

The Jacobsburg Record

JUNE/JULY 1987

VOLUME XV No. 4

SOMETHING NEW

NEW CLOTHES FOR THE HOMESTEAD

If the Henry Home and the outbuildings- the carriage and duck houses - look even more sparkling than usual on your next visit, it's because of a new exterior paint job. During this task we had a chance to closely inspect the outside and can report that our 200 year old property continues to be in excellent condition.

The Homestead was last painted in 1982, following its restoration. The same color scheme was adhered to as originally specified by the restoration architect; i.e. a light beige on the siding with cream color trim and green shutters.

Not even our historians can remember when the outbuildings were last painted. Certainly it was before the Society became involved in 1972. In any case Miss Stites was consulted about the traditional colors on these buildings and they now remain their familiar white with green trim.

The Society is indebted to Woody Yeakel for writing up the specifications and for Wayne Longley's Landmark Painters for expeditiously doing a little extra to create a fine looking appearance.

Come see us soon in our new clothes!

Dal Blandy

A_ND

SOMETHING OLD

GRINDSTONE

Donated by Jim Weller; has been restored and is a working addition to our collection of tools (date around 1860). It is sandstone, 14" in diameter, runs in cradled rollers, all cast iron of that period. It is propelled either with a hand crank or a foot treadle. A tin can hanging over the wheel is the water supply which is a must for sandstones. It took an entire wooden frame which I built; it is at the Carriage House.

FOOT POWERED WOOD TURNING LATHE

Donated by Evelyn Granda, also restored. It is a living piece in full action. It will take 18" between centers and will swing one foot in diameter. The flywheel is 30" diameter, 4" wide, all oak, morticed and pegged. It hangs between two cone shaped bearings and is swung by a crank shaft to a foot treadle. The head stock is cast iron, again cone bearing is the take-up with a wooden bearing on the drive head. The tail stock has 4" adjustment, a wooden wedge locks the tailstock in place for short or long pieces.

(continued on page 5)

SOME ANCESTORS OF WILLIAM MARSH MICHLER

By Charles M. Sandwick, Sr.

In this issue of The Jacobsburg Record we take a break from the series of articles about the Heller and related families, and the militiamen who served under Captain Jacob Heller during the Revolutionary War. More research is needed before we can properly resume the Heller articles. Instead, at this time, we shall turn our attention again to the Michler family.

Much interest has been shown lately in the life and work of William Marsh Michler, the Easton architect who produced many historic buildings in the Easton area and elsewhere. Much of this renewed interest in Michler has arisen from the controversy over the "replacement" of the Edwin Vollrath house on Pennsylvania Avenue in the College Hill section of Easton. Since William M. Michler was the grandson of a Jacobsburg native, he certainly deserves our attention.

William Marsh Michler was born in Easton 22 Mar 1868 and died there 7 Apr 1948, son of John Francis and Julia Augusta (Lachenour) Michler. He received his degree in Civil Engineering from Lafayette College in 1893 and subsequently the Master of Science degree, and the degree of Bachelor of Science in Architecture from the University of Pennsylvania in 1897. He married 4 Oct 1899 Matilda Runkle Bacon who was born 1 Nov 1870 and died 15 Jun 1965, daughter of John and Emilie (Burke) Bacon of Easton. They had three children: (1) John Francis, b 9 Jul 1900, m 1938 Betty Beverley Harrison; (2) Emilie Bacon, b 1902, m(1) 1922 John Sniffen Chipman (1900-1940), m(2) Thomas C. Zulick, Jr.; (3) Margaret Henry, b 1904, m 1928 Harry Marvin Riddle, Jr.

