

# The Jacobsburg Record

MAY/JUNE 1990

VOL. XVIII No. 3

## JACOBSTURG HISTORICAL SOCIETY RECEIVES JOHN JOSEPH HENRY HOUSE

On Tuesday, April 3, 1990, the deed signing transferring the above house to the Society took place. The real estate and its historical collections bequeathed to the Society by the late Mary Henry Stites are valued at a little more than \$1 million. The 22 acre property in Bushkill Township figured prominently in the life of the region during the 19th century.

The home was built in 1832 by John Joseph Henry, Mary Henry Stites' great-great grandfather, who was associated with his brothers in the Henry Gun Works. In accordance with the terms of the will, the home will become a museum and will be open to the public and accessible for research. It is hoped to have at least the first floor open sometime this summer.

Along with the John Joseph Henry home, the real estate includes a mid-18th century stone house at 416 Henry Road which housed workers of the Henry Gun Factory, and a rental property at 432 Henry Road, built in 1893.

The Society will also receive a \$200,000 endowment for maintenance, care, upkeep, repair, security and preservation of the property.

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On April 19th the Jacobsburg Historical Society held its first Board meeting in its own quarters. The meeting was held in the dining room of the John Joseph Henry House where, the dining room table, enlarged by the addition of a matching dropleaf table accommodated twelve members, with additional chairs seating the overflow. At the opening of the meeting Mary Henry Stites was remembered in a moment of silence.

In the absence of the Secretary, Phil Schroeder took the minutes. Insurance coverage was discussed as well as measures taken to establish "Cross Walk" signs on the road between the John Joseph House and the Homestead. Dale Prinkey presented a copy of a map he had

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constructed locating the three local historic areas: Jacobsburg, Henry's Forge (at Benade House), and Boulton, site of the gun works. Known building sites were so marked. Following plans for the Spring Dinner meeting, Walter Peters gave a summary of the Society's position with regards to the Stites bequest and reported that all documents have been filed with the agencies involved.

Following the meeting, coffee and cakes were served in the Front Parlor, the refreshments having been donated by Earl and Mary Ann Van Norman. The DiGerlandos added their son's birthday cake to the festivities. It gave those attending great satisfaction to feel that life had returned to the residence, as light shown through the Front Parlor windows, so long shuttered and dark.

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#### OPEN OFFICE DAYS

We hope to establish Wednesdays as our "work days", with the office manned, and the house available for volunteer workers. This gives access to rest rooms, refrigerator and stove for members' use. While the dining room will continue to be used for larger gatherings, a cheerful room at the back of the house has been set aside as a committee meeting and work room. This room is next to a former bedroom which will become our office. Our new telephone number at the John Joseph Henry House is 759-9029.

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#### APRIL OPEN HOUSE

More than 300 people attended the first Open House of the season on Sunday, April 22.

A Civil War Camp Life interpretation by the 96th Pennsylvania Infantry Company hi-lighted the day. Comprised of 25 volunteers, the Company is commanded by Captain David Valuska of Kutztown. Camp was set up on the grounds of the Homestead. The interpretation included marching and drills.

We are most grateful to this group of volunteers who gave their time to make our Open House a resounding success.

Henry firearms of the Civil War era were on display inside the Homestead with ever-faithful and knowledgeable Bob Newell on hand to show and explain the firearms.



## ATTY. AND MRS. WALTER PETERS HONORED

About 100 people gathered at the Stockertown Memorial Hall on Tuesday evening, May 8, to honor Walter and Margaret Peters for their contributions to the Jacobsburg Historical Society since its inception in 1972.

The invocation was offered by the Rev. David Wickmann, Pastor of the Nazareth Moravian Church of which the Peterses are members.

Joe DiGerlando, Master of Ceremonies, introduced guests who bestowed honors upon Walter and Margaret. Guests included State Representative, Leonard Q. Gruppo, Northampton County Council President, Richard Grucela, and Nazareth Mayor, Elmo Frey, Sr. Proclamations were presented by each, recognizing the Peterses as outstanding citizens of the community.

Bob Newell and Jim Wright also paid tribute and presented a hard cover copy of "Henry of Boulton". Amber and Eric DiGerlando presented the Peterses with flowers in recognition of and gratitude for their interest in children's education.

Society President, Bob Frick, presented a book on a wagon ride from Bethlehem to Ohio, stating it was the only Moravian book he possessed that Walter and Margaret did not. The society presented them with a Dana Siebler watercolor of the John Joseph Henry House.

