

The Jacobsburg Record

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CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE

Our Holiday Open House will be held on Sunday, December 5th, from 1:00 to 5:00 P.M. at the Henry Homestead. Why not take a little time that day to see the Victorian decorations at the Homestead and enjoy some Jacobsburg Brew and cookies with us? Robert Frick has assured us he will have his famous Christmas Putz (our words, not his) ready for the Open House and it is worth the visit just to see this feature alone. Also on display will be a table, done by Mark Amey, set for a Victorian Christmas Dinner, using china and silver from the John Joseph Henry House.

We look forward to seeing you!

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THE ANNUAL DINNER MEETING held on October 28th at Stockertown Memorial Hall attracted the largest attendance in recent years -- 96 members and friends gathered to enjoy a delicious dinner. Our speaker, Dr. David Valuska, lived up to his reputation as a dynamic speaker with his talk on Gettysburg - "A LIVING HISTORY." Those in attendance were treated to several anecdotal stories of famous, and infamous, characters in the battle known as Gettysburg. He was able to give us some insight into the background of making a movie such as "Gettysburg" since he was responsible for choreographing one of the battle scenes in the film.

During the short business meeting the following candidates for the Board of Directors were elected for 3-year terms beginning in January 1994 through 1996.

Bobbie DiGerlando
Ronald Gabel
Timothy Lubenesky

Charlotte Sayre
John Schlamp
Estelle Shedlauskas

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

After the formal part of the evening closed, many people remained to renew acquaintances and view Bob Newell's display of Civil War relics and paraphernalia located at the rear of the Hall. Bob enjoyed answering questions and discussing the many items on display.

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IN MEMORIAM

JOSEPH A. LOPRESTI (1911-1993)

Sorely missed is Joseph A. Lopresti, a prime instigator, charter member of the Jacobsburg Historical Society, and Board Meeting official mover for adjournment.

In 1968, the Lopresti's, Virginia and Joe, were among the protesters to the damming of the Bushkill Creek. It was proposed to flood a good deal of what is Jacobsburg State Park for a man-made lake, principally for recreational purposes. The waters would have been devastating, not only to the Indian lore of the area, but to the Henry Family influences in Jacobsburg, the Boulton Area in particular.

Joe Lopresti is well remembered for his wealth of long-stored knowledge of local history and folklore. He was equally at home digging in the mud for Henry Family artifacts along the Bushkill as he was in Court House halls tracing the intricacies of property transfers. We have lost a community presence, a loss shared by all of us in our Jacobsburg family.

Charlotte Sayre

INFORMATION TO CLIP AND SAVE!! For those interested in collecting Henry guns and identifying those guns you already have, the following article was researched by Bob Newell.

DATING HENRY GUNS BY BARREL AND LOCK MARKINGS

1797 & 1798 military contracts - "W. HENRY"

1808 military contract

1. "J. HENRY/PHILA"

2. "W. HENRY/NAZ^H" or "NAZRTH"

3. "W. HENRY/JR"

1815 military contract - "J.J.HENRY"

1820's- "J.J.HENRY/BOULTON"

Mid 1820's - 1836 - "J.J.HENRY & SON" (James)

1836-1860 - "J. HENRY"

1860 - "J.HENRY & SON" (Granville)

Breech-loading firearms manufactured during the late 19th century are often found with a very small "HENRY" mark on the left side of the breech action.

Jim Shedlauskas

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RAMBLING REFLECTIONS

Joseph DiGerlando

It was 20 years ago. A group gathered for crisis discussions. It was a strange mix of professionals and amateurs, youthful and retired, people of means and factory workers; but we had one goal - to save the Bushkill Creek and the Jacobsburg / Boulton District. This was the birth of the Jacobsburg Historical Society.

We were very naive in the ways of government bureaucracy, because we felt that common sense and local public concern should have a bearing on planning and decision making. We learned quickly about making an impression. We had help from the Northampton County Historical and Genealogical Society, the Easton Area League of Women Voters, the Easton chapter of the American Association of University Women (AAUW), the Bushkill Creek Watershed Association, and a number of other groups and prominent individuals. Our goal was to stop construction of a dam and lake on the Bushkill Creek that would have flooded Henry's Woods and the Jacobsburg industrial area.

We succeeded in irritating The System to the point that the order was put out that " ... *if they don't want a lake, they won't get a park, either ...* ", and all developmental funding was cut for Jacobsburg State Park. This was a blessing for us, because it gave us time to research, develop plans, take action, get public interest; we started. Under the able guidance of Catherine Beers, our first president, JHS became a force to be reckoned with. To his great credit, Mr. William Forey, the former director of the Bureau of State Parks, took the initiative to encourage a working partnership with the Society, and we have since had a very close and cooperative relationship.