The father of William Marsh Michler was John Francis Michler (called Francis) who was born 23 Mar 1830 and died 26 Feb 1904, son of Peter S. and Mary B. (Howell) Michler. Francis Michler was graduated from Lafayette College with the degree of A.B. in 1847, at the age of 17. He subsequently received the A.M. degree. He was admitted to the bar at Easton on 22 Apr 1851. He later left the law profession and engaged in the coal business until his retirement in 1865. On 13 Mar 1855 he married Julia Augusta Lachenour, who was born in Salem, North Carolina, 29 Jul 1834 and died 4 Apr 1915, daughter of Dr. Daniel and Margaret (Henry) Lachenour. They had seven children (surnamed Michler): (1) Henry D. (1856-1926); (2) George Howell (1857-1885); (3) Frances K. (1858-1929); (4) Cornelius Roosevelt (1863-1938); (5) Chapman Lebbeus (1865-1932); (6) Julia Augusta (1870-1953), and (7) William Marsh (1868-1948).

Roosevelt Michler (1863-1938), a brother of William Marsh Michler, became a member of the Sons of the American Revolution through his mother's family, as a descendant of Thomas Potts (1735-1777) whose patriotic service was as a member of the Provincial Congress of New Jersey.

The father of Francis Michler was Peter Seip Michler, who was born at Jacobsburg 13 Apr 1799 and was baptized in the Plainfield Township Reformed congregation, near Wind Gap, on 13 May 1799, son of

Nathaniel and Elizabeth (Seip) Michler. Peter S. Michler died in Easton 27 Dec 1865. He was a member of the Board of Trustees of Lafayette College from 1826 to 1847. He was president of the Farmers and Mechanics Bank of Easton, and one of the founders of the Thomas Iron Company. He was a partner with his father in the operation of a merchant grist mill and distillery on the Bushkill Creek in Forks Township. He was also a coal operator in the upper Lehigh Valley. He was one of the first members of Christ Lutheran Church of Easton, served many years on the church council, and also served as treasurer of the General Synod of the Lutheran Church. He also represented Northampton County in the Senate of Pennsylvania.

At Easton, on 9 Jan 1821, Peter S. Michler married Mary B. Howell, who was born 6 Jan 1799 and died at Philadelphia 8 Feb 1865, daughter of Eseck and Mary Magdalene (Gearer?) Howell. In William J. Heller's History of Northampton County (1920), on page 233, it was erroneously stated that Peter S. Michler "married a Miss Hart, a descendant of John Hart, a Signer of the Declaration of Independence." On the contrary, she was a Miss Howell, not a Miss Hart. The question arises, was her mother a Hart? As recorded at the First Reformed Church of Easton, on 27 Oct 1796 Mr. Eseck Howell married Miss Gearer. (See H. M. Kieffer, Some of the First Settlers at the Forks of the Delaware; 1902; page 347.) Henry F. Marx, in indexing this entry for the Easton Public Library, assumed that Gearer was a variant of Kerer, which may or may not have been a valid assumption. Emma Howell Ross, in her Descendants of Edward Howell (1968), on page 93, stated that Eseck Howell married Magdalene Geassarr, daughter of George (Von Giesche) and Jane (Whiteneck) Geassarr, but I have found nothing to substantiate this assertion. (If I am being unduly skeptical, please set me straight!)

Eseck Howell was born 14 Jan 1771 and died 14 Apr 1842, son of John, Sr., and Naomi (Hart) Howell. In 1811 Eseck Howell was one of the founders of a Presbyterian congregation in Easton, and when the First Presbyterian Church was chartered, in 1818, he was elected to its first Board of Trustees. His wife, Mary Magdalene, was born 4 Apr 1777 and died 6 Jul 1860. Their graves are in Easton Cemetery. Eseck's father, John Howell, Sr. (1727-1779) served in the Revolutionary War as a private in Capt. William Tucker's Company of the Hunterdon County, N.J., Militia. Naomi (Hart) Howell, Eseck's mother, was born 5 Sep 1736 and died 15 Feb 1803, daughter of Joseph Hart of Hunterdon County, New Jersey, who undoubtedly was a relative of John Hart (1713-1779), also of Hunterdon County, a Signer of the Declaration of Independence.

At this point I must apologize for an error on page 33 of Jacobsburg, where I stated that Mary B. Howell was the daughter of Eseck and Mary Magdalene (Hart) Howell. If we accept the church record, (Hart) should be (Gearer), but it might be better to leave the parentheses empty until more evidence is found. The Hart connection was through Eseck Howell's mother, rather than his wife.

