

**JACOBSBURG
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY**

2004 Calendar of Events

Updated with each issue

(Phone 610-746-2809 for more information and/or reservations)

Sept 19-Nov 17—"Basic Gun-smithing Course" (7-10 pm, Weds at the Henry Homestead)

October 8—"Boulton Wayside Dedication Ceremony" 1pm. Interpretive Wayside walk with Jim Wilson begins at 2pm.

October 16—"Scout Day" (9am-noon, Henry's Forge/Boulton)

October 17—"Walnutport Canal Day" (Henry gun exhibit along the Lehigh Canal)

October 21—"Annual Membership Dinner" (5:30-9pm at the Holy Family Club, Nazareth)

October 23—"Heritage Tour" Interpretive bicycle tour of Jacobsburg's historical sites, 10am-12pm)

October 30-31—"American Fur Trade Rendezvous" (annual living history encampment at Boulton) 10am-5pm Saturday, 10am-3pm Sunday

Sept/Oct 2004

Volume XXXI, Issue 5

THE JACOBSBURG RECORD

Storm Leaves its Mark on Jacobsburg

In the early morning hours of Saturday, Sept. 18, on the date when many would be making preparations for Nazareth's Evening on Main St., the remnants of Hurricane Ivan rolled into the Bushkill Creek Watershed. By the time floodwaters crested along the Delaware on Sunday, everyone knew this storm would be one for the history books.

The greatest impact in the Jacobsburg area, however, was felt before noon on Saturday. By then the pedestrian bridge to Henry's Woods from the main parking lot, the Sober's Run historic stone arch bridge, and the 1935 steel bridge at Boulton, had all succumbed to the raging water the storm had unleashed. The water on the Boulton end of the Bushkill reached from the windows of the stone house all the way over and just past the gun factory site along Henry Road.



Mother Nature takes back the steel bridge along Henry Road in this photo taken shortly after the collapse.

The pedestrian bridge had already been damaged by a storm and closed a few weeks prior, when it was hit by a large tree carried on the swollen creek. The bridge fell during this storm, and the day after, its stone abutment on the Henry's Woods side also fell into the creek. The stone bridge over Sober's Run was already out of service and blocked from any traffic for several years. It has collapsed, but fortunately the barricades built to block it off for safety are still there.

Having survived the flood of 1955 and numerous other high water events, the Boulton bridge buckled sometime shortly before noon on Saturday the 18th. PennDOT has already sought consultation from the Jacobsburg Historical Society and local citizens regarding issues of reconstruction. Until the bridge is replaced, detours will inconvenience visitors to the Homestead who are coming from the Route 33 or Belfast area.

In other parts of the park 12 small trail bridges and walkways were lost, approximately one-third of the trails were damaged, and the stream study teaching station washed away completely. No significant damage was reported around the Homestead or John Joseph House.

A message from the president...

Jacobstown has had its share of events this year but the two major hurricane remnants have certainly kept us on our toes. As the State bridge collapsed it sent water into the Stone House by the Bushkill and swept large boulders onto the lawn. But, we are on top of it and plan to have the place cleaned up and back in shape by mid October. The DCNR crews continue their efforts to replace trails and cope with washed out footbridges.

Several major events have been well attended and we have had hundreds of visitors at the historic Henry Homestead museum since it opened in May. We plan to keep it open on Sundays from 1:00 until 4:00 PM until November 1. If you have not seen the Pennsylvania Longrifle Museum, please drop in. You will be pleased with the quality of the displays.

In addition to the numerous events highlighted in the events section of the "Record" this year, The three major events planned for the fall are:

Our **Annual Membership Dinner** on Thursday October 21, with guest speaker Donald L. Fennimore of the Winterthur Museum whole will make a presentation on early 19th century furniture. We are planning for a good turn-

out for this famed curator. This meeting sets the stage for the next year as we share a brief status of the organization and plans for 2005. Please get your reservations in early.

On Saturday October 30-31 we have our **American Fur Trade Rendezvous** – with a pre- 1840 Primitive Living History encampment. There is something there for everyone with the Museum; the John Joseph Henry House, the Gunsmith and Blacksmith shops open for all. Jacobstown members will have a tasty food concession as well as 18th and 19th century American dishes from our Summer Kitchen.

