

JACOBSBURG HISTORICAL SOCIETY

2003 Calendar of Events

(Call the Boulton Visitor Center at 610-746-2809 for more information/reservations)

March 29—"Nature of the Slate Belt" (slide-illustrated program at Henry Homestead about local natural places)

April 12—"Better in the Poconos" (lecture program at Henry Homestead on the history of the Pocono vacation)

April 26—Spring Cleanup at Boulton

April 26—"An Evening on Main Street" (Henry gun display & Jacobsburg exhibit at the Kern House in Nazareth)

May 17-18—Henry Gun Exhibit at Warren County Heritage Festival at Oxford Furnace, Oxford, NJ

May 21—"The Lehigh & New England Railroad" (illustrated program at Henry Homestead on the local L&NE RR)

June 14-15—"Kentucky Rifle Frolic" (living history encampment at Boulton)

June 21—"Cultural History of the Slate Belt" (slide-illustrated program at Homestead on local ethnicity & culture)

June 28-July 6—Henry Gun Exhibit at the Kutztown Pennsylvania German Festival, Kutztown Fair Grounds

July 23-25—"Jr. Historians" (Summer youth program at Jacobsburg EE Center)

July 25-26—"Slate Belt Heritage Days" (Henry gun display & Jacobsburg exhibit in downtown Bangor)

August 16—"The 153rd Pennsylvania Militia Regiment" (Interpretive Civil War program at Henry Homestead)

September 6—"Back to school at Boulton" (program at the Henry Homestead about local one-room schoolhouses)

September 20—"An Evening on Main Street" (Henry gun display & Jacobsburg exhibit at the Kern House in Nazareth)

October 4—"Bushkill Stream Festival" (watershed celebration with music, craft demos & more at Henry's Forge)

October 23—Annual Membership Dinner

October 25-26—"American Fur Trade Rendezvous" (living history encampment at Boulton)

November 15—Fall Cleanup at Boulton

July/August 2003

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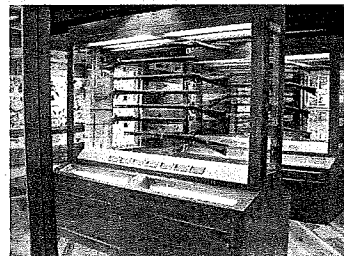
THE JACOBSBURG RECORD

Firearm exhibits completed, installed at the Henry Homestead while design work continues on others

D&E Exhibits of Nazareth completed and installed three beautiful firearm displays in the Log Cabin Room of the Henry Homestead just in time for Jacobsburg's annual Kentucky Rifle Frolic over Father's Day weekend. These three displays are the first exhibits to be

installed and together, make up the anchor exhibits in the recently restored and renovated Museum of the Pennsylvania Longrifle at the Henry Homestead. Twenty-two Henry long arms representative of the fur trade, military and early breechloading eras are displayed in the three exhibits.

The 8'x8'x3' displays are designed after antique gun exhibits at the NY Metropolitan Museum of Art and are constructed of wood laminated with curly maple Formica. Shoulder arms are mounted on 1/2" clear acrylic and displayed horizontally in the top two-thirds of the exhibits, which are encased on all four sides by clear, shatter-proof polycarbonate, which allows viewing



Firearm exhibits in the Museum of the Pennsylvania Longrifle at the Henry Homestead.

both sides of the firearms as well as the muzzle and heel of the guns. Windowed drawer space in the lower third of the exhibits allows for the display of hand guns and accoutrements. Fluorescent lighting illuminates both the top and bottom sections of the exhibits. The Forks of the Delaware Antique Arms Society

graciously sponsored these three firearm exhibits at the Pennsylvania Longrifle Museum.

Currently in design is a large interactive wall exhibit that will illustrate the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in raised relief topography and indicate some 12 schools of early American gunmaking across the state. This exhibit, which is being sponsored by the Kentucky Rifle Association, is expected to be completed and installed late this summer. Some 16 other exhibits are planned for the Henry Homestead Museum. Until a complement of exhibits are installed, the museum is open only for community programs (see sidebar calendar at left). To schedule a visit at other times, call the Boulton Visitors' Center at 610-746-2809.

History of the 153rd PA Militia Regiment, one-room schoolhouses are topics of upcoming programs at the Henry Homestead

The history of the 153rd Pennsylvania Militia Regiment and that of local one-room schoolhouses are topics of community programs at the Henry Homestead in mid-August and early September.

At 11:00 a.m. on August 16, teenage Civil War phenom, Dane DiFebo will present a Civil War program on the 153rd Pennsylvania Militia Regiment. Many Civil War soldiers from Northampton County—including the Slate Belt and Bushkill Township—were mustered into the 153rd Penn-

sylvania Militia Regiment.