Nathaniel Michler, the father of Peter S. Michler, was born in Bethel Township in what is now Lebanon County, Pennsylvania, 2 Aug 1765, son of Rev. Johan Wolfgang Michler and his second wife, Maria Barbara (Krause) Michler. Nathaniel Michler died in Easton 18 Dec 1851. By 1796 he was married to Elizabeth Seip, who was born 30 Jul

1774 and died 5 Aug 1853, daughter of Johann Peter and Anna Maria (Erb) Seip.

Johann Peter Seip, the father of Elizabeth (Seip) Michler, was born in Erbach, Germany, 8 Jun 1735, and died 19 Feb 1809. Anna Maria (Erb) Seip was born 21 Dec 1740 and died 10 Jan 1810. Their graves are in Easton Cemetery. Mrs. Seip was a sister of Casper Erb of Moore Township, who died in 1788.

Nathaniel Michler acquired a one-third interest in the Jacobsburg tract in 1796, by purchasing the share of Jacob Christ. William Henry, who already owned one third of the tract, bought the one-third interest owned by the estate of Jacob Eyerly, bringing the William Henry share to two thirds. Assisted by John Roth, in 1801, William Henry and Nathaniel Michler effected a partition of the tract, with Michler receiving the Jacobsburg Inn and other improvements, together with a little more than twenty-six acres of land. Michler had made his home at the Inn in 1796, and lived there as innkeeper, storekeeper and justice of the peace until 1809, when he leased the property and sold his stock of goods to John Frederick Wolle, and moved to Easton. Michler retained title to the Jacobsburg Inn property until 16 Mar 1822, when he sold it to Peter Maurer, innkeeper, of Forks Township. (See also Chapter 8 of Jacobsburg.)

The eight children born to Nathaniel and Elizabeth (Seip) Michler were listed in Jacobsburg on page 33. At least six of their first seven children were born at Jacobsburg. The eighth child was born at Easton.

Johan Wolfgang Michler was born in Wuerttemberg, Germany, 25 Oct 1707, and died at Hebron, near Lebanon, Pa., 5 Oct 1785. He was a linen weaver by trade, before entering the Moravian ministry in 1762. He married first at Herrnhag, Saxony, 5 Aug 1741, Rosina Schneider, who was born at Zauchenthal, Moravia, 6 Dec 1715 and died at Bethlehem, Pa., 25 May 1755, daughter of David and Catharine (Muenster) Schneider. They had one child, born at Gnadenthal (Gracedale) in 1753, who lived only a month.

Johan Wolfgang Michler married second, at Bethlehem, 20 Apr 1757, Maria Barbara Krause, from Bayreuth, Germany, who was born in Voigtland 25 Feb 1729 and died at Schoeneck 7 Aug 1775. She was the mother of Nathaniel (1765-1851) and David (1769-1816) who were the ancestors of most (or more likely all) of the Michler families in this area. The third marriage of Johan Wolfgang Michler was at Nazareth, 23 Aug 1778, to Anna Maria (Thome) Schropp, who was born at Basel, Switzerland, about 1718 or '19, and died at Nazareth 3 Apr 1786, widow of Matthew Schropp and mother-in-law of William Henry II (1757-1821).

Referring again to William J. Heller, History of Northampton County (1920), on page 233, we find the father of Nathaniel Michler called "Bishop Michler, born in Wuerttemberg, Germany, October 25, 1720." Both the title and the year of birth are incorrect. Johan Wolfgang Michler was born in 1707, not 1720. He was ordained a deacon in 1762, but we have found no evidence that he was ever ordained a presbyter or advanced to the status of bishop. He was the minister at Schoeneck from 1766 to 1785.

SOMETHING OLD -(Cont'd. from page 1)

We are inclined to believe the component metal parts were made at the Jacobsburg location, machined parts at the gun factory. Bar iron on hand from the gun factory is identical in width and thickness, stamped hole and threaded as in the tailstock take-up.

After it was restored I made four turning chisels from old files and such metals that are suitable that are with the machine. It is located in the Springhouse at the Benade House.

