

The Jacobsburg Record

SOCIETY OFFICE - 610-759-9029

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 1997

VOL. XXV NO. 5

ANNUAL FALL MEETING AND DINNER

October 23, 1997

Stockertown Memorial Hall

Please mark this date on your calendar now! See the attached flyer for details on our speaker for the evening, and the reservation slip to be returned to the Society.

A brief business meeting will be held at which time Directors for the Class of 2000 will be elected. The Nominating Committee, composed of Ronald Gabel, Chairman, Richard Hujsa, and Alan Boyer, has proposed the following slate of Directors for election:

William H. Atherton

Richard Steiner

Joseph Flemish, Jr.

Philip Schroeder

Matthew Morris

Earl Van Norman

Robert Newell

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.

Make your plans now to attend this dinner meeting and hear what is happening at our Society. Return your completed reservation slips as soon as possible to the address shown on the flyer.

GOVERNOR TOM RIDGE VISITS JACOBSBURG HISTORICAL SOCIETY

It was a beautiful Summer day, brilliant sunshine, clear skies, moderate temperature and **Governor Tom Ridge of Pennsylvania** came to Lunch at the John Joseph Henry House in Boulton.

No, this was not an excerpt from a newspaper of 150 years ago, it was Sept. 5, 1997. The Jacobsburg Historical Society was host to the Governor and 140 cyclists who were traveling from Scranton to Trexlertown. This was the third annual Keystone Ride to promote tourism and bicycling in Pennsylvania.

GOV. RIDGE VISIT (Cont'd.)

And so it was that the Jacobsburg Historical Society had an opportunity to showcase our Society and its possessions for the Governor, his staff, and a sizeable number of local political figures.

Dr. Brent Glass, Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Historical And Museum Commission (PHMC) was on hand to greet the Governor and introduce him to the officers and members of JHS. Also among the cyclists was Secretary John Oliver, head of the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR). Mr. Oliver was given a surprise birthday party during the lunch stop and was presented with a large cake which he proceeded to slice with a "Henry" saber, to the delight of the visitors.

The Governor was escorted onto the property by a squad from the 96th Penna. Volunteer Infantry, a reenactment unit which has developed a close relationship with the JHS. Having been welcomed by the Society officers, the Governor was given an informal tour of the property. This included a stop at the Summer Kitchen where he sampled the food prepared by our cooks, then to the Gardens where he discussed the plantings of flowers and herbs at some length. All the while, he stopped to talk to the local folks and Society members, and posed for dozens of photographs.

From there, Gov. Ridge was escorted on a tour of the J. Joseph House, from the public rooms on the first floor all the way to the attic and the work rooms on the third floor. Even after the tour, the Governor did not rush off but enjoyed another piece of cake before remounting his bike and continuing his trip to Nazareth, Bethlehem and Allentown.

His Excellency the Governor thanked us several times and insisted that we send him the recipe for the venison roast that he sampled in the Kitchen. Thus ended the one hour lunchstop which actually lasted almost two and one-half hours. We have been told on good authority that the Governor was still talking about Boulton three days after his visit.

It should be mentioned here that this meeting and party was such a resounding success due to the efforts of about forty (40) volunteers who came out to set up tents, displays and demonstrations, and then stayed to tear down and put everything away again.

"Thank You" to all who helped to make this event the huge success that everyone enjoyed so much!

Jim Shedlauskas

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1997 SPECIAL PROGRAM SCHEDULE

October 18-19	Civil War Encampment (See attached flyer)
December 6	Volunteer Holiday Get-Together
December 7	Christmas Open House

THE PRESIDENT'S SOAPBOX

WOW! Where did the Summer go? Here it is September and my article is probably holding up this publication, but sooo much has gone on at Boulton this summer that there has been scant little time to write let alone visit the mountains or the beach.

A video on Senator Uliana's visit to JHS was recently aired on a local TV Channel - I hope you were able to see it.