And last but not least, we are hosting a **Members only Open House** on Saturday November 20, from 10:00AM until 4:00 PM with displays, music and refreshments. This is a good chance for members to get to know each other and learn more about Jacobstown.

Things are happening at Jacobstown. Come be a part of it.

Jacobstown Historical Society

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 1st Vice-President—Richard Steiner, Wind Gap
 2nd Vice-President—William Hillanbrand, Hellertown
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 Treasurer—Ronald Gabel, Slatington

The Jacobstown Historical Society is a member-supported nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving and presenting the art and industry of making early American firearms, and the character of the individuals and community that created and sustained that enterprise. The Jacobstown Record is published bimonthly by the Jacobstown Historical Society, 441 Henry Road, Nazareth, Pennsylvania 18064, 610-746-2809, and is mailed to Society members and supporters.

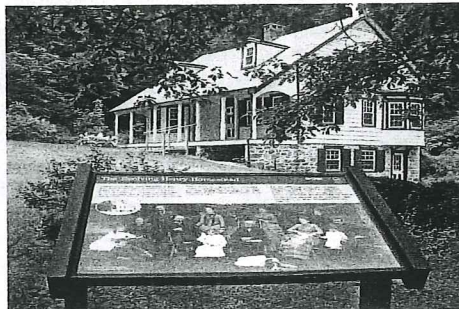
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Welcome to the Boulton Heritage Walk

After many years of hard work, preparation, and anticipation, the Boulton Heritage Walk has finally been completed. The wayside project includes 22 wayside exhibits situated at 10 sites along a half mile trail. Starting at the Boulton visitors parking lot, the trail traces a path from the gun works site over the footbridge to the Homestead and J. J. House.



Environmental Education Center; Dale Prinkey, Park Manager of Jacobsburg;; Mike Jones, Environmental Education Supervisor for State Parks in Eastern PA; and Matt Azeles, Chief of Environmental Information for PA State Parks at PA State Parks Central Office in Harrisburg.

A special thanks to Jacobsburg's maintenance crew who built the visitors deck at the Boulton parking lot, made vital trail

waysides are colorful outdoor exhibit panels with graphics and text, mounted on sturdy aluminum frames. Ours tell the story of the Henry family and their historically significant gun making industry which they established along the Bushkill Creek at Boulton. These waysides will greatly enhance a visitors experience here, allowing them to receive interpretive information about the park while walking at their own pace, without the need for a personal tour guide.

The project was a terrific collaboration of public and private partnerships working together to provide a service for Lehigh Valley residents and visitors alike. Although many people had a hand in making this happen the core team included Jim Wilson, former Heritage Program Specialist of Jacobsburg

improvements, and installed the waysides. The crew that contributed several weeks of labor includes Terry Ginder, Jim Gibbard, Sam Merkel, and volunteer Ron Marshall. The DCNR Park Region 4 Swing Crew prepared the cement foundations for the waysides, so be assured they are built to last.

Funding for this project came from the PA Bureau of State Parks, PA Historical and Museum Commission, Delaware and Lehigh National Heritage Corridor and State Heritage Park, and the Jacobsburg Historical Society.

The Heritage Walk dedication ceremony scheduled for 1:00 pm Friday, Oct. 8 will feature special guest Jim Wilson, who will lead an interpretive wayside walk at 2:00 pm.

Nominees for Election and Reelection to JHS Board of Directors

The nominating committee of Carolyn Flemish, Robert Chattin, and Philip Schroeder will submit a slate of nominees at the annual dinner meeting on October 21 for election and reelection to three-year terms on the Board of Directors.

Our nominees for reelection to the Board are well known members of the Society and each has a long and distinguished record of service to the Board and the Society. They are:

Joseph DiGerlando
Virginia Lopresti
John Molnar, Esq.
Donald Repsher
A. James Shedlauskas.

*Active, interested
are Mr. Tom LeDoux, JHS Vol, and Neiderhousen*

Also nominated is Mr. David Ehrig for election to his initial term on the Board. Dave is a retired teacher and a long-time writer on outdoor and environmental subjects. He has participated in events and activities at Jacobsburg and is interested in the history of our area as well as in Henry guns.

Please plan to attend the **Annual Dinner Meeting** and cast a vote of support for these well-deserving individuals.

