

JACOBSBURG HISTORICAL SOCIETY

2003 Summary of Events

(Call the Boulton Visitor Center at 610-746-2809 for more information/reservations)

March 29—"Nature of the Slate Belt" (slide-illustrated program at Henry Homestead about local natural places)

April 12—"Better in the Poconos" (lecture program at Henry Homestead on the history of the Pocono vacation)

April 26—Spring Cleanup at Boulton

April 26—"An Evening on Main Street" (Henry gun display & Jacobsburg exhibit at the Kern House in Nazareth)

May 17-18—Henry Gun Exhibit at Warren County Heritage Festival at Oxford Furnace, Oxford, NJ

May 21—"The Lehigh & New England Railroad" (illustrated program at Henry Homestead on the local L&NE RR)

June 14-15—"Kentucky Rifle Frollo" (living history encampment at Boulton)

June 21—"Cultural History of the Slate Belt" (slide-illustrated program at Homestead on local ethnicity & culture)

June 28-July 6—Henry Gun Exhibit at the Kutztown Pennsylvania German Festival, Kutztown Fair Grounds

July 23-25—"Jr. Historians" (Summer youth program at Jacobsburg EE Center)

July 25-26—"Slate Belt Heritage Days" (Henry gun display & Jacobsburg exhibit in downtown Bangor)

August 16—"The 153rd Pennsylvania Militia Regiment" (interpretive Civil War program at Henry Homestead)

September 6—"Back to school at Boulton" (program at the Henry Homestead about local one-room schoolhouses)

September 20—"An Evening on Main Street" (Henry gun display & Jacobsburg exhibit at the Kern House in Nazareth)

October 4—"Bushkill Stream Festival" (watershed celebration with music, craft demos & more at Henry's Forge)

October 23—Annual Membership Dinner

October 25-26—"American Fur Trade Rendezvous" (living history encampment at Boulton)

November 15—Fall Cleanup at Boulton

November/December 2003

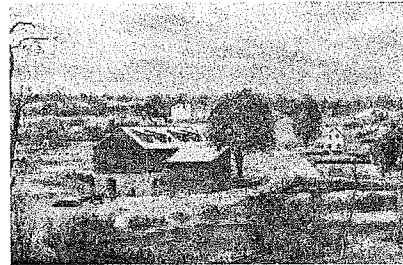
Volume XXX, Issue 6

THE JACOBSBURG RECORD

Season's Greetings & Happy Holidays to all our members, friends & families!

The Jacobsburg Historical Society wishes all its members, friends and families the happiest of holiday seasons this year! And we look forward to sharing in the New Year with you many exciting times and new experiences at Boulton!

2003 was a successful and busy year at Boulton. The Museum of the Pennsylvania Longrifle at the Henry Homestead was finally opened to the public on a limited schedule after two years of being closed for major repair and improvements. And major maintenance and repair work was begun this year at the 1834 John Joseph Henry House Museum at Boulton. Time and work progress will tell just when the John Joseph Henry House Museum will reopen to the public. But regular museum hours will be scheduled for the Pennsylvania Longrifle Museum at the Henry Homestead in 2004, although permanent



"Boulton in Winter", by Donald Wendling, illustrating the Boulton Gun Works and countryside in wintertime.

museum construction and installation will continue there into the New Year.

2003 also saw the completion of final designs for the Boulton Wayside Exhibits Project. This outdoor exhibits project includes 21 displays that will eventually be installed along the Boulton Heritage Walk—

a 1/2-mile trail that connects the Boulton Parking Lot on the east side of Bushkill Creek with the Henry Homestead and John Joseph Henry Estate on the west side of Bushkill Creek. The exhibits will be fabricated this winter and installation is anticipated in the New Year. Look for our *2004 Calendar of Events* beginning in the next newsletter issue.

In this season of thanksgiving and renewal, the Jacobsburg Historical Society extends warmest wishes and gratitude to you—our members and friends—for all your support in 2003, and in the New Year ahead.

"Second Christmas Day" a special time of celebration with Henry family and friends every December 26th at Boulton

While Christmas Day is celebrated on December 25th each and every year among countless families across America, it was December 26th of each year that was an even busier day of Christmas celebration among the Henry households at Boulton in years gone by. Through the historical society's archives—especially the many letters and diaries of Mary Adeline Henry Stites (1872-1973)—we know that December 26th was looked forward to by Henry's young and old alike as much as Christmas Day itself.

Known as "Second Christmas Day," December 26th was the day that Henry family and friends from Scranton, Bethlehem and

beyond would descend upon Boulton by horse-drawn carriage or sleigh to celebrate Christmastime in the Bushkill Creek Valley of Northampton County. The exchange of gifts, enjoyment of family putzes (Moravian nativity displays), sleigh rides around Boulton, ice skating on Henry's Dam and fellowship among friends and loved ones was a Henry tradition celebrated every December 26th at Boulton from some time in the 19th century to the early part of the 20th century.

