

The Jacobsburg Record

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 1990

VOL. XVIII

No. 6

OPEN HOUSE

GOOD NEWS! On Sunday, November 25, 1990, from 1 to 5 P.M., the first floor of the John Joseph Henry house will be open for MEMBERS ONLY!. The house is not yet ready to be opened to the general public; hence, the MEMBERS ONLY invitation

AND

On Sunday, December 2, 1990, from 1 to 5 P.M., we will have our Annual Christmas Open House.

Special exhibits will be:

Shirley Frey's collection of Raggedy Ann
and Raggedy Andy Dolls

The Blacks from the Easton Moravian Church
will demonstrate trimming of Beeswax
candles and folding of paper stars.

Christmas goodies will also be served.

ANNUAL MEETING

Approximately 80 members and friends attended the annual meeting and dinner of the Society on Thursday, October 25 at the Stockertown Memorial Hall. Those of you who were not there missed a great evening of wonderful food and an excellent talk.

Our own Jim Wright spoke about Chief Moses Tunda Tatamy for whom the Borough of Tatamy was named.

Following are some hi-lites of Jim's talk:

Tatamy, born around 1695, most likely near Allentown, NJ, in the pine barrens, was a private landowner, interpreter, Presbyterian convert, and a help to missionaries, Quakers, and colonial officials of Pennsylvania.

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His first appearance in the public records is in 1733 when reference is made to his owning 300 acres of land in the Forks of the Delaware. This tract of land was given to him by the Penn family for his services to them as an interpreter and messenger. Tatamy apparently was the first Indian to be a private landowner in Pennsylvania and he remained one of the few. He also had a minor role in the unpopular Walking Purchase of 1737.

It is believed that he died in 1761. According to oral tradition he was buried in the Old Forks Township cemetery along Route 115, south of Stockertown. This has never been verified.

A more detailed copy of Jim's talk will be available on our Open House days.

Election of Directors

The following were elected at the meeting to serve as Directors for a three (3) year term, ending 12/31/93:

Bobbi DiGerlando
Joseph Lopresti
John Morrow
Charlotte Sayre
John Schlamp

Officers will be elected by the Board at its January, 1991 meeting.

Beautiful centerpieces were arranged by Director John Morrow and his Horticulture Class at Phillipsburg High School. The centerpieces were auctioned off after the meeting.

Through the efforts of Earl Van Norman, a card with get well wishes in Hungarian was signed by all at the dinner for Steve Kalmar, the Homestead tenant/caretaker.

HOMESTEAD NEWS

The Open House on Saturday and Sunday, October 27 and 28 attracted one of the largest crowds ever----an approximate total of 500!

Featured was the 96th Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry re-enacting a typical Civil War camp. The troops, about 50 in all, cooked over an open fire, pitched tents, and drilled.

(Cont'd. on Page 3)

HOMESTEAD NEWS Cont'd!

The regiment has received awards from the National Park Service for its authenticity and seeks to portray, with as much detail as possible, what life was like as a Civil War soldier.

We are most grateful to all the members of this Unit who come from Lehigh, Northampton, Berks, Carbon and Schuylkill Counties, and New Jersey.

WE HAVE LOST A FRIEND

Late on Sunday afternoon, October 28,1990, Steve Kalmar, the Homestead tenant/caretaker was released from his months of pain. A Memorial Service was held at St. John's Lutheran Church, Nazareth, on Friday, November 2.

Born March 6,1931, in Papa,Hungary, Steve was one of two children. He was college educated in his hometown and served in the Hungarian Army. His sister died at the age of 18 (Steve was only 6) and he always carried with him a poem she had written to him. Steve fled Hungary when the Communists took over.

Steve was much more than the caretaker of the property. He came to us about 1980 through Ellis Neuner with whom he worked at Kramer Textiles. Steve had expressed a desire to garden and Ellis invited him to share a part of his garden at Jacobsburg. It was at this time that the Society was looking for a Homestead tenant/caretaker.

Steve provided many services above and beyond the call of duty. He was always on hand on Open House days to help set up and clean up. He always paid his rent in two-month increments and made financial contributions to the Society throughout the year. Whatever he did, he did cheerfully and lovingly. He took as much pride in the Society's property as he would have of his own.

Steve had always intended returning to Hungary. He was cremated and his cousin, who was with him during his final weeks, will take his ashes back with her where they will be buried beside his parents.

