

# *The Jacobsburg Record*

SOCIETY OFFICE - 610-759-9029

MAY/JUNE 1996

VOL. XXIX<sup>✓</sup> NO. 3

## **MAYFAIR AT JACOBSBURG, May 18 & 19, 1996**

The summer season opens on May 18th with our first monthly program. This will not be a Craft Fair as you may know it, for many other activities will be in evidence and crafts will be but one of many attractions.

The **Cooking Demonstration** will be carried on in the Summer Kitchen and **Blacksmithing** will be seen in our newly established Blacksmith Shop. **Handcrafts** will also be taught visiting children in a separate tent.

A portion of the **Gun Collection** will be on display in the Homestead, including our newest acquisitions. The museum exhibit in the Taylor Room will not have a definite theme but will consist of Henry Family items never before shown to the public. The objects will range from china, glass and silver to children's furniture and hand-made clothes.

The Forks of the Delaware Garden Club has offered to do flower arrangements in the J. Joseph Henry House. This house tour will start at 1:00 P.M., with the last tour being given at 4:00 P.M.

## **RECENT GRANTWRITING WORKSHOP**

On April 24th, Board members Charlotte Sayre and Bob Newell attended a workshop sponsored by the Pa. Historical and Museum Commission. The meeting was held at the Everhart Museum in Scranton and was conducted by Mrs. Deborah Filipi, the Commission's Grants Program Manager. After a session discussing grant programs in general, and seeing a slide presentation on historic sites across Pennsylvania that have benefited from them, the workshop participants had the opportunity to attend smaller, and more specific sessions. These included the History and Museum Grant Program, and the Keystone Historic Preservation Grant Program.

The workshop was most informative, and included handout material that might prove of value to our society in the future. By the way, Mrs. Filipi visited the Jacobsburg Historical Society earlier this spring, and was given a



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tour of our sites, as well as a briefing on the history of the Henry family and their various endeavors.

Bob Newell

**KATHRYN M. SCHLAMP**

It is with great sadness that we report the death of Kathryn M. Schlamp, a long-time Society Board Member. From the earliest days Kathryn saw to the Homestead Open House programs and assembled the volunteers needed for these events. Along with this she saw to the seasonal decorations, bringing fresh flowers during the summer, and holiday greens for the Christmas party. Not all of her services were as readily apparent. Few of us realize that the mailing of the Record, the notice of membership fees being due and other mailings were all done in the Schlamp house by Kathryn and her husband, John Schlamp, our Treasurer. All this was quietly done, but of vital interest to the well-being of the Society. We owe Kathryn a great debt. May we repay it by trying to carry on her devotion to the Society by our own acts of service.

**DISPLAY MATERIAL GIFT** - The Society has recently been the recipient of a gift of 54 display panels from the Pa. Power & Light Company of Allentown. These units of various sizes are cloth covered and can be joined in various ways to form display backgrounds of numerous sizes and shapes. The panels were released by the Corporate Communications Department. This equipment far exceeds in value anything the Society could ever afford, and gives our displays both at home and on the road a professional look which will enhance the reputation of the Society wherever shown. We are indebted to PP&L for this valuable gift.



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**WELCOME ABOARD!** - We are very pleased to announce that Mr. Robert A. Sadler III has agreed, and has been elected, to fill a vacancy on our Jacobsburg Historical Society Board of Directors. Mr. Sadler is currently the Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of the Mack Printing Company located in Easton, Pa.

Mr. Sadler's community involvement includes serving on the Board of Directors of the Good Shepherd Home; Advisory Board Member of the Sovereign Bank; Board of Directors of the American Society of Arms Collectors; President of the Pa. Antique Arms Collectors Association; Past President of the Cerebral Palsy Foundation; Past President of the Eastern Chapter of the American Red Cross; Past President of the Eastern Pa. Chapter of Training and Development; Past Commander of the Delhigh Squadron of the United States Power Squadrons and Past Commodore of the Sassafras River Yacht Club.

We are looking forward to working with Bob and benefiting from his vast experience both in business and in serving our community. *Let's all welcome Bob aboard!*

**CLEAN-UP DAY, APRIL 13TH** - Although our participation was less than half of last year, our hard-working group of 28 individuals, with the cooperation of the weather, accomplished almost as much as we did a year ago. The housecleaning team, comprised of three people, zoomed through the first floor of the J.J. House and the Homestead main floor in one day. The outside work was concentrated on the J.J. House grounds. Huge piles of leaves which had been raked up last Fall were removed, fallen branches which were the result of our many windstorms were gathered, the damaged apple tree was completely removed and a crew was splitting firewood all day long. Both the flower garden and the kitchen herb garden were cleared of weeds and leaves and all this trash was removed.

On May 1st, the Forks of the Delaware Garden Club pruned the roses on the Arbor in the J.J. Henry garden.

On April 24th, a fine group of young people from YAP (described later in this article) did a marvelous job of cleaning up our Summer Kitchen woodpile, stacked the good wood, cleaned up all the debris and useless



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materials, and carted them away. They also cut down and hauled away a large jungle of forsythia bushes which we can now trim and shape as a screen on the eastern edge of the lawn. On the Homestead side they swept all debris in the Hemlock Lane and removed five cartloads of branches, etc. This group also trimmed a great deal of the underbrush and overgrown shrubs along the driveway to the Homestead, including a particularly nasty barberry bush. It was a marvelous expenditure of youthful energy which helped to beautify our Plantation. (The teachers worked just as hard as the students did.)

