

THE JACOBURG RECORD

Box 345
Nazareth, Pa. 18064
SOCIETY OFFICE - 610-759-9029

MAY/JUNE 2000

VOL. XXVIII NO. 3

VOLUNTEER SPRING CLEAN-UP, APRIL 8, 2000

During the 1999 hurricane season, we lost several large trees, white ash, walnut and hemlock. Rather than cut them for firewood, since they were large trees, through the generosity of Tim Wotring who brought his portable saw mill, we were able to saw some of these trees into boards. The lumber is now stored indoors to season and will probably be used on projects around the property when necessary. Some of the Walnut was cut for longrifle stock blanks. We were also able to remove the uprooted trunk of the Ash tree that was laying alongside the driveway at the Homestead.

In the garden area of the J.J. House, dead leaves were removed from the flower beds and winter debris was raked up and hauled away from the lawns and trees.

Cleaning crews were busy in the J. J. House and the Homestead, getting the buildings ready for the summer season.

The weather was very pleasant - just right for working outdoors. Thirty-nine Volunteers turned out and gave a total of 220 hours of their time and effort to make this day successful.

A sincere thank you to everyone!!!

Jim Shedlauskas

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PENNSYLVANIA LONGRIFLE HERITAGE MUSEUM at the Henry Homestead

At long last we will open the Museum, located at the Henry Homestead at Boulton, beginning **Sunday, June 25, 2000**, 1:00 to 4:00 P.M. and every Sunday thereafter until October. There is no admission charge.

Since the Museum will be manned by volunteer members and friends of the Society, if you would like to participate by giving a few hours of your time, please contact Joseph Flemish, 610-395-1178.

ON THE ROAD AGAIN Oxford Furnace Heritage Event, May 19-21. Our crew set up a display for this event on Friday evening. There was a nice sampling of Henry production - some military pieces, longrifles, and some halfstocks.

Shippen Manor in Oxford was the home of William Henry III for a time. This is where he introduced the use of the hot blast iron furnace in America. Shippen Manor was also, for a time, the residence of his sons-in-law, the Scranton brothers.

The volunteers who manned our display had many opportunities to talk about Jacobsburg Historical Society and the Henry family. It was a pleasure to help our sister organization.

2000 Schedule of Events

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|-----------------------|---|
| June 17-18 | Rifle Frolic & Primitive Rendezvous - See Attached Flyer. |
| July 26-28 | Annual Youth History Camp-Junior Historians, 9 AM to Noon |
| August 19 | Tea Party in the Garden. Pa. State Master Gardener Program |
| Sept. 15 | Speaker-"The Role of Pennsylvania in the Civil War"
7:30 P.M. Dr. David Valuska, Kutztown University |
| Sept. 27 | Start Basic Longrifle Gunsmithing Course-8 wks. 7-10 PM |
| Sept.30-Oct. 1 | Civil War Event - Civil War Display and Reenactment. |
| Oct. 28-29 | American Fur Trade & Halloween Rendezvous |
| Nov. 4 | Fall Cleanup. |
| Dec. 2 | Volunteer Christmas Get-together |
| Dec. 3 | Old Fashioned Christmas Open House. |

For more information, call our Visitors Center - 610-746-2809; Jim Wilson, Program Coordinator, FAX 610-746-5601; or Email - jacobsburg@fast.net

School Program

On Monday, May 29th, a program was presented to 30 students from Broughal Middle School, Bethlehem School District. Bob Newell gave a talk on the history of the Henry family and how the Henrys produced guns for the War of 1812, the Civil War, and their primary business with the Fur Trade and the pioneers in the western expansion of the country. Earl VanNorman talked to the students about the Pennsylvania Longrifle, its history, and how it was produced then and how it continues today.

THE INTERPRETER'S CORNER

by Jim Wilson

February 29, 2000 was a tragically fateful leap year day at Boulton and neighboring Belfast. After standing 172 years, St. Luke's United Church of Christ, old Henry's Church on Belfast Road, was destroyed in a spectacular afternoon fire. The five-alarm blaze gutted the historic house of worship and left an acrid stench hanging in the air for days in the Jacobsburg reach of the Bushkill Valley.

I had just finished a brief narrative about the Henry history at Jacobsburg as part of a Bushkill Creek Watershed brochure, when my neighbor, 11 year old Rachael Speth, ran into the Boulton Visitor Center to tell me she thought St. Luke's was on fire. A short time later, I could hardly believe my eyes as I watched orange flames and thick white smoke engulf the church that the sons of William Henry of Nazareth helped build in 1828 for the residents of Boulton and Tria, the former village of Belfast. Realizing that a part of Henry history had just gone up in smoke and flames, I hit the Henry history books to get better acquainted with the story of Henry's Church.

The first meeting in the interest of building the church was held at the home of William Henry III in Tria (where he was a general storekeeper) on February 24, 1828, at which time William was elected Treasurer. William's brother, Matthew Henry, was elected secretary and signed the minutes of that meeting. William and Matthew's brother, John Joseph Henry, was elected trustee on behalf of the United Brethren, or Moravians. The church was originally a Union Church, representing the Moravian, Lutheran and Reformed faiths. In a letter from the pastor of the Moravian congregation in Bethlehem to the three brothers, Pastor Schweinitz wrote, "We are truly rejoiced to see the interest you take in the eternal welfare of so great a number of persons in your employment, and therefore highly approve of your intention of providing means of Christian instruction for them, and fervently pray for the success of your undertaking." The Union Church became known locally as "Henry's Church", because of the Henry's influence in its organization and construction, and because so many of its parishioners were employed in the Henry's gun factory at nearby Boulton.