At 2:00 p.m. on September 6, Kathleen Unger, author of the 2002 Nazareth Keepsakes, *Schools in the Nazareth Area School District*, will present a program on the history of local one-room schoolhouses, including the Boulton and Jacobsburg schoolhouses.

Both programs are free-of-charge and open to the public. Due to limited seating, reservations are required. To make your program reservations, call Jim Wilson at 610-746-2809, or send email to jacobsburg@fast.net.

Annual Junior Historians program takes kids back in time at Jacobstown July 23rd through 25th

2003 marks the fourth year-in-a-row that the Jacobstown Historical Society and Jacobstown Environmental Education Center have teamed up to present the partnership's annual Junior Historians program. The program is open to children ages 8-12 and in July of each year offers a three-day, hands-on immersion into the historic places and open spaces that make up the Jacobstown National Historic District.

Junior Historians is part of the Pennsylvania Bureau of State Parks, Jacobstown EE Center's *Youth Environmental Learning Series* and is the most popular program in the series, filling up early in the program season. Jacobstown Historical Society staff are key to helping deliver the program every year. The program is limited to about 15 children who explore the historical stream-side hamlets of Jacobstown, Henry's Forge and Boulton, where they learn about the Henry family's industrial dynasty throughout the Jacobstown National Historic District and its significance in our local, state and national history.



Junior Historians follow their "fearless leader" in exploring the Bushkill Creek during last year's Junior Historians program.

The program focus at Boulton is centered on early American gunmaking and ice harvesting. At the colonial village of Jacobstown, the focus is centered on ironmaking and archaeology. While at Henry's Forge, other historical land uses, such as farming and slate quarrying, are the center of focus. The program at Henry's Forge involves the children in the task of actually splitting slate roofing shingles, which they then use as palettes for personal artwork. Other activities throughout the three-day program

include stream walks in Bushkill Creek, where kids discover everything from mayflies and salamanders to milldam ruins and iron slag.

The Jacobstown Partnership believes that the understanding of historic places and open spaces are the foundation on which children can build a sense of place as well as a connection to their own local heritage. Next year's Jr. Historians program is scheduled for July 28 through July 30, 2004.

New regional heritage tourism project promotes Jacobstown, the northern tier of Northampton County as "The Uncommonwealth of Pennsylvania"

A brand new program promoting heritage tourism and economic development across the northern tier of Northampton County was unveiled to the public on June 11 at the Roxy Theatre in Northampton. Called *The Uncommonwealth of Pennsylvania*, the tourism program includes a full color, 24"x18", six-fold brochure, a website located at www.pawebtrail.com and an audio CD for auto-touring the region. Some 15,000 brochures were printed and will be made available locally at visitor information centers along I-78, I-80, the Pennsylvania Turnpike and through tourist promotion agencies throughout the region.

The program was created by the Regional Heritage Development Council of the Slate Belt, Nazareth Area and Northampton Area Chambers of Commerce, of which Jacobstown has been an active and involved member since the project began several years ago. The program is sponsored by local businesses and state legislators, the County of Northampton, the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development and the Lehigh Valley Convention and Visitors' Bureau. The brochure was designed by Urban Research and Development Corporation, the website by Accu-Find Internet Services and the CD by students in the Technology Clinic at Lafayette College.

Because of its unique combination of history, culture and recreational and educational opportunities, the Jacobstown His-

torical Society and Jacobstown Environmental Education Center partnership has been provided with its own full color panel in the brochure (see black and white copy at right). And both sides of the partnership are represented on the program website (with direct links to their own respective websites) and on the program CD. A sampling of some other organizations participating in the heritage tourism program includes the Locktender's House and Museum in Walnutport, the Siegfried Railroad Station in Northampton, the Moravian Historical Society in Nazareth and the Slate Belt Heritage Center in Bangor.

The Jacobstown Environmental Education Center and Jacobstown Historical Society

The Jacobstown Environmental Education Center provides environmental and heritage education, as well as outdoor recreation and exercise. The only state park facility in Northampton County, it offers 1200 acres of open space, 18 miles of trails, fishing in Bushkill Creek, a bird observation blind, and Henry's Forge, one of the last old-growth forests in eastern Pennsylvania.



