

The Jacobsburg Record

SOCIETY OFFICE - 610-759-9029

MAY/JUNE 1997

VOL.XXV NO. 3

Museum Specialist Visits Boulton

Last December, the Society was awarded a *Technical Assistance Grant* by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, which was funded by the Pennsylvania Federation of Museums and Historical Organizations. The grant made possible a consultation visit to Boulton and Jacobsburg on January 24 and 25 by a museum specialist, Frank McKelvey, of Wilmington, Delaware. Mr. McKelvey is currently serving as a consultant to museums and as Director of the Collections Care Training Program jointly sponsored by the Mid-Atlantic Association of Museums and the Museum Studies Department of the University of Delaware. Previously, he spent 17 years at the Hagley Museum in Wilmington, where he served as Curator and as Associate Coordinator of the Hagley Graduate program.

During his visit, Mr. McKelvey met with President Tim Lubenesky and several members of the J.H.S. Board. After a thorough tour and discussion, during which he learned about the Society and its resources and dreams, McKelvey shared valuable insights based on his extensive experience. His report will help the Society chart a course for development of a greatly expanded interpretive program, including a Visitors' Center. Although his final written report has not yet been received, the Board of Directors has already taken significant steps to accomplish the suggestions offered by McKelvey at the conclusion of his visit. Some of his suggestions, (*and your Board's responses to date*), are:

Develop a concise Mission Statement - The Mission Statement of the Jacobsburg Historical Society is:

**To preserve and present the art of making early American
firearms and the character of the individuals and community
that created and sustained that enterprise.**

Complete review of the Master Plan and adopt it as our working document: (*done by the Board at its March meeting*)

Develop a concise, "catchy" name for our museum: (*"Pennsylvania Longrifle Heritage Museum"*)

Develop a Site Plan: (*A technical Assistance Grant application recently has been submitted to the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission for this purpose*)

Develop a plan for future archeological studies: (*A Technical Assistance Grant will be applied for in the near future*)

Establish working contacts with other museums and with colleges and universities: (*already done with the National Corridor Program and is being planned with respect to others*)

Learn and implement current policies and procedures regarding the care and management of our collections (*in process*)

Develop a walking tour of the Boulton complex (*done, and will be implemented this summer*)

Develop a mission statement for the arms collection to guide future acquisitions and deacquisitions

Begin an aggressive fund raising program (*Leadership gifts already pledged!*)

Set up an Internet "Web Site": (*coming soon to a computer near you!*)

Acquire a photocopy machine so that original documents will never have to leave the archives.

Develop an education program for area legislators and Pennsylvania government agencies to keep them apprised of the rapidly expanding scope of our activities: (*two such visits to Boulton have already occurred*)

Mr. McKelvey's advice is already helping us develop a long-term vision for the Jacobsburg Historical Society and a path of priorities for bringing that vision into reality.

1997 SPECIAL PROGRAM SCHEDULE

June 14 & 15	Jacobsburg Rifle Frolic
Sept. 13	Bushkill Creek Festival (Rain Date Sept. 14)
Oct. 18 & 19	Civil War Encampment
Dec. 6	Volunteer Holiday Get-Together
Dec. 7	Christmas Open House

THE PRESIDENT'S SOAPBOX

After reading the last issue of the "Record," I realized that I had been so busy working on new and exciting projects that I had failed to communicate all that has gone on in the last four months. I hope this column will be in every issue to keep everyone up to date. So here goes!

First, let's step back to November 1996. We applied for, and were granted, a Technical Assistance Grant through the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission. This grant supplied to us a Museum Consultant to take a look at what we had done and what to focus on in the near and not so distant future. The consultant was a Mr. Frank McKelvey, (former Curator at DuPont's Hagley Museum in Delaware, now a full time consultant.) We met for two days in January and received tremendous insight into our operation and our focus. (See Phil Schroeder's article for more information on this visit.)

Also in the grant arena we have been busy applying for and getting prepared for the grant process. We have applied for another Technical Assistance Grant for an Overall Site Plan Study for future improvements to the Boulton site.

We have established a Development Fund for Cash Donations. This Fund will be used for future matching grants. But more on this Development Fund and how YOU can get involved will be covered in subsequent issues.

We are now in a partnership with the Jacobsburg Environmental Education Center (DCNR) and the Delaware and Lehigh National and State Heritage Corridor. A number of important happenings have developed out of these partnerships. First, some time this summer several new signs will appear in the Boulton area. They will announce that you are entering the Boulton Gunmaking Community Complex. They are the D & L Corridor signs bearing their logo at the bottom, DCNR's logo at the top and our JHS logo and the Jacobsburg National Historic District sign in the middle. Also with the D & L Corridor we are creating a self-guided tour booklet to inform visitors about the Boulton site when we are not open to the public.

