

# The Jacobsburg Record

MAY/JUNE 1995

759-9029

VOL. XXIII

No. 3

## ANOTHER UNDERHAMMER PISTOL

The sharp eyes of Board member Ronald Gabel uncovered another Henry underhammer pistol at a recent gun show. Ron did great service to the Society by taking it upon himself to secure the piece in order to hold it until the Society could purchase it, or a donor was found. We are happy to report that a donor has come forward and shortly, of the eight known pistols of this type, the Society will own seven. Ron Gabel is to be thanked for making this acquisition possible. We must forgive the donor for holding on to his purchase for a few weeks to enjoy ownership of such a rare piece. Be assured, however, that the pistol is pledged to the Society's collection and will be presented in due time!

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## MATTHEW KRAUSE PORTRAIT

Last autumn the Society was given a portrait of Matthew Krause. The donor was Board member Matthew Krause Morris. This portrait is reputed to have been painted by Gustav Grunewald, art instructor at the Moravian Female Seminary in Bethlehem. This seems likely, as the Krause home was located on Market Street, not far from the school.

Matthew Krause was a respected citizen of Bethlehem, and was Treasurer of the Moravian congregation, a full-time position, until his death. Numerous papers being uncovered by Don Repsher in his organization of the Society's manuscript collection bear Matthew Krause's name, showing his interest in civic affairs and his close association with the Henry family. On 16 November 1869, his daughter, Mary Elizabeth Krause married Granville Henry. The Granville Henrys made the J. Joseph Henry house their home.

The portrait has been returned from a local art restorer, and has been repaired, cleaned and varnished. The gold frame has been refreshed. The likeness of Granville Henry's father-in-law will be hung above the sideboard in the Dining Room.

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CURATORIAL PROGRESS

Through the dedicated service of Pam Repsher, progress is being made in establishing our permanent Curatorial Records System. There is a backlog of work due to a late start in this program, but we are doing our best to overcome it.

The earlier records are in hand and cover the period prior to acquiring the J. Joseph Henry house. These were well kept by Betty Morris and each piece was recorded and numbered under her administration. Unfortunately, in late years, many objects were removed to other locations and in the absence of a successor to Betty's position no record of the new storage locations was kept. Location of these objects will be an on-going project.

While cataloging of furniture in the J. Joseph House has begun, it has been necessary to cull through Board Minutes and old Records to establish a list of more recent donations. This would verify the actual gifts, donors and dates of acquisition. With this information, accessions can be listed and numbered in correct order.

In addition to this, there are daily distractions. New information on artifacts is constantly coming down to us from the document-sorting in progress upstairs. An exhibit on handicrafts is needed in the Taylor Room, and all other work stops while we collect objects made by the Henry family. Establishing new storage areas, making minor repairs as well as normal maintenance of artifacts continues.

This is too large a program to be handled by two people. In fact, work sometimes comes to a halt as we stop to consider how to keep from being overcome by it all. Surely there are members who would enjoy donating a day or two toward furthering this most important project. Call us to find out what you would most enjoy doing - and be assured, no previous experience is necessary.

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VOLUNTEER CLEAN-UP DAY, APRIL 8TH - The weather was a little damp and cold but our volunteers were a sturdy lot and it was a successful day! The J. Joseph Henry house was targeted for cleaning and we had crews working on the second floor, the first floor, and outside on the grounds. Vacuum cleaners hummed, dust mops and cloths flew, and scrub buckets were in hands of very capable people. Outside on the grounds, rakes were used to gather huge piles of leaves and tractors hauled away many piles of logs that had been left from earlier tree cuttings and they were stacked behind the summer kitchen. Afternoon rain shortened the day for outside workers.

VOLUNTEER CLEAN-UP DAY (Cont'd.)

On April 22nd, another clean-up day concentrated on the Henry Homestead. We had a crew of 19-20 people who came out to give the Homestead a thorough cleaning and to complete the grounds work that had not been finished on April 8th.

Behind all of this activity were 50+ enthusiastic, super volunteers who gave approximately 335 hours of their time and efforts in the two days. There were too many to mention each one by name but, on behalf of the Board of Directors, we say "thank you!" It was a wonderful opportunity to get to know other members of the Society, also some who weren't members, and even with all the hard work, we had a good time

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FUTURE PROGRAMS AND DATES FOR OUR 1995 SEASON:

- July 15 - Iron Mongers Festival (1 day only)
- Aug. 12 & 13 - Commemoration of End of WWII
- Sept. 16 & 17 - Bushkill Creek Festival
- Oct. 14 & 15 - Civil War Encampment
- Dec. 3 ; - Christmas Open House

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On May 20 & 21, the Society held its first public program for 1995 - The Penna/Kentucky Rifle Frolic. The event was named after an historic event, a party held by the trappers and sutlers on the western frontier about 150 years ago.