JHS has come a long way in 20 years, and has had many successes to be proud of - our "Walks in Henry Woods", the Historical Craft Fairs, the Black Powder Encampments, wildlife artists shows, etc. We had a widely supported fund drive and with the aid of state and federal grants were able to restore the Henry Homestead. Like all volunteer driven organizations, we have had our cycles of activity. With a tough economy, most families spend more time working to survive and don't have as much time to volunteer. We depend a lot on retirees with time, interest, and energy to keep things going. They do a great job and we could use more.

Mary Henry Stites, throughout her life, provided encouragement and inspiration, especially to young people. She was excited about the founding of the Society and was an active supporter of our activities. Her legacy to the community will have a long term impact. Miss Mary gave us a challenge, and a chance to make a major community impact. With her bequest came only a few conditions - *preserve the history of the area, share it with the community, and be sure to provide programs and education for young people.* We are taking her challenges very seriously. Our twice monthly open house programs continue to attract more people to the area. We are building close relationships with the local Boy and Girl Scout Troops and have sponsored an Explorer Post (see 1776 notes). JHS has published some books and has plans for more. Our gun collection and traveling displays have attracted national recognition. We've come a long way

.... But we have a long way to go. The Henry Family kept very detailed accounts and records, but we need help to research them and collect relevant facts. They also saved almost everything, but we need help to organize, catalog, care for and display things. We were given houses, barns, buildings and land, but we need help to care for and maintain these treasures. This takes a lot of time, effort, and expense. All the while, we are trying to plan for the future. We cannot stand still. Grow or die is a rule of nature that carries over to business and community activity. Our planning committee is working on ideas that we only dreamed about 20 years ago - and now we know that it is all possible.

"... some people see things as they are and say 'why?'; others look at them as they could be and say 'why not?' ..." (RFK)

A Visitor Center, a Blacksmith Shop, a Forge, a Gift Shop, Iron Making and Gun Making demonstrations and classes, a restored and working Henry Gun Works, a nationally recognized museum and research center, living history presentations these are all possibilities !!!!

I fondly remember the early years; the Board meetings at "Kay" Beers' and Margaret Taylor's homes, the hopes and plans and dreams. No idea was too wild or crazy to discuss and maybe even attempt. We dared to take on the challenge and the community supported us. A lot of people have given generously of their time and money to help accomplish many great things. We have proven ourselves capable and know that with our members' and supporters' help, we can do more.

In memory of the efforts of our deceased founding board members: Catherine Beers, Margaret Taylor, Molly Santee, Joseph Lopresti, and especially for the enthusiastic vision and support of Mary Henry Stites, I renew this simple challenge of our first board: "WHY NOT?"

* * * * *

A sincere "thank you" to Dr. Gerald Millheim, who not only donated materials for, constructed and painted the new arbor in the garden of the John Joseph House, but has recently donated a brass plaque dedicating the arbor to the memory and generosity of Mary Henry Stites.

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EXPLORER POST 1776, sponsored by the Jacobsburg Historical Society, is planning an active year. Members have already participated in a primitive encampment at Blue Ridge Rifles, had a work day at the Henry Homestead, and started to put together period outfits so they can actively participate in JHS activities. New members are always welcome. The Post meets at the Henry Homestead on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays. Call Amber DiGerlando (759-7239) for more information.

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HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO ALL!

JACOBSBURG HISTORICAL SOCIETY

OFFICERS - 1993

A. James Shedlauskas, President	Whitehall	435-4509
Mary Ann Van Norman, 1st Vice President	Easton	250-0204
Timothy Lubenesky, 2nd Vice President	Coplay	262-8171
Philip Schroeder, Secretary	Nazareth	759-0551
John Schlamp, Treasurer	Nazareth	759-0302

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Class of 1995

Joseph DiGerlando	Wind Gap	759-7239
Ken Fenske	Nazareth	759-3969
Virginia Lopresti	Stockertown	759-1580
Gerald Millheim	Nazareth	759-0566
Walter R. Peters	Nazareth	759-1530
A. James Shedlauskas	Whitehall	435-4509
Mary Ann Van Norman	Easton	250-0204

Class of 1994

William Henry Atherton	Stockertown	759-7710
Robert P. L. Frick	Bethlehem	691-6233
William C. Goble	Macungie	966-3864
Matthew K. Morris	Nazareth	746-1089
Robert N. Newell	Nazareth	759-5423
Kathryn Schlamp	Nazareth	759-0302
Philip Schroeder	Nazareth	759-0551
Earl Van Norman	Easton	250-0204

Class of 1993

Bobbi DiGerlando	Wind Gap	759-7239
Joseph Lopresti	Stockertown	759-1580
Timothy Lubenesky	Coplay	262-8171
John D. Morrow	Phillipsburg	201-859-2498
Charlotte Sayre	Nazareth	746-1163
John J. Schlamp	Nazareth	759-0302
Estelle Shedlauskas	Whitehall	435-4509

(Detach Here)

YES, I would like to be a Volunteer. My interest is _____.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone No. _____

Please mail to JACOBSBURG HISTORICAL SOCIETY, Box 345,
Nazareth, Pa. 18064,
or call Matt Morris at 746-1089.