

The Jacobsburg Record

SOCIETY OFFICE - 610-759-9029

JULY/AUGUST 1997

VOL.XXV NO.4

THE PRESIDENT'S SOAPBOX

Well, here I am again. It's now the middle of a beautiful summer and things at the Jacobsburg Historical Society have not slowed down with the Summer temperatures.

The large signs to be erected along Henry Road may already be up by the time you read this. Recent conversations indicate that they are on the way. Clearing of the sites is underway. Keep your eyes open.

The beginning of Summer brought a flourish of activity to our Elementary School Program. Bob Newell & Earl Van Norman instructed in excess of 400 students this year. The larger numbers are in part due to the cooperation of the Jacobsburg EE Center in scheduling and promotion of the Program.

The second Technical Assistance Grant from the Pa. Federation of Museums administered by the PHMC has been granted to us. As of this writing, they have not yet assigned a consultant. He will assist us with designing an overall Site Plan for the Boulton area.

On June 6, Senator Uliana visited Boulton for the second time in as many months. This time he brought along his Video Taping Crew to record some views and interviews of the Jacobsburg Historical Society. This tape segment will appear on the Senator's monthly TV Cable program aired on Service Electric, Blue Ridge & RCN (Twin County) TV Cable Systems some time in September.

Mid-June also was the time for our Third Annual Jacobsburg Rifle Frolic & Rendezvous. And what a great success it was. Great weather, a super staff and program, and a very large public turnout combined for a truly Great Weekend. Thanks to all who contributed to its success.

The end of June, Howard Reist, Rich Hujisa, and myself put on a Henry Kentucky Rifle Educational display at the national Kentucky Rifle Association's Annual meeting at Carlisle, Pa. By the way, we won First Prize for best Educational Display.

The Museum's collection is again going on the Road with our Annual Pilgrimage to the Gunmakers Fair at Dixon's Muzzleloading Shop near Kempton, Pa. This is right on Route 737 about two miles north of Route 78 (Krumsville Exit). We set up a 20 x 30 foot tent with our displays. The dates are July 26 & 27 - 9 AM to 6 PM daily.

SEE YOU THERE!

PICNIC - Our Second Annual MEMBERS ONLY PICNIC - ANTIQUE ARMS GUN SHOW & ANTIQUE CAR SHOW is set for Sunday, August 17. Your attendance is what makes this event. *See enclosed flyer.*

SEE YOU THERE!

FALL ADULT 1997 EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS ARE MOSTLY SET.

1. The **Blacksmith Apprentice Program** starts in August under the watchful eye of our resident Master Blacksmith Bob Chattin. This is an eight week introductory course for beginner level. Starts on Tuesday evening August 12. *See enclosed flyer!*
2. The **Fall Tea Party in the Garden** - Penn State Master Gardeners give Seminars and instruction on a wide variety of Gardening Topics. Sept. 13. *See enclosed flyer!*
3. The **Gunsmith Apprentice & Hearth Cooking Instructional Programs** are staffed, but schedules have not been firmed up. More on these in the next issue of the RECORD.

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The last item, but one very important to the Society's future, is the upcoming visit to Boulton of Secretary John Oliver. He is Governor Ridge's Cabinet Secretary in charge of the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (i.e., State & Heritage Parks, etc.).

Well, that's more than enough for this time, see you next issue.

TIM

JACOBSBURG RIFLE FROLIC, JUNE 14-15

From the notebook of Rich Hujisa

A day to be remembered! The sun shone down on a most interesting group of people. The Encampment next to the John Joseph House, with its tents, tepees and lodges of many types, the fire pits, trade items and the variety of clothing, could have been a step back in time. I'm sure our forefathers that walked this same area would have been glad to see the many and varied firearms, knives and accoutrements on these hallowed grounds.

It was interesting to see these people with hand-fashioned fishing gear - some hand forged hooks, pieces of silk or cotton lines, sticks straight from a tree, early wooden rods, and others with split bamboo poles. The fish in the Spring were nice fat brookies, some to 20 inches long - good breakfast fare at the lodges. On Saturday evening, Dan Speth made candied yams in an old iron kettle and roasted hams over an open fire. What a meal for the campers and volunteers!