Our program featured an encampment of mountain men in the former pasture area east of the John Joseph House. There were a number of craft displays around the property ranging from redware pottery, to artists, to gunsmiths, engravers, and blacksmiths.

Saturday was the very first day of operation for our own blacksmith shop. The shop was complete with a brick forge made from bricks which had once been used in the Matthew Henry blast furnace in Jacobsburg, and blast supplied by our own restored bellows.

Probably the most impressive "first" was the use of the Homestead as a total museum. In the Log Cabin Room was the most spectacular collection of locally made Penna/Kentucky rifles ever assembled and displayed in one place. Virtually every colonial gunmaker in Northampton County and adjacent areas were represented. In the middle room was a photo display of the Henry family and their operations, and in the Margaret Taylor Room, with all its new and refurbished display cases, we had about 400 horns, bags, knives and other accoutrements on display.

Downstairs was our newly opened Gift Shop, along with demonstrations of woodworking tools and the gunsmithing operations.

The newly completed Carriage House behind the Homestead was used as an auditorium for a slide show and lecture on the "Henry" enterprises.

Those who came and participated were really gratified, and those who were not here missed a very impressive show.

June 10th & 11th brought us to our second event for 1995, a 2-day craft show. This program also covered the lawns on both sides of Henry Road. Most of the participants were from the Lehigh Valley and at least one from Berks County. Their quality wares were displayed in tents and stands at various picturesque locations on our property.

In addition to the crafts, tours were given of the J. Joseph Henry House and the Summer Kitchen, and the Blacksmith Shop was operating once again with multiple smiths in attendance. In the Homestead was a fine display of Henry arms in the Log Cabin Room and a fine display of handcrafts from our own collection of Henry family items. Downstairs, along with the Gift Shop was a display of a working gunsmith. Not to be forgotten was our children's program which introduced the youngsters to sewing, Fraktur, braiding, etc.

Saturday's weather degenerated into a dismal drizzle in the afternoon, but Sunday's sunshine brought a cheerful note and a slight upswing in attendance.

Please keep in mind that our expanded program of events has also brought a need for additional help to cover all the necessary chores to be done. If you would like to give an hour of your time, or two, or more, please call the Society Office, 759-9029, and leave a message along with your name and phone number. We will return your call.

CARRY YOUR CARD - We have changed our system of collecting fees at our monthly events. It was found that visitors were avoiding the toll desks in the houses and enjoying the grounds and outside events free of charge. For this reason we now collect an admission fee at the entrance to the grounds, making the fee cover enjoyment of the outside events as well as house tours.

MEMBERS WILL SAVE TIME BY PRESENTING THEIR MEMBERSHIP CARDS TO QUALIFY FOR FREE ADMISSION.

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# Jacobsburg Historical Society

## IRON: FROM FURNACE TO FIREARMS

JULY 15, 1995

Held at the Henry Homestead in the Family's Plantation at Boulton

Open to the Public: Saturday 10 AM — 5 PM

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**Description:** The Henry family was the premier supplier of small arms during the settlement of our Nation's western frontier. In order to have the quality of iron needed to make its fine weapons, the Henrys produced the first iron in the Lehigh Valley at the Henry Forge in 1808. Members of the Henry family not only produced iron for their gunmaking enterprise, but experimented with the technology that helped to create the great American iron and steel industry. Visitors are invited to learn about early iron making and the art of iron working for firearms from nationally recognized experts in this field. The event takes place in one of the most beautiful rural settings in the Lehigh Valley. The John Joseph Henry House will be open for tours. Food cooked over an open hearth fire and country refreshments available.

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### Programs, Demonstrations and Displays

10:00 AM — 5:00 PM Iron Working Demonstrations: Bob Chatin and Tom Turtzo

Display of Documents, Photographs and Artifacts of Early Iron Making in the Lehigh Valley and of the Henry Family (Homestead)

12:30 PM — 1:00 PM Video: "Steel in America" (Videos Are Shown in the Carriage Shed)

1:00 PM — 2:00 PM The Henrys and the History of Early Iron Making in the Lehigh Valley  
Lantz Metz, Historian for the Hugh Moore Historical Park and Museum

2:00 PM — 2:30 PM Video: "When the Whistle Blows No More"  
The History of Greenwood Furnace

2:30 PM — 3:30 PM Living History: The Life of William Hall (1827 — 1900)  
Paul Fagley, Chief Interpreter at Greenwood Furnace State Park

3:30 PM — 4:30 PM William Henry III at Oxford Furnace  
The Warren County Cultural and Heritage Commission



Henry Gun Collection on Display