General Information: Jacobstown Environmental Education Center
Hours of Operation: 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., 7 days a week
Admission: Free
Phone Number: 610-754-2000
E-Mail Address: eecc@jacobstown.org
Web Address: www.jacobstown.org

The Jacobstown Historical Society preserves the art and industry of early American gunmaking. In partnership with the Jacobstown Environmental Education Center, the Society administers the Jacobstown National Historic District. The significance of the District is evident in the 18th-century Henry family and its location in the prime industry. The Society owns the 1835 John Jacob Henry House and houses the Henry Homestead, where it maintains as the Museum of the Pennsylvania Longfellow. The Society has a growing collection of Henry firearms and family possessions, supports ongoing research and sponsors monthly community programs and several living history programs each year.

General Information: Jacobstown Historical Society

Hours of Operation: 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., 7 days a week
Admission: Free
Phone Number: 610-754-2000
E-Mail Address: jhs@jacobstown.org
Web Address: www.jacobstown.org

Being Granville Henry: a biographical sketch of the last Henry gunmaker and family rock

"The following account and memoranda are written out by me for the benefit of my brothers and sisters. As I am the only person living who has a knowledge of these contents, and I hereby affirm that they are substantially correct, as written down from memory can be."

*Granville Henry
Boulton, September 18, 1909*

The biographical sketch that follows is based on a manuscript self-titled, "Business & other memorandum of Granville Henry." The memorandum was written by Granville Henry in 1909 at Boulton—three years before his death in 1912 at age 78. The original document was recently discovered in the collections of the Moravian Historical Society, whose curator, Mark Turdo, graciously provided a transcript copy to the Jacobsburg Historical Society.

At the tender age of 14 years, Granville Henry was asked in the fall of 1848 to join his father, James, in the family business of firearms manufacturing at the Henry's Boulton Gun Works. In joining, Granville became the first son in the fifth generation of Henry gunmakers to carry on the family tradition. He was apparently a fast study and quickly learned not only the skill and craft of gunmaking, but the administrative and managerial side of running the family business as well. By his own account, Granville did nearly all the engraving to thousands of rifles, fitted stocks, made thousands of push rods, pipes, muzzle pieces, rifle ribs and case-hardened many locks. During his very first winter in the factory, he finished 350 North West guns and Indian trade guns, in addition to various work in the finish of other firearms. He also assisted his father in entering the business ledger accounts and in packing and shipping finished products to market. On January 1st, 1856, James Henry made his eldest son, Granville, a member of the firm, James Henry & Son. Granville's share in the family business was first set at six percent of all sales and was later increased to eight percent, as business profits increased. However, when Granville's brother, Robert, joined the family business, Granville selflessly suggested his father deduct two percent for Robert's share of profits.

During the economic panic of 1857, only a year after Granville signed on with the family business, the Henry firm suffered a lack of manufacturing material until the onset of the American Civil War several years later. After the start of the war, the Henrys contracted with Mr. Phillip T. Justice of Philadelphia, who had previously sold Henry rifles almost exclusively, for the manufacture of military arms for the federal government. Though not well equipped for this work, James Henry & Son



Granville Henry (1834-1912)

turned out nearly 1,000 arms for the Justice contract, until it was cancelled by the government, which now demanded one interchangeable arm, which the Henry firm could not produce. This left James and Granville with a considerable amount of material on hand. To work this up, Granville made patterns for a gunlock and mounting for the manufacture of a single barrel shotgun. Due to the rise in gold during the war years, the Henry firm was able to make and sell some 5,000 of these shotguns at a reasonable profit. After the close of the Civil War, a great demand for sporting rifles began and James Henry & Son saw a good and profitable business up until the next economic crisis—the panic of 1873.

After the panic of 1873 subsided and interpreting from trade indications that a single barrel breechloader was in great demand, Granville produced patterns for just such a gun. After a good deal of worry, he manufactured a single barrel breechloader and sold several hundred at a good profit, despite the fact that the firearm was rather imperfect and was supplanted by other gunmakers who only improved upon Granville Henry's design. There was for a time in the 1880s a revival of the muzzleloading rifle and a considerable number were made and sold. However, the manufacture of a breechloading rifle gradually replaced the muzzleloader, especially as the breechloaders grew cheaper as production was developed by large manufacturers who had command of well equipped factories filled with machinery adaptable for other works. It was the same with the muzzleloading shotguns, so that by the time James Henry died in 1895, the Henry gunmaking business had dwindled down to very little business, indeed. Granville endeavored to raise the family business in the late 1880s with the manufacture of a breechloading shotgun. He embarked in this endeavor rather against his father's advise, but hoped for success all the same. Granville made over 3,000 breechloading shotguns and readily sold them, but at a net loss in the end. During the 40-year span of Granville Henry's tenure at the Boulton Gun Works, his annual compensation varied from \$2,630 in the best year to \$98 in the worst year, averaging somewhat less than \$500 a year between 1856 and 1895.