Steve will be sorely missed. As always, we never fully appreciate what some does until he is no longer able to do it.

We extend our heartfelt sympathy to his family and friends.

DIRECTORS - SPEAKERS AND WORKERS

Virginia Lopresti has presented or planned archeology programs in Flicksville and at Olivet Presbyterian Church in Easton.

Virginia also deserves our gratitude for the many hours she has put in at the John Joseph house, scrubbing porches and in other ways making the house more presentable.

In addition to Virginia, many Directors and members have contributed their time and energy at the John Joseph house and at the Homestead.

The Society is deeply grateful to all those who give of their time and energy.

REPORT FROM BOB FRICK, PRESIDENT

Order in the John Joseph House again.....

As reported earlier, the required inventory for the Trustees of the Stites Estate required the unpacking of trunks and boxes, emptying of attics and other storage areas, and gathering all this material in our four bedrooms. Once done, we were left with a chaos of objects to be re-packed, and heavy chests, trunks and boxes to be stored again. This job was beyond the physical capabilities of our volunteer crew, so progress came to a halt.

Several weeks ago Walter Peters came to our rescue and, through the kindness of Tony Unger, two of his strong young men were engaged by Walter for two Wednesdays to transport this mass of material back into storage. We were also able to relocate some furniture and heavy bookcases to more suitable locations. Included in the project was the moving of file cabinets from the Homestead Office to our new offices in the John Joseph House.

As a result, the two bedrooms on the second floor have been returned to their normal furnished appearance, so we can now see where we are going. In addition, the two third floor bedrooms have been set up as work rooms for the inspection and sorting of a vast collection of paper material and photographs, which will take months, if not years, of work. Another room has been devoted to books, many of which are from early family libraries. It is a welcome sight to see stairs and hallways cleared of boxes and objects, adding to both neatness and safety.

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Walter Peters' generosity has broken our "log jam" and progress flows again. Tribute should be paid to the two young men, Terry and Joe who not only moved material but insisted on washing bookcase windows, sweeping as they went (including the attic floor) and polishing various pieces of furniture. Their cheerful willingness to do anything at all, and their spirit of cooperation and interest in the entire project made them a joy to work with.

TO WALTER, TONY, TERRY, AND JOE --OUR HEARTFELT THANKS!

CLOCKS

Recently Matt Morris took two shelf clocks from the John Joseph house to a friend in Nazareth. Charles Feather is a clock enthusiast who has taught himself to repair clocks. In a very short time Matt brought him to the John Joseph house with both clocks working! One has been put on the mantel in our Meeting Room where it will tell volunteers that it is not yet time to go home.

Charlie then went into the dining Room to examine the tall clock (by Weatherly of Philadelphia) which has not run in twenty years, according to Matt. In little more than an hour the clock was working again. There is nothing to add life to a house as the ticking and striking of clocks.

The Society is indebted to Matt Morris for both underwriting this worthy project and putting us in touch with so able a craftsman who is ready to put other clocks in the house in running order as sponsors come forward.

Water Damage in Parlor - Homestead

On Saturday morning, just before the start of the Civil War Encampment, it was found that a leaking pipe in the ceiling of the Homestead parlor had soaked the plaster and thoroughly wetted the Oriental rug below. It seems that a "pinhole leak" in a copper cold water pipe had been undetected for some days in the unoccupied room. Fortunately, no furniture was damaged and upholstery was untouched.

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In spite of the pressing demands attendant upon getting the encampment program organized, Earl Van Norman and Phil Schroeder went to work at once and removed the wet plaster-board sections and stopped the leak. This prevented further damage. An inspection of the plumbing will be made prior to ceiling repairs. The plumbing crisis was handled by Bob Houck, husband of our Secretary, Nancy, who was also in there pitching, helping with the clean-up.

The Sarouk rug was taken at once to the establishment of E.J. DeFrancisco where it was started on its drying and cleaning process.

At this writing the damage has not been inspected by our insurance agent. This will be done shortly and a contractor's bid obtained for insurance purposes. Repairs cannot be started for several weeks in order to dry out the ceiling area affected.

HELP!

PLEASE, ISN'T THERE SOMEONE IN THE SOCIETY'S MEMBERSHIP
WHO IS WILLING TO SERVE AS ASSISTANT OR ASSOCIATE EDITOR
OF THE RECORD?! THE PRESENT EDITOR IS WILLING TO CONTINUE
IF SHE HAS HELP!!