Speaking of "OPEN" As a result of our partnership with the JEE Center, it's Director has assigned Mr. Jim Wilson as a historical interpreter and education specialist to be shared with JHS and the JEEC. One of Jim's many tasks will be to be available at the Homestead Museum every Saturday from 1 - 4 PM starting in May through the end of October. (See Jim Wilson's Corner in this issue.)

If this is all starting to overwhelm you by now, you can see what it's done to me!

Well, last for this issue, several of our Board members have been working on our Society's MASTER PLAN for our future. Before our Consultant visit, it was about 75%

PRESIDENT'S SOAPBOX (Cont'd.)

completed, but it lacked final focus. Our Consultant visit did a great deal to clarify our destiny and purpose. I am extremely proud to report that the Plan has subsequently been completed, approved by the Planning Task Group and adopted by the full Board of Directors. This is the Guiding Document for our Society for the coming years. I will give more detail on the Plan and its effects in later issues.

That's all for now. See you at the Jacobsburg Rifle Frolic & Rendezvous.

Tim Lubenesky, President

CLEAN-UP WORK DAY BY VOLUNTEERS-April 12, 1997

For the third year in a row, a dedicated group of Volunteers turned out for Spring Work Day. The morning weather was good, but it did get very wet in the afternoon.

We had two inside crews operating, one in the John Joseph House, and one in the Homestead. What a difference some good old-fashioned house cleaning can make!

The outside crews were also divided into operations on each side of Henry Road. Both crews expended a great deal of energy - raking the lawns, cutting out and pruning old shrubbery, cutting and carrying branches, digging up roots, pulling unused fence parts, dead tree trunks, and old telephone poles, and removing a disintegrating stone walk. Most of this was accomplished before it started raining.

Lunch was provided at Noon, our famous Barbecue and Hot Dogs. Coffee, soda and sweets, for energy, were provided all day long. Just about lunch time, it began to rain, but it did not dampen the spirits of those who were already involved in their projects and wanted to finish.

Approximately 36 individuals turned out for this event and the "Board" extends a sincere "THANK YOU" for their interest and dedication. A tremendous amount of winter debris was removed from the grounds.

It was a good day - a fun day. We worked, we visited, we laughed, met some new folks, and, on top of it all, the buildings and grounds look beautiful.

We are ready for the 1997 program season.

Jim Shedlauskas, Property Manager

BILL WILL BE MISSED....

The Society regrets the recent passing of Board member, **WILLIAM C. GOBLE**. A retired AT&T engineer, Bill was a life-long student of U.S. military history, and did much research on weapons of the American Civil War. He was also an official of the North-South Skirmish Association, and had enjoyed marksmanship competition with Civil War type arms for many years. Bill served as Ordnance Sergeant for the 96th Pa. Volunteer Infantry, the re-enactment group that has done so much to make our "Civil War Weekends" so successful. Bill was also active in the Civil War Roundtable of the Lehigh Valley, and was preparing a program for that group on the day of his death. While he was a very busy man, he gave us the time that he could, and greatly enjoyed participating in our events. He will be greatly missed.

Robert Newell

THE INTERPRETER'S CORNER

by Jim Wilson

Welcome to the first column of the *Interpreter's Corner*. I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself to you, the many members and friends of the Jacobsburg Historical Society. For the past year and a half, I have been employed by the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Bureau of State Parks as an Environmental Education Specialist at Jacobsburg Environmental Education Center, just upstream of old Jacobsburg on the Bushkill. In that capacity, I have worked with a terrific team of teachers facilitating environmental education programs to audiences throughout the regional education and civic communities. Recently, I accepted the challenge of working in partnership with the Jacobsburg Historical Society to develop an interpretative system for the Society's legacy at Boulton and for the whole of the Jacobsburg National Historic District. Products of that system will be interpretive museum and wayside exhibits at the Boulton complex and a heritage education outreach program for schools and civic organizations within the Bushkill Creek Watershed and throughout the Lower Lehigh Valley Reach of the Delaware and Lehigh National and State Heritage Corridor. This interpretive system will tell the story of the industrious Henrys and the historical communities of Boulton and Jacobsburg and how they were connected to the Delaware and Lehigh River Valleys. I will regularly use this column to keep you posted on the interpretive system development at Jacobsburg and to share heritage stories with you.

As a native of the nearby Slate Belt in the headwaters of the Little Bushkill and an enthusiast of our local natural and cultural history, I am excited about working with the Society in developing an interpretive system that reflects the natural and cultural heritage of the Jacobsburg National Historic District and surrounding Delaware River Watershed. The Pennsylvania Long Rifle Heritage Museum at the Henry Homestead is now open Saturdays through October from 1:00 to 4:00 in the afternoon. While Society member gun

THE INTERPRETER'S CORNER (CONT'D.)

aficionados share the story of the Henry Firearms in the Log Cabin Room at the Museum, I will be available to lead walking tours of Boulton, interpreting the rich heritage of Jacobsburg. Now that warm weather is once again with us, I encourage you to bring a friend and come visit us some Saturday afternoon at Boulton and share with me what you know of the Henry legacy. See you at the Homestead!