Some participants were at the knife and tomahawk butts, and the accuracy was something to behold. Others were at the Rifle Range, or watching Greg Dixon engraving at his bench.

Rifle Frolic (Cont'd.)

In the basement of the Henry Homestead, George Dech and Gerry Vermeesch were doing gunsmithing work. Have you taken a good look at what they were doing? If not, you missed something! Bob Hujsa was at the Lathe with his many and varied stories. Yes, they are all true, ask him to see his photos.

Upstairs in the Homestead were Tom Ames with his Bucks-Montgomery School of Gunsmith Display and sharing his knowledge of their work, and Joe Flemish with the Allamengal area gun makers and map. Ron Gabel was there with his Northampton County display highlighting characteristics of these makers, plus excellent photos. Tim Lubenesky worked with the Henry display. What a great group of Henry full stock PA Rifles - it is probably the most Henry Kentuckys on display anywhere, except at the Frolic. Ron Gabel also did the Krider display in the glass case with three pistols, one rifle, and one over-and-under. The over-and-under has a triangular bore in the lower barrel, yes, three-cornered (no explanation). There was also the little fowler made by the employee of Krider for the Centennial Exhibition, with a silver plate in the toe of this gun engraved as stated. Tim and Ron did the Hess display, what handsome guns! Bob Lippencott had his Philadelphia display, these were some of the finest deringers ever assembled. Last, but not least, was my display of early Buck and Ball guns. These guns were the working tool of the early settlers. They could be shot with either round ball or bid shot. Most shots in early times were at close range, thus the smooth bore as accuracy at close range isn't impaired by not having a rifled bore. These guns have rear and front sights, making them a very versatile weapon. To name a few of these makers, we have Johannes Moll, Northampton County-John Philip Beck, Dauphin County-Nicholas Beyer, Lebanon County-Leonard Reedy, Berks County-Wolfgang Haga, Berks County-George Weiner, Bucks County-and the rifles in the front window of the Log Cabin Room were of new manufacture.

Did I forget the tools, powder cans, and mostly the powder horns, hunting bags, and the hundreds of Fur Trade items displayed in the Taylor Room by Tom Ames? His knowledge of this facet of our history is remarkable!

While the guns and related equipment was the major focus of the Frolic, there were other areas of interest for those looking for something different. The Walk in the Woods was a challenge for some, and others spent time watching Bob Chattin working in the Blacksmith Shop. One of the old Henry carriages was on display outside the Carriage House. The John Joseph Henry House was open for tours and our guides were on hand to answer any questions from our visitors. The Summer Kitchen was in operation with Connie Unangst and JoAnn Reckner cooking on Saturday, and Mark Amey preparing a meal on Sunday. Many of our visitors just enjoyed wandering the grounds and watching the activities of the Encampment.

A survey of our volunteers, and we may have missed some, showed that a total of 776 hours were donated to prepare for this event. Jacobsburg Historical Society is grateful for the interest and endeavors of all those who took part. A big **THANK YOU** for a job well done!

Jacobsburg Historical Society

“Members Only Picnic”

Antique Gun & Antique Car Show

Held in cooperation with The
Pennsylvania Antique Gun Collectors Association

Sunday August 17, 1996

from 10 am to 4 pm

It will be held in the Program area adjacent to and
in the garden behind the J.J.Henry House.

10 am - Show opens - coffee & donuts provided.

12 noon to 2 pm -Lunch

Please feel free to bring a Picnic Lunch.

Hotdogs, Bar-B-Que, Chips, Soda, Coffee & Tea will be
available for purchase at the J.J. Henry Mansions Kitchen

Bring Your Lawn Chairs & Appetites

The Shows are **FREE** to all **PAID up** members of
the Jacobsburg Historical Society & The PAGCA.

Please bring your membership cards!

