

The Jacobsburg Record

SOCIETY OFFICE - 610-759-9029

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 1998

VOL. XXVI NO. 5

ANNUAL FALL MEETING AND DINNER

October 22, 1998

Holy Family Club

Nazareth, Pa.

By this time you should have received the mailing giving details for the Fall Meeting and Dinner on October 22, 1998. If you have not returned your reservation yet, please do so as soon as possible

A brief business meeting will be held at which time Directors for the Class of 2001 will be elected. The Nominating Committee, composed of Richard Steiner, Chairman, Nancy Davis and Roberta Steiner, has proposed the following slate of Directors for election:

Joseph DiGerlando

Virginia Lopresti

John Molnar

Donald Repsher

A. James Shedlauskas

Wendy Totani

Mary Ann 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 22nd.

* * * * *



OCTOBER 24, 1998
FALL CLEAN-UP DAY
9:00 A.M.



New this year, we have set aside Saturday, October 24th, for a Fall Clean-up Day in the hope that we can get a head start for Spring. Most of the work to be done will be outside, such as raking leaves and cleaning up on the grounds. If you would like to work inside, the J.J.House needs a bit of light housekeeping.

Lunch will be served. Coffee, tea, hot chocolate and soft drinks will be available all day.

Plan now to spend the day. If you can only give an hour or two, any amount of time will be appreciated

In the event of inclement weather, the Rain Date will be October 31st.

CIVIL WAR EVENT

On October 2nd and 3rd, the Society presented their 13th Annual Civil War Event. Saturday was a beautiful sunny day but we did experience some scattered showers on Sunday. Despite the weather, the attendance was very good, and included many families with small children.

The Union Army was represented by the 96th Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry who were camped in the field to the east of the John Joseph House. The Confederate troops were camped in the area between the Blacksmith Shop and the Homestead Barn. Visitors were able to view Military Camp Life, Skirmishing, Drilling and reenactments of special battle scenes.

On Saturday evening Helen Beedle, a Civil War Era Concert Pianist, entertained the reenactors by playing Civil War Period music at the Chickering Piano in the parlor of the J. Joseph Henry House. On Sunday afternoon she also played the piano while visitors were touring the J.J. House.

Another interesting feature in the J.J. House was a very fine exhibit of civilian clothing featuring men's, women's and children's clothes and accessories, worn during the war years, 1861-1865. All clothing and accessories came from the collection of *Suellen Tatri*. This is her second exhibit at the J.J. House, her first being "The Common Aristocracy" in October 1996. Suellen is a noted Textile Conservator and her display was excellent.

The Summer Kitchen was in operation with Hearth Cooking Demonstrations, and the Blacksmith and Gunsmith Shops were working at their crafts. The Pennsylvania Longrifle Heritage Museum was open with a display of Long Arms, Pistols, Swords and Artifacts of the Civil War period.

It was an interesting and exciting weekend. A very big **THANK YOU** to our volunteers who helped, in any way, to make this event a success!

* * * * *

In conjunction with the Civil War, the following letters procured from our Microfilm Archives show contrasting views:

Philadelphia, April 20, 1861

Messrs. James Henry & Son

The deplorable condition of our unhappy country has placed me in a position in which I feel that I cannot do justice to you and act as your agent. I have been educated a Quaker and have never succeeded in convincing myself that their "peace principles" are

REMINISCENCES OF BOULTON

"Preparing for Winter"

by Mary Henry Stites

Through January-February-March, three rough weather months of the year, the family at Boulton, as well as the families of the men who worked in the factory, lived on the fruits of their labors from the summer before.

The cellars were filled with the barrels of apples from the orchards and barrels of salt beef and pork. The meats were pickled in brine strong enough to float an egg.

The smokehouses had the hams, tongues, sides of bacon, and sausages hanging from rifle barrels--discards from the factory. The only fresh meat, except for that obtained from the poultry yards--mostly chicken and duck with occasionally guinea fowl and turkey--came when one of James Henry's sons rode horseback into Nazareth through snow piled in deep drifts. There was a snowplough, a homemade affair shaped like an A and pulled by the farm horses--heavy going at best!

The weather this year of 1978, and last, seems a throwback to that of the 1850's, '60's and '70's as reported by family tales. We do have the help of motor-driven plows.

There was a certain sense of security in being self-sustaining and independent of the outside world. The menu may have been limited, but food was plentiful from the cellars, smokehouses, and barns. In cool cellars vegetables were stored for winter use. There was a plentiful supply of potatoes, beets, carrots, onions, turnips, salsify, celeric or root celery, winter cabbage, and squash of various kinds. (Webster's of 1890 says salsify is a plant of the genus Tragopogon, having a long, tapering root, of a mild, sweetish taste, like the parsnep (sic), often called the oyster plant, from its taste when fried.--The Editor) Curly endive could sometimes survive the fairly heavy cold.