"BOUDINE HOUSE," better known as Mrs. Ahles' House, will soon be added to the Society's Property Management. Jim Shedlauskas has been doing research to find the earliest resident of this Henry house. Right now that appears to have been a Mr. Boudine, Barrel Forger at the Boulton Factory about 1817. The Boudine House is being converted into a Visitors Center for the Boulton complex and, hopefully, will be open to visitors by April 1998, with an elevated wooden walkway erected to connect it to the Boulton Parking Lot.

If you have been to Boulton since Sept. 3, you should have noticed that the first two, long awaited, signs have been installed. They welcome visitors to **"BOULTON - An Early Pennsylvania Gun Making Community."** They are Partnership Signs, showing the cooperation between the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, the Delaware & Lehigh Navigation Canal National Heritage Corridor, and our Society. Two additional smaller signs are yet to be erected, one at the Museum Parking lot and one at the Boulton Parking lot.

On July 18 we had the pleasure of hosting a visit to Boulton by Secretary John Oliver, head of Pennsylvania Department of Conservation & Natural Resources. He was aware of all the activities going on at Jacobsburg and came for a first-hand look at our operation. Meetings through the afternoon and into early evening were very fruitful and established a stronger bond and understanding between his Department and JHS.

If all that wasn't enough, on Sept. 9 Roger Fickes, Director of the PA Bureau of State Parks visited Boulton to discuss our Partnership with the Jacobsburg E.E.Center and the Bureau of State Parks. It was a very successful visit with a commitment from the Bureau to assist us with creating Wayside Signs to be installed in the Boulton area and an expansion of the lease to include the Boudine House.

Our Fall Adult Education Programs Off To A Fabulous Start --

The Tea Party in the Garden drew 26 participants and was very ably managed by our Head Gardener, Becky Lubenesky Speth, with Carolyn Flemish and the Penn State Master Gardeners. It was very well received and it was suggested that it become an annual event. Also, a February 1998 program of "Getting Started for Spring Planting" is in the planning stages.

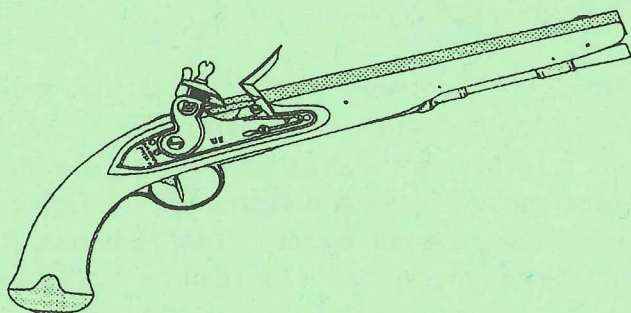
Bob Chattin, our Master Blacksmith, has four apprentice Blacksmiths in his program as well as 3 or 4 observers. Bob has been doing a superb job. This initial 8-week program finished on October 7 and the second course is scheduled for Spring 1998.

THE PRESIDENT'S SOAPBOX (Cont'd.)

Our Gunsmith Apprentice Program starts October 1, and has been full, plus several persons on a waiting list, for several weeks now. The Master Gunsmiths teaching the course are building replicas of two different Henry Flintlock Longrifles. These will be offered for sale next summer. (See Ron Gabel for more information.) They will be signed, dated and numbered as the first rifles produced at Boulton since the Henry factory was closed. Many thanks to George Dech, Rich Hujsa and Jim Correll for taking their time to teach this course and recreating these rifles for the Society.

Lastly, October 18 & 19 is our **Annual Civil War Event**. There are a number of new programs added to this already outstanding event and there will be new collections on display in the Museum. Some include Henry Family Civil War letters never before displayed and an exciting collection of Swords and Arms of the Civil War. See attached flyer for additional information.

SEE YOU THERE!



Tim Lubenesky, President

Clewell Family Reunion - Following the Clewell Family Reunion at the Schoeneck Moravian Church on Sunday, August 24th, the group came to Boulton to tour the J. Joseph Henry House. The Clewells are related to the Henry family through Robert Henry, whose house stands across the road. John and Ruth Clewell, Jr. were the last private owners of the Homestead. Guides for this tour were Matt Morris, Peggy Jarrett, William Atherton, Robert Frick and Don Repsher.