THINGS SOMETIMES GO WRONG
SO THAT WE'LL BE ABLE
TO TELL THE DIFFERENCE
WHEN THINGS GO RIGHT.

JACOBSBURG HISTORICAL SOCIETY

OFFICERS - 1990

| | | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|----------|
| Robert Frick, President | Bethlehem | 691-6233 |
| Joseph DiGerlando, 1st Vice President | Wind Gap | 759-7239 |
| Phil Schroeder, 2nd Vice President | Nazareth | 759-0551 |
| Nancy Houck, Secretary | Tatamy | 252-2916 |
| John J. Schlamp, Treasurer | Nazareth | 759-0302 |

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Term expires end of 1992

| | | |
|---------------------|-------------|----------|
| Dallam E. Blandy | Bethlehem | 867-6849 |
| Joseph DiGerlando | Wind Gap | 759-7239 |
| Virginia Lopresti | Stockertown | 759-1580 |
| Walter L. Peters | Nazareth | 759-1530 |
| James Shedlauskas | Allentown | 435-4509 |
| Mary Ann Van Norman | Easton | 250-0204 |
| James A. Wright | Nazareth | 759-9119 |

Term expires end of 1991

| | | |
|------------------------|-------------|----------|
| William Henry Atherton | Stockertown | 759-7710 |
| Robert Frick | Bethlehem | 691-6233 |
| Nancy Houck | Tatamy | 252-2916 |
| Matthew K. Morris | Nazareth | 746-1089 |
| Robert N. Newell | Nazareth | 759-5423 |
| Kathryn Schlamp | Nazareth | 759-0302 |
| Phil Schroeder | Nazareth | 759-0551 |
| Earl VanNorman | Easton | 250-0204 |
| | or | 252-2463 |

Term expires end of 1990

| | | |
|-------------------|--------------|----------------|
| Bobbie DiGerlando | Wind Gap | 759-7239 |
| Joseph Lopresti | Stockertown | 759-1580 |
| John D. Morrow | Phillipsburg | 1-201-859-2498 |
| Charlotte Sayre | Nazareth | 746-1163 |
| John J. Schlamp | Nazareth | 759-0302 |

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FOR JACOBSBURG HISTORICAL SOCIETY

| | | | | | |
|------------|--------|------------|---------|---------------|---------|
| Student | \$2.50 | Sustaining | \$10.00 | Contributing | \$15.00 |
| Individual | \$5.00 | Family | \$12.50 | Organizations | \$25.00 |

NAME CONTRIBUTIONS

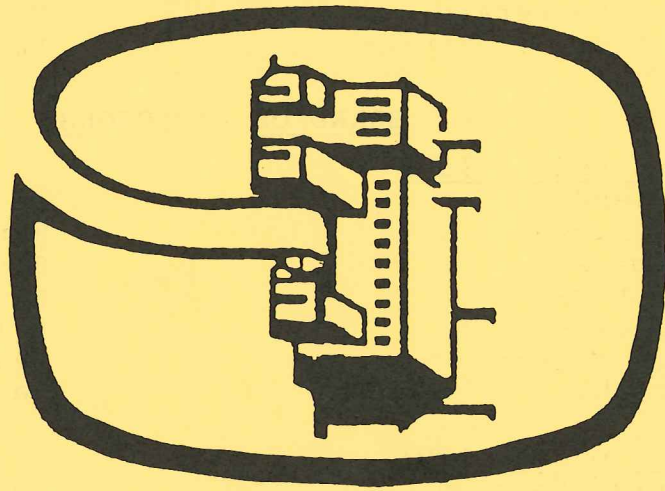
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|--------------|----------|--------------|-------|------------------|--------|
| Tannery Club | \$100.00 | Boulton Club | \$500 | Henry Rifle Club | \$1000 |
|--------------|----------|--------------|-------|------------------|--------|

NAME AND ADDRESS _____

TEL.NO. _____

Please return this slip with your check, payable to Jacobsburg Historical Society. Send to P.O.Box 345, Nazareth, PA 18064. All contributions are tax deductible to the extent provided by law. Cancelled check is your receipt.

JACOBSTURG HISTORICAL SOCIETY



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