This year, we at Jacobsburg wish you and yours a very Merry Christmas Day, a joyous "Second Christmas Day," and good tidings each and every day in the New Year ahead!

12 gunsmiths were graduated from Jacobsburg Historical Society's apprenticeship gunsmithing course in November

Twelve gunsmiths completed eight weeks of coursework and were graduated from Jacobsburg Historical Society's Apprenticeship Gunsmithing Course November 18th at the Museum of the Pennsylvania Longrifle at the Henry Homestead. The 24-hour course was held three hours a night every Wednesday evening from October 1st to November 18th in the basement gunshop at the museum. Society master gunsmiths Rich Hujsa, Jim Correll and George Dech taught the dozen student apprentices the art and industrial craft of stocking a gun barrel, and all the early American handcraft technology that entails, such as inserting the breechplug and tenons, inletting the lock, trigger and ramrod pipes, and so much more.

"This was one of the best groups yet," remarked master gunsmith Rich Hujsa, who was most impressed with his students high interest in course content and attention to detail. This is the seventh year that Jacobsburg has sponsored early American gunsmithing courses. Student apprentices in this most recent class came from the Lehigh Valley, Doylestown,

Hazleton and beyond. One student traveled all the way from West Point, New York every Wednesday night to attend the eight-week course! The apprenticeship gunsmithing course is a pre-requisite for Jacobsburg's advanced gunsmithing course, which will begin sometime in early spring of the New Year. In addition to finishing the rifles they started in the apprenticeship course, advanced gunsmithing students will learn the fine art of engraving their longrifles from some of the top master firearms engravers in the country.

The Jacobsburg Historical Society's Early American Gunsmithing Program was begun by hardworking society board member and former president Tim Lubenesky in 1997, and is truly a one-of-a-kind program. It is taught by some of the most respected gunsmiths in the country. The society's master gunsmiths build several authentic Pennsylvania longrifles each year during the classes. These masterfully handcrafted longrifles are then sold by the society, contributing revenue for Jacobsburg's operating budget every year.

Jacobsburg Partnership makes drainage and landscape improvements to the Henry Homestead museum grounds

The equipment operations crew from Region 4 of the Pennsylvania Bureau of State Parks joined the maintenance crew of Jacobsburg Environmental Education Center in October to install a new French drain system along the front of the Henry Homestead, re-grade and re-seed the front lawn of the homestead, and install two new culvert pipes at the entrance to the Henry Homestead Museum on Henry Road. The entire project took four days in early October. The Region 4 crew provided a backhoe loader, a bulldozer and operators for the job. The Jacobsburg Historical Society provided all project materials.

The project was part and parcel to ongoing improvements being made at the Museum of the Pennsylvania Longrifle at the Henry Homestead. The French drain system will serve to move groundwater and rainwater away from the homestead's foundation, thereby ensuring a dry museum ground floor. And the culvert pipes at the museum driveway entrance will help prevent further erosion washouts there after heavy rain.

This successful project is yet another great example of how the good partnership between the Pennsylvania Bureau of State Parks and the Jacobsburg Historical Society works.

Jacobsburg Historical Society's Archives and Records Preservation and Access Program Plan moves into Phase III project funding

Phase III funding for Jacobsburg Historical Society's Archives and Records Management Program was recently applied for through the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (PHMC). Final disposition of funding will be determined by mid-summer 2004. If awarded, the funds will be used to hire several part-time archivists for about one year to professionally process the society's nearly 300-linear-feet of historical photographs, manuscripts, records and books.

The final product will be properly archived materials that are readily accessible to students, teachers, researchers and society staff. The hired archivists will apply professional archival standards and procedures in arranging, cataloging and making accessible and available to the public the society's invaluable photographic and textual collections. These collections have been called a "national treasure" by the PHMC. The collections illustrate and document the lives and times of one of America's earliest family of firearms manufacturers and the people, places and products associated

with the Henry's water-powered industries at Boulton and beyond.

Previous PHMC funding for the Jacobsburg's Archives and Records Management Program was used to buy archival preservation materials and archival shelving for the collections. Future project phases for the society's archives and records program will include electronic scanning of Jacobsburg's collections for posting on its Website, and reproducing them for exhibits and publications.

The Henry-Killbuck story of incomparable love and friendship is remembered in honor of Native American History Month

"Dear Brother Granville Henry,

Your letter and the photograph which you sent me have both been received, and have given me great pleasure. I thank you very much for the picture. I see from it that I am now just the age William Henry was at the time of his death. John's oldest boy is named William Henry, so you see we still keep the name in the family.