A Visit from the Moorestown Grange - On August 20th, members of the Moorestown Grange came to Boulton. After a business meeting at the Homestead, the group was given a tour of the J. Joseph Henry House. Following the tour they returned to the Homestead for a picnic supper on the lawn. It is always good to see a group like this taking advantage of our beautiful grounds and historic buildings - this is why we preserve them. Guides for the tour were William Atherton and Robert Frick.

Blacksmith Shop Addition - Eric DiGerlando of Boy Scout Troop #74 was recently invested with the rank of Eagle Scout. Eric's public service project was the construction of the platform outside our Blacksmith building from which visitors can view the activity within. Earlier, Eric had a major hand in construction of the blacksmith's forge, which he faced with brick from the old Henry Forge. Both of these projects have added much to the Society's craft program, and we thank Eric for his good work.

THE INTERPRETER'S CORNER

by Jim Wilson

Back in the early part of August, Mr. Jim Tavianini, on vacation from Corona, CA stopped by the Jacobsburg Environmental Education Center office for a nostalgic visit. I couldn't help but overhear Jim's reminiscent conversation with our Center office manager, and so I soon joined with an attentive ear in his colorful discourse. Nearly eighty years ago, Jim began his public schooling at the one-room Jacobsburg Schoolhouse that once stood where the Center office now stands. Every now and again, a former student from that one-room schoolhouse era stops by the Center office to reminisce and chat with State Parks staff. But what's more with Jim's story is that, as you may already know, Mr. Tavianini and his family are among the last residents to have called the one-time village of Jacobsburg, "home." While Jim has made southern California his home for many years now, he spent fifteen of his boyhood years growing up along the banks of the Bushkill at Jacobsburg in the very same stone house Matthew Henry once called home nearly two centuries ago. Since this was news to me, I wasn't going to let Mr. Tavianini get away without leading me on an interpretive walk around the site of his boyhood home. With only a few days left in his vacation with family at Nazareth, we made plans for the following afternoon.

The next day, Jim and I spent the afternoon of his 86th birthday and my wedding anniversary together, stomping around the ruins of old Jacobsburg. Although it had been nearly seventy years since Mr. Tavianini last lived at Jacobsburg, and in a landscape much different than what appears today, Jim's sense of place and direction as he led us from one location to another around the vanished village was remarkable. But it was the stories he told that I'll best remember.

It had been only seven years since the last Henry rifles were assembled from earlier-made parts and sold from the Henry Gun Works about a mile downstream on the Bushkill at Boulton when Jim Tavianini and his family first moved to Jacobsburg. From 1914 to August of '29, Jim's father rented property, then known as the Jacobsburg Tract, from the City of Easton. By that time, the village had devolved back into a farmstead and the Tavianinis cultivated, by horse-drawn equipment, a large part of the middle section of, what is today, the Jacobsburg Environmental Education Center and National Historic District. In his fifteen years at Jacobsburg, Jim saw five of his siblings born at the old iron master's house. With only a handful of buildings left standing from the village's early industry heyday and with no other tenants "in town", the Tavianini children had the run of Jacobsburg. Before he was old enough to help work the farm with his father, Jim remembered summers playing "king of the mountain" on huge piles of colorful, glass-like iron slag adjacent to the Ann Catharine furnace foundation; and winters skating on the Boulton mill pond, stopping once-in-a-while to rest at the ice house on the west shore of the mill pond.

Mr. Tavianini vividly recalled his first big farm task. At the age of ten, Jim had to hitch a wagon full of fresh milk and deliver it for processing to Lafona's Mill on the Little Bushkill a few miles northeast of Jacobsburg. Jim remembered nervously leading his team of horses across the newly constructed "concrete highway" - better known today as Route 115 or Sullivann's Trail -

The Interpreter's Corner (Cont'd.)

fearing the jugs of milk would tumble over as the wagon bounced onto and then off of the raised, concrete road surface at its intersection with the old, dirt Minisink Road.