Then there were the dried fruits and vegetables--what better than dried sweet corn brought in fresh from the "patch," shucked, washed, blanched, cut off the cob and slowly dried in pans, watched and turned with a spatula, the heat kept low or the corn would turn brown! When it was well dried--and it was a child's delight to munch the sweet nut-like kernels--it was put in bags and hung near the stove just to be sure there was no remnant of dampness. When the time came to use it, a suitable amount was put in a pot of water, about one cup of corn to two or three cups of water, then stood on the back of the coal stove for two hours or more until every kernel had swelled to succulent tenderness. Served with milk or cream and butter, pepper, and salt -- no more delicious vegetable ever graced a dinner table!



(This article appeared in the January/February 1978 issue of the Jacobsburg Record. Miss Stites resided in the J. Joseph Henry House until her death in 1989.)



CIVIL WAR (Cont'd.)

not correct. I have a warm sympathy with the government and love my native land...yet I find I cannot sell your guns with the knowledge that they are going directly into use for war...

I remain your friend,
A. B. Justice

- - - - -

Philadelphia, April 23, 1861

Mr. James Henry,

....We are very badly off for arms in Philadelphia, and if you work day and night you can never make half what we shall need for months.... Everything which can be done must be done to put down this most unnatural Rebellion. Do not fail me.... I have taken charge of all your Rifles, as Mr. A.B. Justice will not be able from religious scruples to do any business whatever in fire arms....

Very truly yours,
Philip S. Justice

* * * * *

We regret the recent death of *Beatrice Schlamp*, sister of John Schlamp. Bea was a very loyal Society member, and was Editor of the Record for many years. Another contribution was her organization of bus trips to many interesting places. We extend our sympathy to her family.

* * * * *

1998 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Oct. 24	Volunteer Fall Clean-Up Day Rain Date Oct. 31
Dec. 5	Volunteer Holiday Get-together
Dec. 6	Old Fashioned Christmas Open House

NEW OUTDOOR LIGHTING

Those of you who have visited Boulton after dark have had some interesting experiences traveling from the Homestead to the Parking Lot in the dark. Finally, this is coming to an end.

For the past few months we have been evaluating some changes to our outdoor lighting, both for convenience and security. The project has been divided into three phases. Lighting around the Barn, at the Homestead, and the John Joseph House.

The good news is that the Homestead work has been completed. We now have a new dusk-to-dawn security light providing light on the front and west side of the house. In addition, two lights have been installed on the east and west peaks of the Carriage House. The light on the east side provides light to the Parking Lot and the one on the west side provides light on the side and rear of the house, and the lawn, when required.

We'll keep you posted as it develops.

* * * * *

HENRY STABLE ACTIVE

From the date of its construction, the Stable and Carriage House played an important part in the lives of those who lived in the J. Joseph Henry House. Horses provided both transportation and recreation in the early days, and trips to Nazareth and Bethlehem were not measured in minutes as is now the case.

Both Mary Henry Stites and Matthew and Betty Morris kept riding horses at Boulton in recent times, and Mary Henry stipulated in her will that Matt Morris was to be in charge of the stable so long as he kept a horse there. And so he remains...

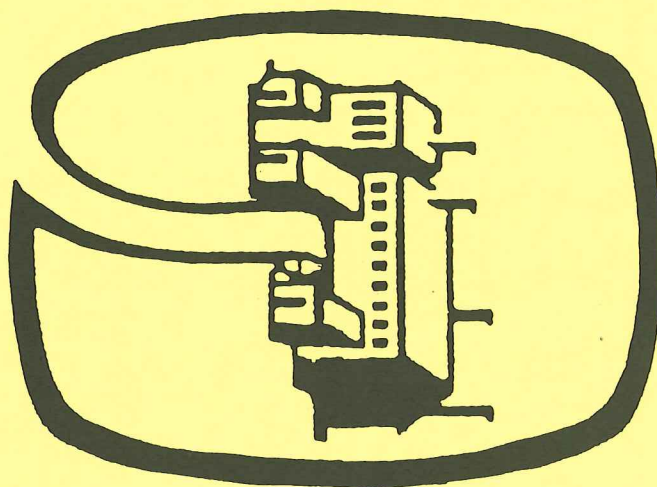
The Society is fortunate in the fact that not only is the stable an active place today but has grown in interest. At present three horses live here. "Kelly" the senior equine is part of the Morris family, while "Jigsaw", self-appointed equine CEO belongs to Richard and Roberta Steiner. "Napoleon," the most recent equine neighbor claims Daniel, Becky and Rachel Speth as family.

An active stable life is important to the Society, supplying a feature of daily life to our interpretation of Boulton in times past, and at minimal expense to the Society. Thus it was suggested that during Society events the stable be manned by someone able to greet visitors and extend the hospitality of the Society. At such times this activity will show our concern for the well-being of the structure and its occupants.

The Society owes a debt of gratitude to Matt Morris for his wise management of the whole operation, and to the owners who have become part of our interpretive activity. We wish happiness and success to these devotees of St. Aquinas, patron saint of horses.

* * * * *

JACOBSTOWN HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Jacobstown Historical Society
Box 345
Nazareth, Pennsylvania 18064

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE
Nazareth, Pa.
Permit No. 10

Phil and Barb Schroeder
394 Henry Road
Nazareth, PA 18064