If you desire a table in the show Contact:

Robert Sadler- (610) 691-0213

Please Detach & Return the coupon below by

AUGUST 10, 1997

J.H.S. PICNIC 1997

_____Number of Adults _____Number of Children
_____Members Name

mail to:

PICNIC - J.H.S,
402 Henry Road
Nazareth, Pa. 18064

THE INTERPRETER'S CORNER

by Jim Wilson

As is the case with ecosystems around the world, a fundamental influencing factor in the ecology of Jacobstown is water - the flowing waters of the Bushkill Creek in particular. The Bushkill has created and snaked across its own valley, sculpting and resculpting the landscape for millennia. In fact, some Geologists believe the ancient Bushkill once carved a stream twice the length it is today. They believe this proto-Bushkill was one with the forerunner of today's McMichael's Creek in Monroe County, during a period of time when our regional topography was relatively "flat" with little relief. The geologic theory is that the subsequent uplifting and folding of the present-day Appalachian Mountains occurred at a rate greater than the downcutting power of the proto-Bushkill. While it was able to cut through the uplifting ridges for a time, the ancient 'Kill couldn't keep downcutting pace with the rising Appalachians and was eventually severed at its intersection of greatest resistance - the tallest and southeastern-most ridge in the Appalachian chain, the Kittatinny Ridge, just north of Wind Gap borough. That half of the proto-'Kill north of the Kittatinny was left to drain through the valleys subsequently created by, and parallel to, the folded ridges of the Appalachian Mountains. That half of the proto-'Kill south of the Kittatinny was left to become our present-day Bushkill, its ancient creek bed now watered by the many springs and tributaries resultant from the Appalachian Mountain building process. The shallow gap carved through the spine of the Kittatinny by the proto-'Kill early in that mountain building episode was left dry. Today, only wind flows as mute testimony to the power of water through that wind gap, just upslope of its namesake borough.

From its present-day spring fed origins on the slopes of the Kittatinny, the Bushkill carves its way downstream for some 20 miles to its confluence with the Delaware River at Easton. Cutting across the slate and limestone belts of the Lehigh Valley, the Bushkill drains nearly 75 square miles of rolling terrain in Northampton County. And it is the waters of the Bushkill that have drawn people to carve a livelihood from its creek banks. It was the convenient access to water that drew Jacob Hubler to settle a farmstead along the Bushkill about 1740. And some 50 years later, it was the power of moving water that drew William Henry of Nazareth to establish, on the banks of the Bushkill, an industry that would last more than a century, help push the colonial frontier beyond Pennsylvania and help usher America into the industrial era. From its ancient headwaters to its mouth on the Delaware, the Bushkill has created an ecosystem that has supported natural and human communities through time and space.

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“Tea Party in the Garden” a Half Day Gardening Seminar

Sponsored by the Jacobsburg Historical Society

Brought to you by the

Penn State Master Gardeners Program

Sat. September 13, 1997

10 AM to 2 PM

Held in the John Joseph Henry House Gardens

Rain Date Sept. 14

Speakers are all Penn State Master Gardeners
discussing various Gardening Topics:

“ Tried and True Perennials”

with Janet Arnold

Find out which perennials best fit YOUR Garden .

“Make a Tussie Mussie”

with Melissa Thomas-Brumme

Learn the Language of Flowers.

“Herbs to Use and Grow”

with Judy Creighton

Find out more about Herbs and Herb Gardens.

“Modern Plants can be used in a Colonial Garden”

with Becky Lubenesky

Take a Tour of the J.J.House Gardens and Grounds.

Pre-registration - \$ 10.00

Cost includes the Seminar and Lunch in the Garden.

Send Check to : **Jacobsburg Historical Society**

Box 345

Nazareth, PA. 18064

For more Information Contact

Becky Lubenesky at (610) 252-6305

Jacobsburg Historical Society Blacksmiths Apprentice Program

Class Limited to 6 People.

Course Fee = \$ 50.00 (J.H.S. Members \$ 40.00)

Students Must Provide:

Safety Glasses or Goggles.

Fire Retardant Apron (Optional as we have Some available)

Must Wear Natural Fiber Clothing due to the presents of Hot Scale &
Sparks. Good Shoes (No Sandals) and a Cap or Hat.

Inappropriate Clothing or Lack of Safety Equipment Precludes Admission to
the Smithy. However, inappropriately Equipped Students may observe
work from the Visitors Window.

Tools, Iron & Coal will be Provided by the Instructor.

The Purpose of the Program is to give the Student Instruction in Basic
Smiting including Fire Management, Drawing Out, Upsetting, Bending
& Twisting Iron by Instructors Demonstration and Supervised Student
Work on Simple Projects.

