

# THE JACOBSTURG RECORD

Box 345  
Nazareth, Pa. 18064  
SOCIETY OFFICE - 610-759-9029

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On August 19th, the Society held their "2000 Tea Party in the Garden" at the J.J. Henry House garden. Held in cooperation with the Penn State Master Gardeners, the program presented speakers from the Master Gardeners, such as Anize Appel with her knowledge of succulents and their care and habits; Charlotte Campbell, cooking with popular herbs; and Frank Rosenblum, dazzling Dahlias and how to add these wonderful flowers to your garden.

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## Jacobsturg needs a little of your time!!!

You won't find it in your wallet or your bank account. You can't borrow it. You can't work harder and earn more of it. And you certainly can't hoard it. In fact, all you can do with it is spend it. It's **TIME**, of course, the universal coin of achievement, equally available to all.

Robert Ripley, the "Believe It or Not" man, once pointed out: "A plain bar of iron is worth \$5. This same bar of iron, made into horseshoes, is worth \$10.50. If made into needles, it is worth \$355.00. If made into knife blades, it is worth \$3285.00, and if turned into balance springs for watches, that same identical bar of iron becomes worth \$250,000.00. **THE SAME IS TRUE OF TIME!!!**

Some people can turn an hour into horseshoes; others can turn it into needles. A smaller number knows how to change it into knife blades. But only a few have learned how to transform a golden hour into true tempered watch springs.

Jacobsturg needs just a little of your time. Time for the Fur Trade Rendezvous and the Annual Meeting in October, the Fall Cleanup in November, and the Christmas Party in December.

Let your Historical Society friends show you how to turn some of your **TIME** into watch springs, participate or volunteer to help now.

*Ron Gabel, President*

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Since Ron has mentioned Volunteer time, mark your calendars now for our Fall Cleanup Day on Saturday, November 4th, with a rain date on November 11th. Most of the work will be outside, trying to get the grounds ready for the winter. We begin at 9:00 A.M., come when you can and leave when you must, we don't punch any time clocks. Lunch will be served and coffee, tea and soda will be available all day. We hope to see you then!

## 2000 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

The Pennsylvania Longrifle Heritage Museum at the Henry Homestead is open to the public every Sunday, 1:00 to 4:00 P.M. until the end of October. There is no admission charge.

- September 27            Start Basic Longrifle Gunsmithing Course - 8 wks. 7-10 PM
- Sept. 30-Oct. 1        Civil War Event - Civil War Display and Reenactment. See attached flyer.
- October 19             JHS Annual Dinner - Details will be in the mail soon.
- October 28-29         American Fur Trade & Halloween Rendezvous
- November 4            Volunteer Fall Cleanup. Rain date - November 11th.
- December 2            Volunteer Christmas Get-together
- December 3            Old Fashioned Christmas Open House

For more information, call our Visitors Center - 610-746-2809; Jim Wilson, Program Coordinator, FAX 610-746-5601; or Email - [jacobsburg@fast.net](mailto:jacobsburg@fast.net)

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### ANNUAL FALL DINNER AND MEETING Thursday, October 19, 2000

Once again this is the time of year for our Annual Meeting and Dinner which will be held on October 19th. Information on the Dinner and our Speaker for the evening will be in the mail shortly.

A brief business meeting will be held at which time Directors for the Class of 2002 will be elected. The Nominating Committee, composed of Richard Steiner, Chairman, Pam Repsher, and Richard Hujsa, has proposed the following slate of Directors for election:

William Atherton	Philip Schroeder
Joseph Flemish	Richard Steiner
Robert Newell	Earl Van Norman

Nominations will be accepted from the floor, however, before presenting a name for election, please be sure the person you are nominating is willing to serve.

We look forward to seeing you on October 19th.

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## THE INTERPRETER'S CORNER

by Jim Wilson

Jacobsburg is located along the southernmost bounds of the slate belt in Northampton County. Naturally, the entrepreneurial Henry family took full advantage of this fact. In addition to their famous arms and iron industries at Jacobsburg, Henry's Forge and Boulton, the Henrys also played a role in the business of slate quarrying. In fact, in his 1894 column, **Memories of Old Nazareth**, which appeared in the Nazareth Item, John Woolf Jordan credits the Henrys as the first folks to quarry slate in the county in the early 1840s. Jordan wrote, "*This slate was the first that was quarried in Northampton County, and was obtained near the Bushkill Creek a short distance above the gun factory of Judge Henry.*" Apparently this slate was quarried to manufacture a walkway in the Square at Nazareth Hall. Today its generally agreed that slate was first quarried in Northampton County in the early 1800s, at Slateford, in Upper Mount Bethel Township. But the Henry quarry operation that Jordan referred to predates the establishment of the slate industry in the nearby quarry boomtowns of Bangor, Pen Argyl and Wind Gap by more than a decade.

In addition to the slate quarry "*a short distance above the gun factory of Judge Henry*" (which exists today as a small "frog pond" near the intersection of the Henry's Woods and Jacobsburg Trails at Boulton"), the Henrys owned and operated the Boulton Slate Quarry from 1866 to 1873. Located off Filetown Road about one-half mile south of Boulton, the Boulton Slate Quarry appears to have been a substantial operation. A large "dump" of slate spoils surrounds the quarry, which has long been abandoned and serves as a private fishing and swimming hole today. Slate foundations for derricks and work shanties are visible on the dump and rusted iron cables litter the surrounding landscape. It would be interesting to know how many homes and other buildings in the surrounding communities were roofed with slate shingles manufactured at the Boulton Slate Quarry.