Claude Jones

What a depth of gratitude and appreciation we owe to Claude for his "know-how" and his willingness to use his expertise for the Society's benefit. BE SURE TO LOOK AT THESE TWO RESTORATIONS ON YOUR NEXT VISIT TO THE HOMESTEAD AND THE BENADE HOUSE.

OPEN HOUSE EXHIBITS

SUNDAY, July 26 - Hooked Rugs - Mrs. Larry Koehler of Tatamy and two of her pupils, Mrs. JoAnne Campbell and Mrs. Alex Bajan of Nazareth, will show some examples of this creative hobby.

SUNDAY, August 23 - Henry Memorabilia

SUNDAY, September 27 - Materials relating to the Constitution
Jean Haupt and Walter Peters

Open House Hours : 2-5 p.m.

COMING SOON!

Bi-Centennial, Bath, PA - Bob Wendler will exhibit his model buildings.

ANNUAL MEETING _ Thursday, October 22 at the Stockertown Memorial Hall

Program: The Constitution

Walter Peters and Charles Peischl

COMING SOON (Cont'd.)

ONE DAY TRIP TO MORRISTOWN NJ NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK

Wednesday, October 14, 1987

This, the first National Historical Park, was established on March 2, 1932. It is a history of the area during the War of Independence, depicting the daily activities, recreation and hardships of the inhabitants and soldiers.

TRIP DETAILS SHORTLY!

We regret that Mary Banks has found it necessary to resign from the Hospitality Committee. Her resignation was accepted by the Board at the July meeting.

THANKS MARY FOR YOUR FAITHFULNESS, YOUR HARD WORK, AND YOUR CHARM ALL OF WHICH MADE THE CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE EVENTS VERY SPECIAL.

THIS 'N THAT

Following are some riddles translated from Christoph Benedict Benade's *Lebenlauf*:

1. Three persons played together all night and when they stopped all three had won.
2. It is true, I have a face and hands and move before your eyes, yet-- when I go, I stand still and when I stop, I lie.

ANSWERS:

1. 3 Musicians
2. The clock

PLEASE NOTE THE ENCLOSED CIRCULAR ANNOUNCING THE HISTORICAL WORKSHOP ON AUGUST 17 and 18 AT THE HENRY HOMESTEAD.

DON'T FORGET TO VISIT THE BENADE HOUSE COMPLEX.

OPEN EVERY SUNDAY: 1-4 p.m.

JACOBSBURG HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Officers and Board of Directors, 1987

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Emerita Member of the Board

Mary Henry Stites

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FOR JACOBSBURG HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Student	\$2.50	Sustaining	\$10.00	Contributing	\$15.00
Individual	\$5.00	Family	\$12.50	Organizations	\$25.00
<u>NAME CONTRIBUTIONS</u>					
Tannery Club	\$100	Boulton Club	\$500	Henry Rifle Club	\$1000

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.

HISTORICAL WORKSHOP
THE INDUSTRIOUS HENRY'S

Henry Homestead
Jacobsburg Environmental Educational Center (JEEC)

August 17 & 18, 1987
7 to 9 p.m.

Facilitated by:
Hope E. Luhman
JEEC Engineering, Scientific, and Technical Intern

The program:

Focusing on the thirty-three year involvement of the Henry family in the American fur trade, the national, as well as local and state, significance of this remarkable family will be addressed. The research of Hope Luhman, Muhlenberg College Lecturer, Bryn Mawr College graduate student, and JEEC Intern, will be presented and current working hypotheses concerning the five generations of Henry gunsmiths will be provided for discussion. Questions, such as what can this kind of research be used for and the need and potential of the Jacobsburg Historical Society to become the organization for the study and research of the Henry family and associated industry, will be considered. The key question of why the Henry family is important and by what criteria they should be judged, to accurately assess their particular significance, will be the core of the workshop. Slides will accompany the discussion.

Homestead guides and all potential volunteers are especially urged to attend.

To reserve your place in this workshop, please call the JEEC at 759-7616 by August 10, 1987.