Jim also recounted how the now-gone bank barn at Jacobsburg was the biggest of its kind in Northampton County; how he was taught school by some of the maiden Henry women; and how his father supplied courthouse officials with some of the best 'shine in the county during prohibition - home-made right at Jacobsburg. After showing me the site of the saw mill his father and uncle had built just west of Jacobsburg Road, Jim and I parted company. Next September, Jim's grandson plans to be married at Nazareth and Jim plans to be there with the promise that, "God willing," he'll again visit us at Jacobsburg. I'm already looking forward to it.

GARDEN UPDATE AND HAPPENINGS

In April, after constructing a new wall in the garden, Dan Speth proceeded to construct a new walkway into the Garden. Two small stone walls were constructed to frame the walk and a new flagstone walkway was laid in place of the slate. This walkway ties together with the new wall in the garden and provides a safer walkway. At this time Dan also placed bricks under the down spout on the shop, outside the door, and under the two outside faucets (one by the garden and one behind the shop). All time and materials were donated. Time by D. Speth, materials by Jacobsburg Historical Society and Jim Shedlauskas.

As you remember, this Spring we tilled under the side of the garden that had the grass problem. Preen & Green was applied to the area to help keep weeds down. Through vigilant hand-picking we seem to have gotten control of this problem with the grass. The side with the new wall was also filled with dirt and tilled. Preen & Green was also applied here with good results.

Planting started in late May. We have added twenty-nine (29) new varieties to the garden this year (list below). Most are annuals to fill in the spaces, but a number of perennials were also added.

A Butterfly Bush, donated by B. Lubenesky and D. Speth, was added to the side of the garden with the wall to balance the Forsythia bush in the corner. Bee Balm, Cardinal flowers, and a scented Geranium were also added, along with an assortment of annuals.

Hollyhocks were the only perennials added to the side with the grass at this time. After we have a frost we hope to add more perennials - currently in the holding bed - to this side. Annuals were used to fill in this side until we were sure the grass was under control.

Eventually, Daffodils will be moved to line the entire outside of the garden and the beds will be filled with Tulips to welcome Spring.

Garden (Cont'd.)

Below is a list of plants used in the garden this year. All were available to the gardeners of pre-1850. Whenever possible, correct varieties were used, although some exceptions have been made. Some of these include the Snapdragons which are newer rust resistant strains to avoid that problem, and tetraploid hybrid Marigolds were used when the older variety failed. The Marigolds retain the correct look, but have a superior blooming ability. Other than these two species, everything else is historically correct.

Next year I hope to try some other flowers, but this year I ran out of room in my greenhouse for more varieties. That's all for now. I hope you are enjoying the garden as much as I am. I'm already looking forward to it being bigger and better next year.

1997 Perennial List

Butterfly Bush	Geranium	Foxglove(Bloom 1998)
Bee Balm	Hollyhocks	Jacob's Ladder
Careopsis	Delphiniums	Touch-Me-Not
Shasta Daisy	Rose Campion	Sweet William (Bloom 1998)
Cardinal Flower		

Perennials were either donated, grown, or obtained at the Master Gardener Perennial Exchange. There was no cost to the Society for these plants.

1997 Annual List

Sweet Alyssum-white	Love-in-a mist	Catchfly
Balsam/Lady Slippers	Nasturtiums	Cosmos
Asst. Pinks	Snap Dragons	Zinnias
Cleome	Flowering Tobacco	Four O'Clocks
Marigold	Coleus	Statice

One flat of garden pinks were purchased. The Society provided potting soil, some flats and seeds for a cost of about \$30.00. B. Lubenesky grew the remaining plants.

Becky Lubenesky

The Society extends a sincere "thank you" to Becky and Dan for all the time and work they have volunteered to care for the garden. Due to their efforts, the garden has never looked so good. Another volunteer we wish to thank is Carolyn Flemish who has lovingly weeded and groomed the Herb Garden all summer long. The Herb Garden is located adjacent to the Summer Kitchen at the John Joseph House.