In 1866, Granville Henry and his brother, Edward, entered into the business of making slate, principally for roofing purposes. They first made an opening in the meadow to the northwest of the gun factory. This not proving successful, the brothers made a lease with Jacob C. Moyer to

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open and operate a slate quarry on his property, just south of Boulton, off Filetown Road. The lease was for thirty years and expired in 1896. The money for the operation of the quarry was drawn out of the gun factory business. The slate firm was named Henry & Brother. Granville always had sufficient credit in the books to cover his share of the business outlay, but his brother, Edward, had to rely on their father, James, in advancing his share of the expenses. About 1870, James Henry found that the enterprise required more money than he felt right or judicious to advance Edward and proposed to take over Edward's obligations to himself for the benefit, if any accrued, of all the Henry children. But the business was not successful and was temporarily closed in 1873. A sub-lease was later made to a party of two, but this was also a failure. After the quarry had been idle for a time, Edward Henry again carried it on, this time in his own name and responsibility, but with no better success. It was finally abandoned and the machinery dismantled and sold.

Late in the fall of 1879, Granville's father, James, granted him permission to rebuild the gun factory dam on its original site. The dam there was destroyed in the freshets of 1868 and 1869. A smaller milldam was built on Bushkill Creek upstream of the original dam, but it was unsatisfactory in furnishing waterpower for the gun factory. James Henry, quintessential forest conservationist that he was, permitted Granville to harvest just enough trees in and around Henry's Woods for the long logs needed in constructing the dam. Granville paid for all the labor of cutting and hauling timber, bought the cross-logs to bind the dam together and bought about 1,000-feet of plank and boards, nails, spikes, stone, ground and other construction materials for the dam, totaling about \$1,200. Granville completed the new dam in 1880 entirely at his own expense. In 1894, a year before he died, James Henry granted his sons, Robert and Charles, permission to build an icehouse on the west bank of the dam. Although the dam was built by Granville Henry, it was owned by his father, James. Nevertheless, Granville was glad to provide his brothers the opportunity of harvesting ice from the dam, over which he always exercised supervision from the time it was built. Through his purchase of the property after his father's death, Granville was able to grant his brothers a continuance of their ice business, while he himself continued to keep the dam in repair at his sole expense. Granville furnished his brothers the ice they cut from the dam free of rental or charge, except for the ice he and his family used in their home, thus saving them a considerable sum since the year Granville purchased the property—a rental Robert and Charles would have paid to the estate, as we shall soon discover, if Granville had not purchased the property.



Family patriarch, James Henry (seated center) and his eldest son, Granville Henry (seated left) and Henry family on Henry Homestead lawn, circa 1880.

When James Henry died in 1895, the family gunmaking business was dying out, Granville's efforts to establish the manufacture of a breechloading shotgun not having been successful.

To have disposed of the stock in the factory and on hand at public sale at that time would have been ruinous, as it would have brought less than one-half that which was realized by slower sales from the time of James' death in 1895 through 1909. After James Henry's death, Granville and his brother, Robert, were named executors of their father's will, and accordingly, divided his household goods, books and pictures, as well as his fifty shares of First National Bank of Easton stock and fourteen shares of Thomas Iron Company stock equally among all six of James' heirs—Granville, Robert and their four siblings.

Besides the stock and material of the family gun business, which was, as previously stated, disposed of over time, the remainder of James Henry's will contained his real estate holdings at Boulton, which included over 100-acres of forest and farmland, the gun factory, milldam and three houses. The division of the property six ways would have left no money for its upkeep, except what might be realized out of the family farm, house rentals and the factory. And even that income would not have been enough to pay for property taxes and repairs. Furthermore, the freshet of 1896 had made repairs necessary to the factory dam and for the same reason, compounded with the low price of grain that same year, the farm showed a deficit. To further complicate matters, at the time of his death, James Henry owed his son, Granville, and Granville's wife, Mary Krause Henry, a combined debt of \$5,545. Had Granville and Mary Henry been paid this debt directly from James' estate, it would have absorbed all of his bank and iron stocks and part of the remainder of the personal property, resulting in a very small sum of income to divide among the six heirs. To finally resolve James Henry's will to the advantage of the surviving family members—whose father's wish it was that they should all remain together at Boulton—it was agreed upon by legal council and by all of James' heirs that Granville purchase his five siblings' shares of real estate interest and lease back to them their homes. As the sole owner of the Boulton plantation, Granville could legally cancel his father's debt to himself and his wife, which he promptly did, although it was very unprofitable personally, as he had to expend some \$2,000 on the property to keep it from falling into ruinous decay. But in the end, James Henry's wish was fulfilled and his children lived out their lives together at Boulton, due in no small part to the family loyalties of James eldest son, Granville Henry.