The Peterses who will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary this year, said the Society might better honor their good judgement 50 years ago rather than their volunteer work.

The Stockertown Memorial Hall staff served their usual hearty, excellent, tasty meal.

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**HOMESTEAD OPEN HOUSE**

SUNDAY, MAY 27, 2-5 p.m.

Earl Van Norman will have a display and discussion on the "Guns of the American Revolution".

Discussed will be the history, technology and use of the muskets and rifles in the hands of the American soldier and rifleman.

A demonstration of loading and firing will also be given.

**BOARD MEMBER IN THE NEWS**

The cover story of the NEIGHBORS Section of the MORNING CALL on May 10 featured Bobi DiGerlando who tends the herb garden at the Henry Homestead. The garden was planted in 1977 by the Society and designed to re-create an herb garden of 1830 or 1840.

The small plot features culinary, medicinal and decorative herbs such as parsley, basil, garlic, thyme, mint, dill, chives, fennel, oregano, tarragon and sage as well as fragrant, pretty herbs like lavender, rosemary and golden yarrow, lambs' ears with their soft leaves, and scented geraniums.

According to Bobbi, "anyone can develop an attractive herb garden; even if someone has a black thumb, they can go into wild herbals".

The DiGerlando children, Amber and Eric, were also part of the story - they help their mother with such chores as weeding.

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**NEXT HOMESTEAD OPEN HOUSE**

SUNDAY, JUNE 24

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**Thoughts For the Day - Week - or Month**

Don't be too critical of a mistake.  
It is evidence that at least somebody  
tried to do something!

A shortcut is often the quickest way  
to arrive at a place you weren't  
going to.



# JACOBSBURG HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## OFFICERS - 1990

Robert Frick, President	Bethlehem	691-6233
Joseph DiGerlando, 1st Vice President	Wind Gap	759-7239
Phil Schroeder, 2nd Vice President	Nazareth	759-0551
Nancy Houck, Secretary	Tatamy	252-2916
John J. Schlamp, Treasurer	Nazareth	759-0302

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### Term expires end of 1992

Dallam E. Blandy	Bethlehem	867-6849
Joseph DiGerlando	Wind Gap	759-7239
Virginia Lopresti	Stockertown	759-1580
Walter L. Peters	Nazareth	759-1530
James Shedlauskas	Allentown	435-4509
Mary Ann Van Norman	Easton	250-0204
James A. Wright	Nazareth	759-9119

### Term expires end of 1991

William Henry Atherton	Stockertown	759-7710
Robert Frick	Bethlehem	691-6233
Nancy Houck	Tatamy	252-2916
Matthew K. Morris	Nazareth	746-1089
Robert N. Newell	Nazareth	759-5423
Kathryn Schlamp	Nazareth	759-0302
Phil Schoreder	Nazareth	759-0551
Earl VanNorman	Easton	250-0204
	or	252-2463

### Term expires end of 1990

Bobbie DiGerlando	Wind Gap	759-7239
Joseph Lopresti	Stockertown	759-1580
John D. Morrow	Phillipsburg	1-201-859-2498
Charlotte Sayre	Nazareth	746-1163
John J. Schlamp	Nazareth	759-0302

## 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

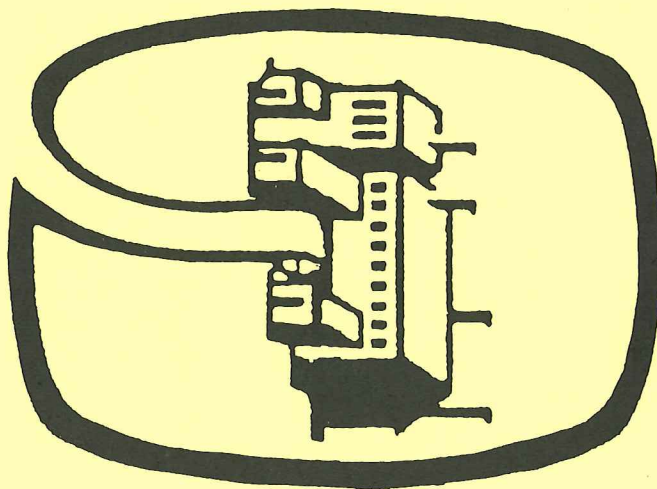
Tannery Club	\$100.00	Boulton Club	\$500	Henry Rifle Club	\$1000
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NAME AND ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

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.

# JACOBSTURG HISTORICAL SOCIETY



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