I am sorry not to be able to tell you just when and where the exchange of names between our ancestors took place. All I know is that just such a thing happened.

With the best wishes for the welfare of yourself and family,

I am sincerely yours,

William Henry Killbuck

Ottawa, Kansas, June 7, 1894

Native American History Month is celebrated every November in the United States. So in honor of this national recognition, let's take a look at one of the most incomparable stories of love and friendship between European American and Native American families in all of American History—the story of William Henry and Gelelemend Killbuck, and the enduring family friendship this unlikely pair established during a most hostile period of white American and American Indian race relations.

During the French and Indian War, Col. William Henry of Lancaster was an officer serving under Gen. George Washington at Gen. Braddock's defeat near Ft. Pitt, on the Ohio River. During the military skirmish that led to Braddock's defeat by the French and Indian allies, a young Lenape or Delaware Indian warrior named Gelelemend, also known as Killbuck, was about to be bayoneted to death by British allied soldiers. For reasons that to this day remain cloaked in mystery, Col. Henry intervened on behalf of his enemies soul, and saved the life of young Killbuck. Legend has it, that somehow the two enemy soldiers recognized each other as Masonic brothers. So moved and grateful was the warrior Killbuck, that in traditional Indian character, he and his Masonic brother, William Henry, exchanged names as a way to honor and remember each other, and that fateful day of reckoning. And while the two men never again met, a friendship was born on the battlefield that day, which time has not effaced—not even today—some 250 years later.

While Col. Henry held dear the story and related it often to family and friends, some of whom recorded the tale for posterity, Gelelemend, now known as William Henry Killbuck, kept the story alive among his people through traditional Indian storytelling. The Henry-Killbuck legend became a cherished part of



19th century William Henry Killbuck. His ancestor, 18th century Lenape warrior Gelelemend, began a friendship with William Henry during the French & Indian War that remained between the Henry & Killbuck families for generations.

18th century Delaware Indian culture, which on more than one occasion aided the sons of William Henry of Lancaster in safe passage into the American wilderness west of the Ohio. In staying true to Native traditions, the Henry-Killbuck story was, and continues to be, further perpetuated among the descendants of Gelelemend Killbuck by giving the Henry name as a middle name to newborn baby boys and girls alike. Among Killbuck clans today in Ontario, Oregon, California, Texas and beyond, are grand-descendants of Gelelemend, with Henry middle names. Chief Bob Red Hawk and Chief Chuck Gentle Moon of the Lenape Nation of Pennsylvania today are Henry-Killbuck heirs.

Among the descendants of William Henry of Lancaster, the Henry-Killbuck story likewise became a significant thread in the

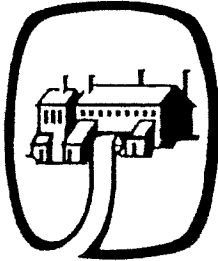
Henry family fabric. As a young journeyman gunsmith in Northampton County, William Henry of Nazareth, eldest son of William of Lancaster, met his father's namesake friend when a then middle-aged William Henry Killbuck was on his way to Trenton on tribal business. Killbuck embraced his friend's son and told young William Henry to tell his father, "*Indian never forgets.*" And neither did the Henrys forget. On several occasions, Henry families in both Lancaster and Nazareth hosted delegations of Delaware Indian parties on their way to and from Philadelphia or Trenton on official tribal business with early American government leaders. And successive generations of Henrys and Killbucks maintained long-distance friendships though correspondence and family visits. The society's archives contain a wonderful collection of manuscripts relating to the Henry-Killbuck family history. In a letter to Granville Henry signed, "*Your friend & brother, John Henry Killbuck,*" and dated July 14, 1890, Bethel, Alaska, we learn the great-great-great grandson of Gelelemend spent endless hours exploring the upper Bushkill Creek Valley as a young Indian boy, while studying at nearby Nazareth Hall. In the letter, Killbuck writes, "*There was a time, when Indian fashion, I knew all the nooks and corners of the Bushkill from Daniel's Slate Quarry to Geisinger's.*"

The Jacobsburg Historical Society is a proud signer of the 2002 *Treaty of Renewed Brotherhood* between the Lenape Nation of PA and their friends and neighbors. As a treaty signer, the society promises to recognize the Lenape through public programs, presentations and press, and to support their goals for state recognition, and for the establishment of a cultural center for Lenape history and study.

Jacobsburg Historical Society

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JACOBSBURG
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

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The mission of the Jacobsburg Historical Society is to preserve and present the art and industry of making early American firearms and the character of the individuals and community that created and sustained that enterprise. The 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. Contact us for details.

JACOBSBURG,
WHERE HISTORY
LIVES!

Membership Form

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