Junior Historians Explore Jacobstown

This summer a group of young people "settled" into the Henry's Forge area of Jacobstown Environmental Education Center. They were not there to farm or forge iron as the previous inhabitants had done.

These students were here to investigate the cultural and natural history of the area by enrolling in the Junior Historians summer program held July 28-30 this year.



Jr. Historians show off the corn husk dolls they made after completing a study on early agriculture of Henry's Forge.

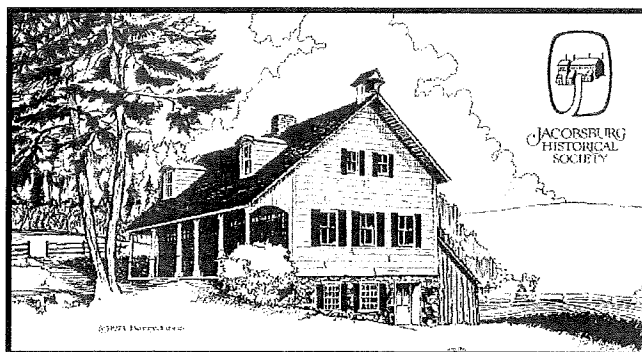
The Junior Historians is part of the Youth Environmental Learning Series, or YELS program, which are administered at many state park locations around the Commonwealth. Other YELS Programs offered at Jacobstown include Touch and Grow (ages 4-5), Environmental Discovery (ages 6-8), and Junior Naturalist (ages 9-13).

For this year's Junior Historians program, a place-based educational model was used. The Bushkill Watershed was investigated during the stream study to recognize the value of the natural resources here at Jacobstown. How the Lenape as first inhabitants made their living here, is our first link to the human history of the area. The students then took on the role of homesteaders, and by way of a soil study determined the best place to "put down roots". Next was a study of

various 19th artifacts and tools. Through direct observation, drawings and writings, students chronicled new information in their journals. Finally, the Henry heritage of gunmaking in Jacobstown was studied, first the iron works of Henry's Forge, culminating in a tour of the Pennsylvania Longrifle Museum.

***** Mark Your Calendar *****

The **ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DINNER** on October 21 is fast approaching. Guest speaker **Donald L. Fennimore** from the **Winterthur Museum** will present a slide program on early 19th century furniture. The election of nominees to the Board of Directors will also take place at the meeting so be sure to attend. 5:30-9 pm at the Holy Family Club, Nazareth



The Pennsylvania Longrifle Museum at the Henry Homestead

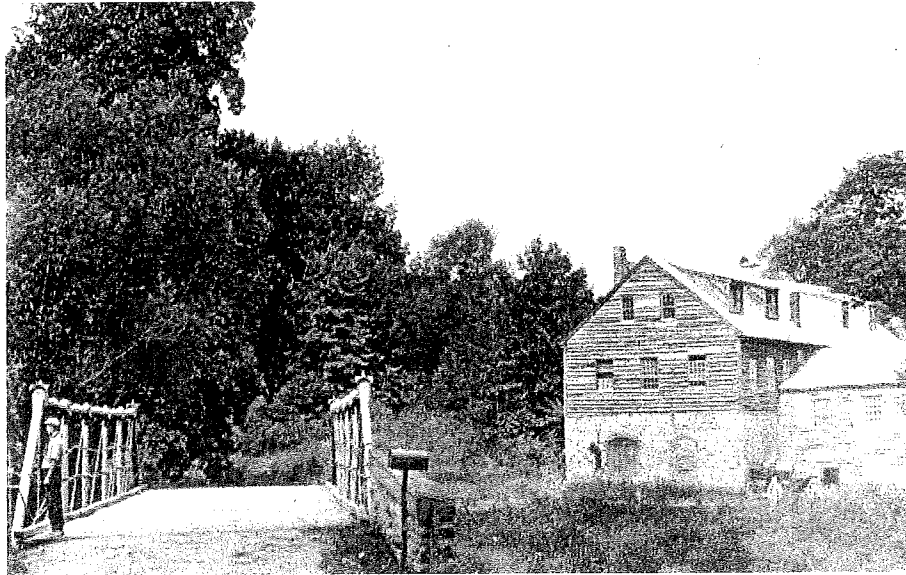
Now open 1-4 pm every Sunday through October

"Boulton rests silently now, a century removed from the glory of a thriving industry. Void of virtually all modern-day trappings, the area echoes of a time passed—an ideal setting in which to rekindle the spirit of history by developing the Museum of the Pennsylvania Longrifle at the Henry Homestead."