YAP - The Greater Lehigh Valley Youth Apprenticeship Program ("YAP" for short) is a magnet high school for the 23 school districts in the Lehigh Valley area. It is a work-based learning program for high school students in the 11th and 12th grades. In this program, students combine academic coursework with on-the-job training opportunities. Dr. Kathleen Foster, the Program's Director, said the students enjoyed their day in Boulton very much and were happy to have had this opportunity to be helpful to JHS. It gave them a nice mid-week respite from their academic rigors.

### **OUR SECOND ANNUAL HERITAGE DAYS AND RIFLE**

**FROLIC** promises to be more exciting and colorful than the last. On tap is a large gathering of original Kentucky/Pennsylvania Long Rifles made by 18th & 19th Century gunsmiths in Northampton & Lehigh Counties plus some from upper Bucks County and eastern Berks County. Our Henry Long Rifles will also be on display so you may compare the workmanship and styles to that of other local gunmakers. Accouterments of the Long Hunter & the Frontiersmen of the period will be displayed in our museum. Working gunsmiths, Engravers, Blacksmiths and Hornsmiths will be plying their trades on the grounds of the Homestead.

Plans for our Second Primitive Rendezvous, which will be held in the program area just east of the J.J. Henry home, are progressing very well. We will be depicting pre-1840 camp life with primitive cooking, knife throwing and, this year, the addition of primitive archery demonstrations and an over-the-fire cooking of a 100 lb. steamship round of beef. Great care is taken to demand authenticity in camp and clothing, and only acknowledged experts in reenacting are invited to participate.



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This is the event that you do not want to miss. The hours for the displays and the Rendezvous are Saturday, 10:00A.M. to 5:00 P.M., and Sunday, 9:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. The 3:00 P.M. closing is to allow the Rendezvous participants time to pack up and get home at a reasonable time. All other activities will continue until 5:00 P.M.

If you are interested in helping with this event, contact Tim Lubenesky at 262-8171.

**FROM THE NOTE PAD OF RICHARD J. HUJSA** - The Gun Show at the SunnyBrook Ballroom in Pottstown, Pa., sponsored by the P.A.G.C.A. the weekend of March 2, 1996, was a huge success. The Jacobsburg display was by far the best yet, thanks to Tim Lubenesky and the rest of the Henry Arms Committee.

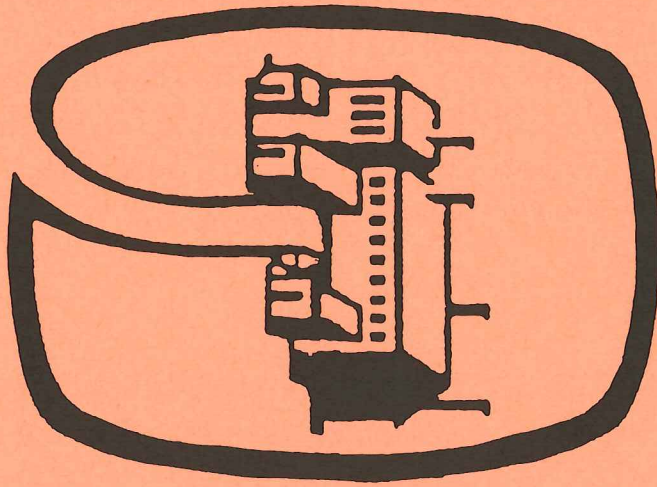
A member of the P.A.G.C.A. brought two rifles to the show for us to see. The first one was an Abraham Henry. This piece was signed on the top barrel flat in bold letters with the proof mark on the side flat of the barrel. A number 12 was stamped in the stock below the cheek piece. The Patch Box has a typical Lancaster Daisy Head Finial. The trigger guard is very similar to a Harper Ferry 1803 halfstock rifle. The stock is of a plainer maple as were many early militia rifles. The lock had been converted to percussion. It had a hand forged tail type lock. The barrel and stock had been shortened about 8 inches. This gun is a fine old piece.

The second rifle was an ornately signed J.J.Henry Bolton original flintlock. The barrel, butt plate, trigger guard, side plate, base thimble, ramrod pipes, and sights were typical Henry stocking. However, the odd thing, and yes, I mean odd, is that all the Henry guns I have seen were just good working "Henry" firearms. They were normally "plain" but this rifle's patch box toe plate and incised double lines at the tang and top of side panel were Peter Kuntz. The nose cap was typical Lehigh County with a ramrod groove and an open end with wood showing at muzzle. The stock was of a very pleasant curly maple with a good patina. The barrel was full octagon.

If you check the records you will find that Peter Kuntz and John Joseph Henry both made rifles at the same time and had ties to Philadelphia. We also know it was customary for gunsmith families to associate with each other and many of their children married into gunsmith families. Therein lies the mystery of the two styles.



# JACOBSTURG HISTORICAL SOCIETY



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