Henry's Church remained a tri-denominational Union Church until 1903. At that time, Edward Henry, trustee for the local Moravian congregation and grandson of John Joseph Henry, the first trustee for the United Brethren at Henry's Union Church, issued a deed of the Moravian's one-third interest to the Lutheran and Reformed congregations. Perhaps it was the loss of the local Moravian community with the closing of the Boulton Gun Works eight years earlier that prompted the United Brethren to leave Henry's Church. Nevertheless, Moravian sermons had been preached at Henry's Church for some 75 years. After building their own church in 1908, the Lutheran congregation conveyed its one-half interest in the Union Church to the sole remaining Reformed congregation. After a series of evolutions, the Reformed Church eventually became the United Church of Christ, which owns old Henry's Church today.

The Interpreter's Corner (Cont'd.)

The original thick stone walls behind the many additions to the 1828 church survived the fire earlier this year. The congregation at modern-day St. Luke's United Church of Christ vows to rebuild old Henry's Church. We at Jacobsburg wish them the best. And to paraphrase Pastor Schweinitz in his letter to the three Henry brothers who first built the original Union Church, "we fervently pray for the success of their undertaking."

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Have you ever considered including the Jacobsburg Historical Society in your Will as a beneficiary? To fulfill its purposes, the Society would indeed be aided with such a remembrance with appropriate acknowledgment.

Two illustrations of testamentary gifts are:

1. "I give and bequeath to Jacobsburg Historical Society for its corporate purposes the sum of \$ _____ Dollars."
2. "I give and bequeath to Jacobsburg Historical Society for its corporate purposes (here describe in some detail the object such as Henry firearms)."

There are no federal estate or Pennsylvania inheritance taxes on these testamentary bequests.

When considering in your Will a bequest to the Society, consult with your attorney. Any officer or director of the Society is pleased to discuss with you the matter of gifts.

JAZZED UP!

That's the theme of the 22nd annual Canal Festival on Sunday, June 25, in Hugh Moore Park in Easton. The festival takes place from 11 AM to 6 PM along the banks of the Lehigh River and Canal. Hugh Moore Historical Park and Museums sponsors this day of family fun featuring musical entertainment; a juried show of regional arts and crafts; pony rides, all kinds of food from fritters to funnel cake; canal boat rides; and a living history encampment.

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

Stop by at the Jacobsburg Historical Society Pennsylvania Longrifle Heritage Museum on your way to the Canal Festival on June 25th. Hours 1:00 to 4:00 P.M.

Estelle Shedlauskas, Editor

Jacobsburg Historical Society's KENTUCKY RIFLE FROLIC

June 17 & 18, 2000



The Boulton Gun Factory.

Come One Come All
To The Fifth Annual
Penna. Longrifle Exhibit
& Pre-1840 Primitive
Encampment

Sat 10^{am}–5^{pm} * Sun 10^{am}–4^{pm}

On Display An Outstanding Collection of
Original Pennsylvania Longrifles (Kentucky Rifles)

Made By The 18th & 19th Century Pennsylvania Gunsmiths.

Come Talk To The Experts, Bring Along Your Family Gun & Learn About its History & Maker.

19th Century Living History Encampment

A Pre-1840 Style Living History Encampment. See What Living on the Frontier Was Really Like!

Complete with Knife & Tomahawk Throwing, Black Powder Shooting, Primitive Fishing,
Primitive Archery Range, Hearth Cooking & All the Sights, Sounds & Smells of Real History!

Kentucky Rifleman's Accouterments

& Tools of the Gunsmith Trade with Original Rifling Machines & Artifacts from the Factory.

Learn How the Longrifles were Hand Crafted from some of the Masters of the Trade

Working Craftsmen

Come and talk with our Craftsmen & Apprentices, see their beautiful workmanship.

Take Home A Hand Crafted Piece of History. Start Your Own Heirloom Collection

Jacobsburg Historical Society

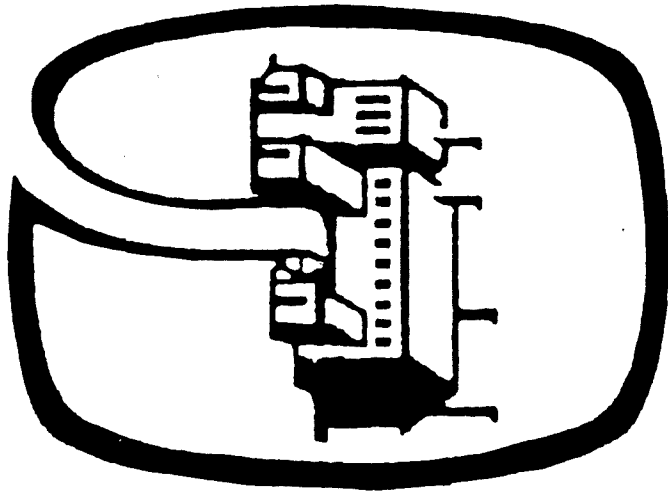
402 Henry Road, Nazareth, PA. 18064

From Routes. 22 or 80, Take Route 33 to the Belfast Exit.

Then West on Henry Road ½ Mile to the Boulton Plantation.

Boulton Visitors Center 610-746-2809 Real Person
Society's Business Office 610-759-9029 Answering Machine

JACOBSTBURG
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY



Jacobsburg Historical Society
Box 345
Nazareth, Pennsylvania 18064

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