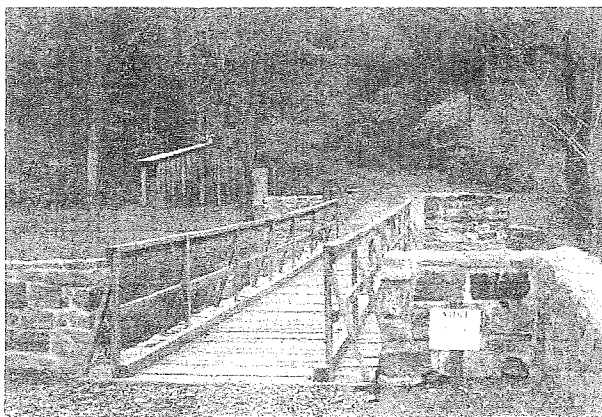
Urban Research & Development Corporation Boulton Facilities Master Plan

The Jacobstown Historical Society has raised over \$345,000 for the Pennsylvania Longrifle Museum project at the Henry Homestead. We still need \$30,000 to fully complete this one-of-a-kind heritage attraction. We are grateful for those who have generously supported this project. Please consider making a gift toward completing the Pennsylvania Longrifle Museum. Come visit the museum this year to see what has been done so far, and how you can help complete it. Thank you.

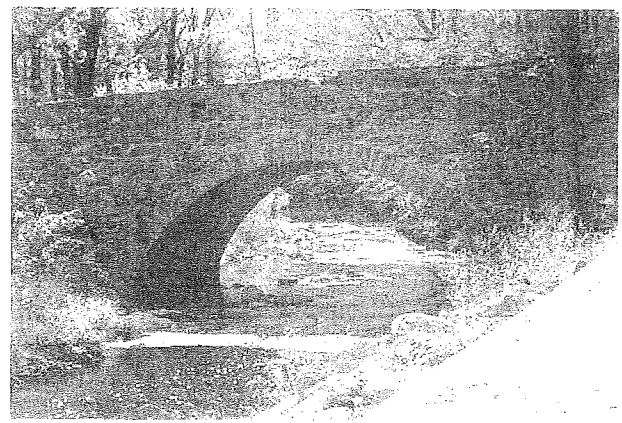
Looking Back.....



A view over the Bushkill towards the Boulton gunworks in this c.1920 photograph reveals a bridge which was perhaps the first permanent predecessor to the steel Henry Rd. bridge which was recently claimed by the storm.



The pedestrian bridge leading from the main parking lot into Henry's Woods will be sorely missed until a replacement is constructed.

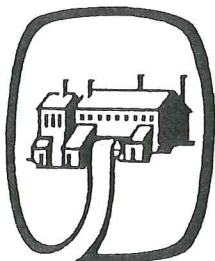


Built of earth and stone, the Sober's Run Bridge was the oldest bridge in the park.

Jacobsburg Historical Society

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**JACOBSBURG
HISTORICAL
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The Jacobsburg Historical Society was founded in 1972 to save and interpret the historical Henry family estate and industrial properties, the family's gun and iron making heritage, and to help establish the Jacobsburg National Historic District. In partnership with the Pennsylvania Bureau of State Parks, Jacobsburg Environmental Education Center, the Society also preserves and presents the cultural history and interconnected story of human life and land use in the Jacobsburg reach of the Bushkill Creek watershed with interpretive and educational programming. The Society operates the Museum of the Pennsylvania Longrifle at the Henry Homestead, and maintains the 1834 John Joseph Henry House at Boulton as a historic house museum with administrative and curatorial offices.

**JACOBSBURG,
WHERE HISTORY
LIVES!**

Membership Form

___ Renewal.....or.....___ New Member

Please check appropriate category

___ Student \$7.00
___ Individual \$10.00
___ Family \$20.00
___ Contributing \$25.00

___ Organization \$50.00
___ Apprentice \$75.00
___ Journeyman \$100.00
___ Master Craftsman \$250.00+

All contributions are tax deductible as provided by law

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