Classes will be held Tuesday Evenings

August - 12, 19 & 26

September - 2, 9, 16, 23, & 30

From 5:30 PM to 7:30 - 8:00 PM

This Class will be the Prerequisite to the Advanced Class Planned for 1998.

Application for Jacobsburg H.S. Blacksmith Apprentice Program

Name

Address

City

State

Zip Code

Area Code / Phone Number

Signature

Note: Acceptance for the Program will be LIMITED To the
First **SIX (6)** Applications Received.

Applicant:

1. Fill out the Form, Sign Liability Statement
2. Include a Check for \$ 50.00 made out to the
Jacobsburg Historical Society.
3. Send to “**Bob Chattin**”
PO Box 43
Danielsville, PA. 18038
4. Bring Proper Clothing & Safety Equipment the First Night

RELEASE AND LIABILITY STATEMENT

As a condition and in consideration for acceptance into the Blacksmith Apprentice Program Sponsored by the Jacobsburg Historical Society and with the intent to be legally bound, I agree to Indemnify and Hold Harmless the Jacobsburg Historical Society and Robert L. Chattin from and Against any and all Loss, Damage, Claims, Demands, Actions or Causes of Action, Suits at Law or in Equity, Judgments, Liability or Expenses, including Attorneys Fees for Personal Injury, Including Death, and for Damages to Property, Including Loss or Destruction Thereof, Arising out of any Accident or Occurrence, in or as a result of my Participation in the Program and all and any activities, procedures, instruction and acts which relate to the program.

SIGNATURE

PROPERTY IMPROVEMENT UPDATE:

While many activities have been going on at the Society properties in preparation for the 1997 programs that have been planned, the Property Committee would like to keep our members informed regarding some of the improvements that have been made.

Garden Area - The apple trees at the J.J.Henry House have all been trimmed. Some needed major renovations because of their age and condition.

The trimming included all nine apple trees and the other miscellaneous trees in the "orchard area." Dead or diseased wood was removed to improve tree health. New growth was trimmed to improve tree shape.

The trimming was done by Dan Speth, with advice given by his Dad, Donald Speth. Each tree took about one day to trim and clean up. All time was donated.

We are looking forward to seeing if the trees produce well as they may be valuable to tree growers looking for older disease-resistant trees.

Also, Donald Speth donated the use of his rototiller for use in the garden and holding bed.

Entrance to the J.J.Henry House - The front of the John Joseph Henry House has had some recent improvements. A new flagstone landing has been added to the main stair leading from the porch.

Construction began with the removal of the existing landing. After removal of numerous roots, the actual construction began. The mounting block was installed about 5" deep at an appropriate place.

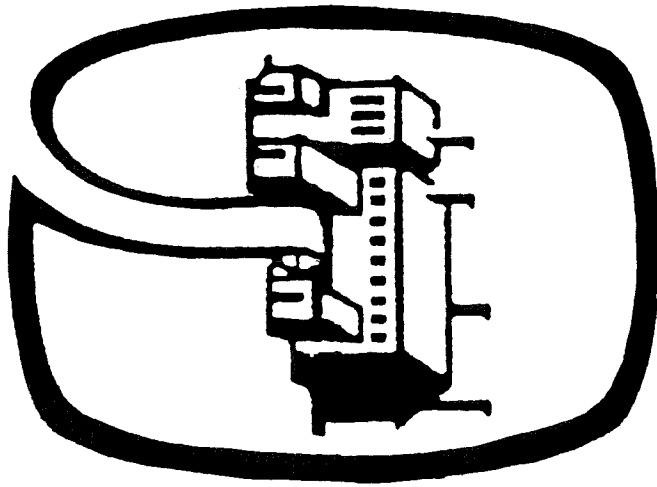
The flagstone pattern was laid out until it was pleasing to the eye. After that, the area was dug out and a bed of sand was laid down to allow the stones to shift and not break when stepped on. The stones were then installed. After the stones were seated, soil was placed in the joints for a natural look.

Construction time - donated by Dan Speth - was about 16 hours. The flagstone was donated by Jim Shedlauskas.

Dan thanks the Society for the opportunity to do more of the stone work he loves.

B. Lubenesky

JACOBSBURG
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY



Jacobsburg Historical Society
Box 345
Nazareth, Pennsylvania 18064

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