs for everyone, from raking leaves and cleaning up on the grounds, to using a dust cloth or running the vacuum cleaner in the house. In the past, a lot has been accomplished in just one day and, in addition, we have enjoyed meeting and greeting old and new friends. Plan now to spend the day. If you can only give an hour or two, any amount of time will be appreciated. Lunch will be served. Coffee, tea and soft drinks will be available all day.

In the event of inclement weather, the Rain Date will be April 11th. This day could also be used to finish some projects that could not be completed on the 4th.

C'mon out! A lot of work is done but we do have a good time. Please join us.

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## 1998 SCHEDULE OF PROGRAMS

March	Gardening Program
March 4-8	Lehigh Valley Outdoor Expo Display, Ag Hall
March 20-22	Baltimore Gun Show Display, Timonium, MD.
March-April	Hearth Cooking Program
	Advanced Gunsmith Apprentice Program
	Advanced Blacksmith Apprentice Program
April 4	Annual Clean Up Day - Rain Date April 11
May 2-3	Fisherman's Fair on the Bushkill, Jacobsburg
June 20-21	Jacobsburg Rifle Frolic & Primitive Rendezvous
Sept. 12-13	Western Fur Trade Rendezvous, Jacobsburg
Sept., Oct., Nov.	Tea Party in the Garden, Jacobsburg
	Basic Gunsmith Apprentice Program
	Basic Blacksmith Apprentice Program
Oct. 3-4	Civil War Days, Jacobsburg
Dec. 5	Volunteer Holiday Get-together
Dec. 6	Old Fashioned Christmas

Additional information on the above programs will be published in future issues of the "Record." Keep your eye out for all the latest details.

## CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE

The Christmas Open House was held on Sunday, 7 December, with a decorated tree, a Putz, Toys, Books and Documents pertaining to the Christmas Season.

Jim Shedlauskas erected the tree and provided a village underneath. Wendy Totani decorated it with natural materials, resulting in an old fashioned-type tree, as seen before purchased ornaments were available. Strings of cranberries and popcorn, cookies and candied orange slices were used as well as the traditional "Lady Apples." This small, colorful fruit (a form of crabapple) is rarely seen today, and our supply was imported from the State of Maryland.

The toys, books and documents were all from our own collections. Don Repsher provided early Moravian Church Christmas programs, as well as Christmas cards. The books were Christmas gifts to various members of the Henry family, and Bob Newell had each book well labeled, as well as photographs of the recipients themselves. It was one of our best book displays.

Henry toys were the type used as holiday gifts, one a large Noah's Ark even bearing the original Christmas gift tag! Many of the items had not been on display before, including Granville Henry's ice skates which he used on the frozen mill pond.

The Putz, created by Bob Frick, occupied the bay windows in the Taylor Room. Perhaps its outstanding feature was the nice green moss - some of it saved from last year and a few pieces still green from the year before!

The work done by these Volunteers is the more appreciated when one realizes that time is precious during the holiday season and these members have their own projects at home to be attended to. It is such dedication that provides the exhibits which add interest to our programs.

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## EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE

Recently a Penn State student came to the Society Headquarters with a research project. **Tad Bennicoff** was asked to examine an historical society as to its organization, function and civic contribution, and selected our Society as his topic. We were able to provide him with the necessary information and were pleased to be of assistance to this local student.

It is hoped that we may become a source of information to more students in the future.

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### 1998 OFFICERS

At the January 1998 meeting of the Board of Directors, the following officers of Jacobsburg Historical Society were elected for a term of one year:

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

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### GIFTS TO THE SOCIETY

Toward the end of last year, the Society received a large collection of display material from PP&L, including over two dozen folding chairs with a wheeled storage rack. There are platforms of varying shapes, backgrounds and metal stands which will enhance future exhibits.

International Women's Garment has also donated display racks and various pieces of plywood sheets and other lumber which will be used in designing new displays, as well as general in-house repairs.

A 486 Dell P.C., with Monitor and Keyboard, has been donated by Air Products and Chemicals, Inc. This will be used in the proposed Visitor Center.

A Toshiba 2230 Turbo Photocopier was donated by John and Jane Molnar of Molnar Law Offices. This is presently in use in the office at the J.J.House.

A Grindstone from the Gun Factory has been donated by the DiGerlando Family.

An Iron Grapevine design garden chair has been donated for the porch of the J.J.House.