City of Easton donates to JHS original 1914 deed conveying Jacobsburg lands to the South Easton Water Company

The City of Easton Water authority recently donated to the Jacobsburg Historical Society the original 1914 deed conveying over 500-acres of land owned by the Fitzgerald-Speers Company to the South Easton Water Company. The indenture was made on August 25, 1914 and received for record in the Office for Recording of Deeds, County of Northampton on August 26, 1914. The Society's archives contain photocopies of the deed, but securing the original document was a bonus for its archival collections.

Some ten tracts of real estate belonging to the Fitzgerald-Speers Co., a bygone lumber company once based in Pen-

Argyl, were sold for one-dollar to the former South Easton Water Company in the summer of 1914. The water provider hoped to establish a municipal water supply at Jacobsburg for the City of Easton, but that prospect never panned out. In the mid-20th century, the City of Easton conveyed the property to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania as some of the first holdings that would become Jacobsburg State Park.

The 500-acres included the remains of Jacobsburg, the colonial village first established by Jacob Hubler in 1740 and later sold to William Henry of Nazareth in the 1790s. The property contained the remains of the William Henry Gun Barrel Mill, the Matthew Henry Furnace and the Jacobs-

burg Inn.

The following list of surnames appears throughout the deed as property owners previous to the Fitzgerald-Speers Company ownership of the land. They are familiar local family names, many of whose family histories and genealogies are recorded in the book, *Jacobsburg: A Pennsylvania Community and Its People* by Charles M. Sandwick, Sr. They are: Christ, Cope, Bauer, Sobers, Wright, Trach, Stenmetz, Gross, Johnson, Siegel, Schafer, Nolf, Heller, Stadler, Reichel, Frankenfield, Knecht, Bauman, Hahn, Colbert, Kitchen, Moyer, Meyer, Kist, Kimanour, Messinger, Ward, Harwi and Koch.

Community program crowd packed the Log Cabin Room—for the very last time—at the Henry Homestead back in May

History buffs love their railroad heritage, as can be attested to by the near record crowd that turned out for a community program on the Lehigh and New England Railroad back on May 21 at the Henry Homestead. Sixty-six people packed the Log Cabin Room for the slide-illustrated program, which was presented by Paul Carpenito, President, Phillipsburg Railroad Historians. Only one other community program at the Henry Homestead received greater attendance, when 68 people

turned out for a Pennsylvania Humanities Council presentation on the American Civil War by Commonwealth Speaker, Dr. David Valuska back in September 2000.

With the newly restored and renovated Henry Homestead ready to house the Museum of the Pennsylvania Longrifle in the Log Cabin Room, Margaret Taylor Room and Center Hall, community programs must now be held in the basement meeting area, which can only accommodate upwards of 40 people. Fortunately, floor ex-

hibits were a few weeks away from being installed in the center of the Log Cabin Room on the day of the railroad program. So the then-empty Log Cabin Room was able to accommodate program guests. But that was the last time the room will be available for community program seating, now that firearm exhibits occupy the floor space there. In the future, look for large-crowd programs to be presented at old Henry's Church on Belfast Road or at Moravian Hall Square in nearby Nazareth.

1834 John Joseph Henry House Museum at Boulton remains temporarily closed for repairs and renovations throughout the summer

Now that renovations and restorations are finished at the Museum of the Pennsylvania Longrifle at the Henry Homestead, the 1834 John Joseph Henry House is undergoing its share of much needed maintenance and repair. The Jacobsburg Historical Society is in the midst of a campaign to preserve its historic structures at Boulton in an effort to better present the whole story of Henry gunmaking and the people, places and community that created and sustained that enterprise in the Jacobsburg reach of the Bushkill Creek Watershed.

The nearly 170-year-old John Joseph Henry House is in serious need of major maintenance, repair and utility upgrades. Work completed to date on the house includes the pouring of a concrete basement floor, replacement of some rain gutters, downspouts and water lines, installation of new HVAC, electrical systems and two sets of basement steps and new basement and first floor plumbing. Additionally, metal shelving and fluorescent lighting was installed in the basement so that the room can now be used for curatorial space.

The east and west side porches will be replaced this summer and landscape work remains to be done. While work is ongoing there, the John Joseph Henry House Museum will remain closed to the public. It is hoped work will be completed in time to reopen the house for the American Fur Trade Rendezvous in October.



John Joseph Henry House