FROM THE NOTEBOOK OF RICH HUJSA - OUTDOOR EXPO 1997

Wednesday, March 5th - The Jacobsburg Historical Society Gunnery Committee was busily engaged with setting up the Henry Display. Jim Shedlauskas, Earl and Mary Ann Van Norman and Tim and Terri Lubenesky all arrived with their vehicles full and set up began.

Thursday, March 6th - Upon entering Ag Hall, you see many friends and acquaintances busy as bees in a hive putting finishing touches on their assigned spaces. Enter Bob Newell with the Society firearms - everyone present unpacks and the Henrys are on display, accessories and accoutrements from committee members are added to round things out. With the Society "walk-through" booth, many people entered and, with the help of your gunnery committee, the public was informed of Jacobsburg Historical Society and the Henry gunmakers.

Friday, March 7th - Show time was 11:00 A.M. and here we are again. Society members manned the booth in shifts (some stayed all day), Terri set up your store and was quite busy with memberships, books, questions, etc.

Saturday, March 8th - Opening time 10:00 A.M. Some of our members spent more time at the show than at home. It was truly a happy time for the members that gave of themselves to share with the public their knowledge of the Henrys and what we at Jacobsburg cherish. The crowds never ended 'til closing time.

Sunday, March 9th - "Alas" the last day of EXPO '97. Tired feet - yes, but we are a happy group. Oh, the dedication of our members! I would like to personally acknowledge everyone that participated in this event, but it is impossible. I will miss some and I apologize for that, but I will give a list of first names as I remember them: Tim, Terri, Earl, Mary Ann, Bob N. Bill, Phil, Barbara, Bob F. Mike, Krista, Rich, Joe, Ron, Jim.

If you are a member and would like to become involved in our "Road Shows," or any other of our activities, you are welcome. Please ask anyone working on these projects or call the Society Office and leave a message. Someone will get back to you.

Jacobsburg Rifle Frolic

June 14 & 15, 1997



**Hear Ye, Hear Ye!
Come One, Come All
To The Third Annual
Penna. Longrifle Exhibit
& Primitive Rendezvous**

**We Will Have On Display An Outstanding Collection of
Original Pennsylvania Longrifles & Sporting Arms.**

Made By 18th & 19th Century Eastern Pennsylvania Gunsmiths

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

A Display of Long 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

Gunsmiths - Hornsmiths - Blacksmiths - Leather Working - Engraving - Weaving - Silversmith - etc.

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

Primitive Rendezvous Camp

A 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!**

The JACOBSBURG HISTORICAL SOCIETY

402 Henry Road

Nazareth , PA. 18064

at

The Henry of Boulton Plantation

Belfast Pa. exit off of Pa. Route 33 (the original site of the Henry Gun Factory)

both the Wm. Henry jr. Homestead & the J.J Henry Home will be open to the public during the Frolic.

The Gift Shop will be Open & Refreshments will be available.

SATURDAY- 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM

SUNDAY - 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

contact for more information

Ron G. Gabel

610-767-0356

A. Jim Shedlauskas

610-435-4509

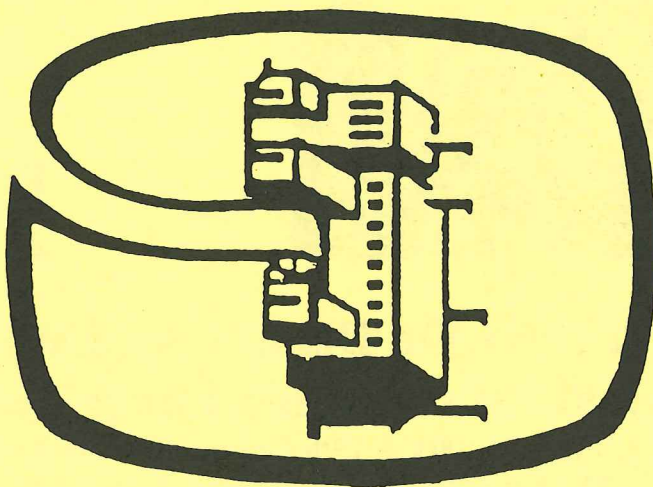
Tim Lubenesky

610-262-8171

Mike Jones

610-767-6272

JACOBSTBURG HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Jacobsburg Historical Society
Box 345
Nazareth, Pennsylvania 18064

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE
Nazareth, Pa.
Permit No. 10