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### THE BODINE HOUSE (PROPOSED VISITORS CENTER)

Probably the most noticeable change in the Bodine House this past season was the installation of Holiday window candles. This was in keeping with our tradition of putting window candles in all the Society houses.

The inside changes are a little more dramatic, but not to the point of making any permanent changes in the historic part of the house. The southern section of this stone house has stood alongside Henry Road since at least the early 19th Century, and possibly the late 18th century. We know it was a part of the Boulton manufacturing complex.

### **BODINE HOUSE(Cont'd.)**

Some may wonder about the name "Bodine" being used in connection with this building, sometimes called Franklin Fort. Many people will remember it being occupied by Betty Ahles until her passing in 1997. Our research into its history is far from complete, but it has been determined that it was leased by the Henrys to a barrel maker (gun barrels) named Bodine in 1819. Since this fits the early history of the Boulton plantation, we are calling it the "Bodine House" for easy identification. The address of this House is 444 Henry Road and stands just east of the old factory foundations.

The house was expanded by the Stites family in the 1960's, so that we have one-half of the structure which would be considered modern construction. To continue with the changes taking place, the modern kitchen has been removed and the space converted to an office complete with the usual desks, phones and computer. The room next to the Office will be used as the actual visitor reception area. This is in the old stone part of the house. This area will have only minor changes such as a carpeted floor, new paint on the walls and, possibly, restoration of the original fireplace. This had been the kitchen and utility room of the original house.

The second floor is being adapted for Society work areas - to house our document archives and photograph sorting and filing areas.

The third floor, or attic area, will remain as is and be used mainly for storage. Use of this area will relieve some congestion on the second and third floors of the John Joseph Henry House. The photo room on the second floor of the J.J. House will probably be furnished as a child's bedroom.

On the outside of the Bodine House a wooden causeway has been constructed across the wet land area between the parking lot and the Bodine yard. When the weather permits, a handicapped accessible path will connect the wooden walkway and the front door of the Visitor reception area.

We will try to keep you posted on the work being done as we aim for opening in May 1998.

A. J. Shedlauskas

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In January 1998, Dr. Brent D. Glass of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission confirmed the nomination of Board Member **William H. Atherton** as a Penn Ambassador for March 9, 1998. He was nominated by Representative Craig A. Dally.

Congratulations, Bill, on your nomination!



## MUSEUM SPONSORS SPRING LECTURES

The National Canal Museum and the Pennsylvania Canal Society are sponsoring a Spring Lecture Series at the Two Rivers Landing auditorium in Easton. Lectures are free and open to the public. They begin at 7:30 P.M.

**March 19** - "Anthracite in Film: From Nickelodeons to the Molly Maguires" by Prof. Phillip Mosley of The Pennsylvania State University at Dunmore.

**April 16** - "The Evolution of Anthracite Labor Organizations" by Prof. Perry Blatz of Duquesne University.

**May 21** - "Narrow Gauge Railroads of New York Harbor" by Thomas Flagg, rail and vessel historian.

For more information, call the National Canal Museum at (610) 559-6613.

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## JACOBSBURG HISTORICAL SOCIETY 1998 OFFICERS

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

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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John Molnar  
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Wendy Totani  
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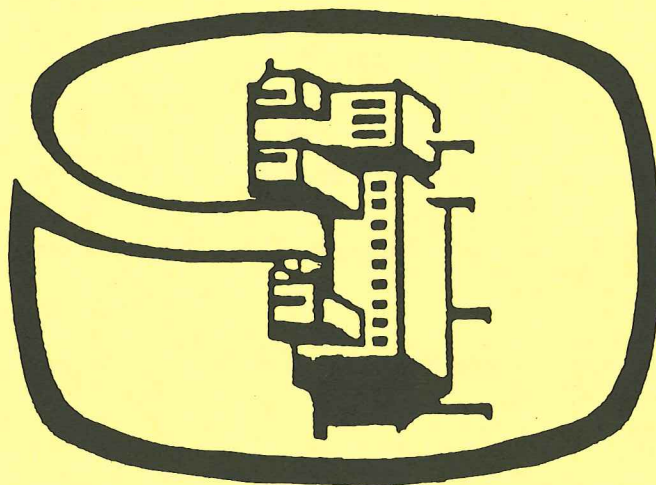
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Philip Schroeder  
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# JACOBSTURG HISTORICAL SOCIETY



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