Not only did the Henrys make economic use of slate as part of their business enterprises, but they also made practical use of slate in the construction of their business infrastructure. Without exception, every milldam the Henrys built on Bushkill Creek to supply waterpower to the families industries, was located where the stream exposed a thick vein of slate. Built into a "rock-solid" outcrop of slate no doubt ensured the structural stability and integrity of the dams, a paramount concern with waterpowered industries.

From gunmaking to ironmaking to slate quarrying and more, the Henrys exploited local natural resources to create an impressive diversity of business enterprises in the upper Bushkill Creek Valley. In so doing, they have gone down in history as one of the most entrepreneurial families in early Northampton County.

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*Estelle Shedlauskas, Editor*

# **CIVIL WAR !**

**Encampment & Historical Portrayal at:  
Jacobsburg Historical Society**

**September 30 & October 1, 2000**

**At the Boulton Plantation – Belfast Exit off of Route 33**

**Go West to 402 Henry Road, Belfast, PA.**

**Sat. 10AM to 5 PM & Sunday 10 AM to 4 PM**

**Presents the Civil War 1861 - 1865**

**Units will portray Union Camp Military Life  
Skirmishing, Drilling, Games & Competitions.**

**U.S. Sanitary Commission Fair**

**See what the U.S. Sanitary Commission did on the Home Front  
and in the Field to support the U.S. Soldiers during the Civil War.**

**Pennsylvania Longrifle Heritage Museum**

**A Extensive Display of the Long Arms, Pistols, Swords & Artifacts  
of the Civil War. Also a display of Henry Family Civil War Artifacts.**

**J. Joseph Henry House- Museum**

**Helen Beedle At our 1860's Chickering Piano**

*Helen Beedle, A Civil War Era Concert Pianist, will be joining us to play Civil War  
Period music in the Parlor. Helen is a very accomplished Pianist who tours the U.S.*

**Summer Kitchen**

**See & Smell our 18th & 19th Century Hearth Cooking Demonstration.**

**Gunsmith Shop**

**See our Master Craftsmen & their Apprentices Reproducing the Henry Rifles.**

**Blacksmith Shop**

**Hear the ringing of our Blacksmith's hammers hard at work producing hardware  
for the Boulton Plantation or our Customers. (Check out the Gift Shop)**

**Gardens**

**We have both a 19<sup>th</sup> Century Formal Flower Garden & Herb Garden.**

**Come Walk in Henry's Woods**

**View our 150+ year old Trees. Elms, Oaks, Larch & Hemlocks.**

**Hike the Miles of Trails on the beautiful adjoining State Park.**

**Admission \$ 3.00 Adults  
Children under 12 - FREE  
J.H.S. Members - FREE**

**For Info Call: Mr. Jim Wilson  
Visitors Center at 610-746-2809**

# The Jacobsburg Historical Society

Presents an

## American Fur Trade Rendezvous

"A SPECIAL HALLOWEEN at BOULTON"

### October 28 & 29, 2000

At the Boulton Plantation - Belfast Exit off of Route 33

Go West to 402 Henry Road, Belfast, PA.

Sat. 10AM to 5 PM & Sunday 10 AM to 4 PM

### The Rendezvous

A Pre-1840 Primitive Living History Camp is in the Program Area.

They portray Camp Life along with demonstrations of Knife & Tomahawk throwing, Primitive Archery, Black Powder Shooting, Primitive Fishing, and Baking Contest as well as Crafts, Trades and Traders of the Fur Trade Period.

### Pennsylvania Longrifle Museum

On Display will be Rifles, Pistols & Smoothbores of the American Fur Trade, Accouterments of the Fur Trapper & Traders plus Trade Goods of all description.

### John Joseph Henry House

Tour our 1832 Philadelphia Style Townhouse. All the collections, furnishings, books, paintings, house wares, etc. are ALL Henry Family Possessions. Take the Tour & see how an affluent 19<sup>th</sup> Century Family lived in Rural Pennsylvania.

### The Gunsmith Shop

Observe our Master Craftsmen & their Apprentices Recreating the Henry Longrifles & Half-stock rifles of the Fur Trade Period. Bring along your family Heirloom rifle and have our experts tell you all about it and appraise it FREE.

### The Blacksmith Shop

Hear the Ring of the Blacksmiths Hammer at work producing ironware for the Boulton Plantation and for YOU our Friends and Supporters. ( see: the Gift Shop )

### The Summer Kitchen

See our 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> Century Hearth Cooks in Action preparing Authentic dishes of early America. Maybe pick up a new Receipt (Recipe).

### Gardens

Visit our 19<sup>th</sup> Century Gardens, talk with our Gardeners and learn of their importance in History. We have both Formal Flower & Herb Gardens. Sit awhile and enjoy.

### Come Walk in Henry's Woods

View our 160+ year old English Elms, Oaks & Hemlocks along the Bushkill. Hike the 12.5-Miles of Trail in the adjoining Park in this beautiful Fall Season. Stop in at our New Boulton Visitors Center and say Hello to Jim.

Admission \$ 3.00 Adults  
Children under 12 - Free  
J.H.S. Members are always FREE

For Information Call:  
Boulton Visitors Center at 610-746-2809  
Mr. Jim Wilson