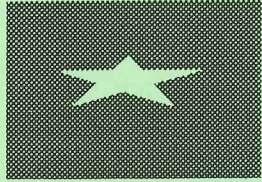
VOLUNTEER HELP WANTED

Museum Gift Shop Assistant Storekeeper - Part-time

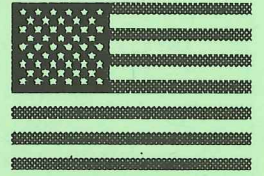
2 or 4 hour shifts

Call Terri Lubenesky - 262-8171

CIVIL WAR !



is Declared.



at the
Jacobsburg Historical Society
October 18 & 19, 1997
10 AM to 5 PM Daily
in cooperation with the
96th Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry
Company G & other Select Units
Presents a step back in time to the
Civil War 1861 - 1865

- 1. Military Camp Life , Skirmishing , Drilling &
New this Year Special War Scenes Reinacted.**
(Join a War Correspondent on the Battlefield, Feel the Living History)
- 2 In the Museum.**
A Extensive Display of the Long Arms & Swords of the
Civil War plus a display of Henry Family Civil War Artifacts .
- 3. On the Home Front at the J.J.Henry Mansion.**
See what the Ladies did at home to support the War Effort
and their Daily Life.
- 4. Summer Kitchen - Period Cooking Demonstration**
- 5. Sanitary / Christian Commissions at work.**



JACOBSBURG HISTORICAL SOCIETY

BOARD of DIRECTORS

CORDIALLY INVITES YOU TO ATTEND THE 1997 FALL MEETING and FAMILY DINNER

THURSDAY - OCTOBER 23, 1997

at the

STOCKERTOWN MEMORIAL HALL - STOCKERTOWN, PA

CASH BAR at 5:45 PM

DINNER at 6:30 PM

OUR HONORED GUEST SPEAKER IS

Sue Pridemore

"Interpretive Specialist"

Delaware & Lehigh Navigation Canal National Heritage Corridor Commission

Topic:

"Jacobsburg H.S. & the D & L Nav. Canal Nat. Heritage Corridor"

**NOTE: COME AND HEAR OF ALL THE NEW PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS FOR 1998
PLUS SEE THE NEW ADDITIONS TO THE "HENRY MUSEUM COLLECTION"**

THE STOCKERTOWN MEMORIAL HALL IS BEHIND COOPERS MOBIL STATION ON Rt.115
(MAIN ST./SULLIVAN TRAIL) STOCKERTOWN, PA.

(detach and return)

NAME _____ PHONE # _____

ADULTS _____ X \$ 15.00

CHILDREN under 12 - _____ x \$ 8.00

MY CHECK FOR \$ _____ IS ENCLOSED

RETURN RESERVATION AND PAYMENT TO:

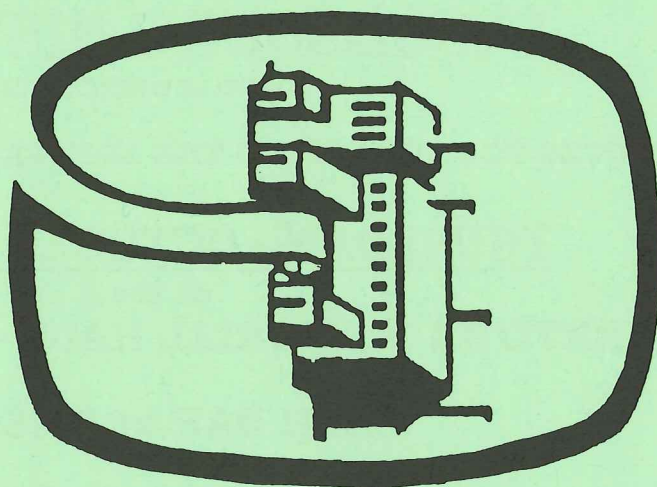
JACOBSBURG HISTORICAL SOCIETY

BOX 345

NAZARETH, PENNA. 18064

RSVP by OCTOBER 19, 1997

JACOBSTURG HISTORICAL SOCIETY



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