

The Jacobsburg Record

SOCIETY OFFICE 610-759-9029

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IN MEMORIAM

WALTER L. PETERS

We are saddened by the recent passing of Walter Peters, a member and Board Member since 1977. His service to church, community, and numerous civic organizations covered a wide field, yet he found time to devote to Jacobsburg Historical Society.

It was he and his wife, Margaret, who established the Publication Fund which allowed the publication of "Jacobsburg" and "Henry Of Boulton." This revolving fund will produce publications for years to come. In his quiet way Walter provided the necessary legal work necessary in connection with the Mary Henry Stites bequest to the Society, at no charge to us. This was but another of his many gifts and financial support with which he enriched the organization he loved.

Always interested in the activities of the Society, Walter served on many committees, yet, typical of his modesty, he would never serve as a chairman. Walter Peters was a gentleman and a scholar, and most of all a worker. He embodied the type of person every organization seeks as a member. In this, our Society has been blessed. Would we could all follow his example.

CHRISTMAS FESTIVITIES

On December 2nd, the Board hosted a Christmas Party in honor of the Volunteers. This was followed the next afternoon by our traditional Open House. Both events were well attended.

The Log Cabin Room was decorated by Earl and Mary Ann Van Norman and featured a Christmas Tree with the bay window full of toys at its base. There were also a table containing windup trains and a case of a variety of toy cap pistols. Matt Morris, Tim Lubenesky and Ron Gable provided these displays.

CHRISTMAS FESTIVITIES (Cont'd.)

The Taylor Room contained cases filled with toys, cookie cutters, tree decorations, models, and other Christmas related items. Included were Henry Family Christmas cards, Mary Henry's doll dishes and her mother's Nativity figures. Of special interest was a case full of tree ornaments loaned by Ryan Cortez, which were on exhibit for the first time. Earl and Mary Ann Van Norman, Jim Shedlauskas, Bill Atherton and Bob Frick provided this material.

As usual, the Taylor Room bay window contained the Putz, which seems to grow year by year. Again, driftwood from Joe Morris formed the background and the moss was provided by Mr. & Mrs. Peppell. Pam Repsher was initiated into the mysteries of Putz building as assistant to Bob Frick. Three early sheep from the Society's Henry collection were supplied with missing legs (ten in all!) and were able to join the scene for the first time in many years.

Refreshments were served in the basement, presided over by Barbara Schroeder and Mary Ann. In addition to baked goods, "Jacobsburg Brew" was served. Terri Lubenesky was in charge of an enlarged gift shop counter, with Explorer Post 1776 selling decorations they had made.

It might be mentioned here that it has been decided that the same format, "Old Fashioned Christmas," is to be repeated each year, with members loaning their family treasures to provide diversified exhibits.

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TO ALL JACOBSTOWN HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERS...
PLEASE CONSIDER MAKING THE FOLLOWING NEW YEAR'S
RESOLUTION FOR 1996:

As a member of Jacobstown Historical Society,
I will attend at least one Special Event in
1996, and will volunteer to assist in one
event to further the success of my Society.

* * * * *

(BEGINNING WITH THIS ISSUE, our newsletter will contain excerpts from documents in the John Joseph Henry house. Here are excerpts from an unsigned, undated, unfinished manuscript describing labor-management relations. I'm guessing that it was written by James or Granville Henry about 1890.)

--Donald R. Repsher

"BOULTON"

Boulton was named after James Boulton, the English inventor and co-worker of Watts in the development of the steam engine.

Many of those who worked here had their own homes with more or less land. Those who were filers had their shops near the houses where they lived; at the weekend the results would be brought to the factory and delivered to the proprietor. Strikes were unknown and disagreements were always amicably adjusted.

Everything was made by piece work and there was an entire absence of drastic rules as regards the time of labor. Thus was preserved a feeling of individual freedom totally different to the strenuous life of the present time.

This system of work had, however, nothing of the patriarchal in its composition.... Both employer and employed always felt that their interest in the prosecution of the business were mutual....

Many of them who worked for the factory were men of superior ability and could turn to other occupations when at times the work was not urgent. They were, however, always ready to return when they were needed. Many were members of the church at Schoeneck.... Heredity in musical talent that came to them from their German ancestors was often prominent, as well as the cultivation of flowers which we see to this day in passing along their neat and tidy homes with the well-cultivated gardens and lots.

The industrial development, as we see it under present conditions, when men are in large aggregations and have become a part of the instrumental force they manage, has largely dominated the individuality of the worker, and makes strong the contrast of previous conditions when the individual industries which were spread over all the country produced happier results. As Prince Kopotkin truly says, the industrial must combine with the agricultural to make the ideal life, thus producing a harmonizing influence which is totally lost sight of in the regulation of man and his energy when the object of the employer is to exploit that energy to its fullest extent.

(continued on next page)

Boulton (continued)

We may feel certain that the highest type of American in education, in social and business development, cannot be attained under our present economic conditions, for the reason that to attain the highest manhood requires more leisure than the intense activities of the present day permit of to all men engaged in them; and it is difficult for both the professional and business man to throw aside the business air in which is implied the dictum that time is money....

The gentlemen with whom the proprietors were brought in contact commercially were generally of the highest class and standing, men of integrity with whom it was a pleasure to correspond.

The business, while the details were various and required the usual degree of attention, yet was not as absorbing as is the business of the time we are living in, and allowed sufficient leisure for the development and enjoyment of musical, library, and art studies which were indulged in to a greater or less degree by the proprietors and their families; and this made the social life of the Boulton home pleasant for the entertainers and their friends.

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(The Henrys took time for gracious values which are easily neglected in the hectic pace of today's world, as evidenced from this excerpt from a diary of 18-year-old Mary Adeline Henry, daughter of Granville Henry and grand-daughter of James Henry, who is "Grandpopie:")

MONDAY JULY 6 (1891): Uncle Ed, Aunt Emily, Willie, Katie, Grandpopie, Aunt Tal, Aunt Fanny, Papa, Mamma, and myself had a picnic, and while we were at supper Mr. and Mrs. Geiser from Easton came on business to see Uncle Ed; they also took supper with us.

All good wishes to each and every
one for a happy and prosperous

New Year!

1995 OFFICERS

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Mary Ann Van Norman	1st Vice President
Timothy Lubenesky	2nd Vice President
Philip Schroeder	Secretary
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(Detach Here)

YES, I would like to be a VOLUNTEER.

NAME _____

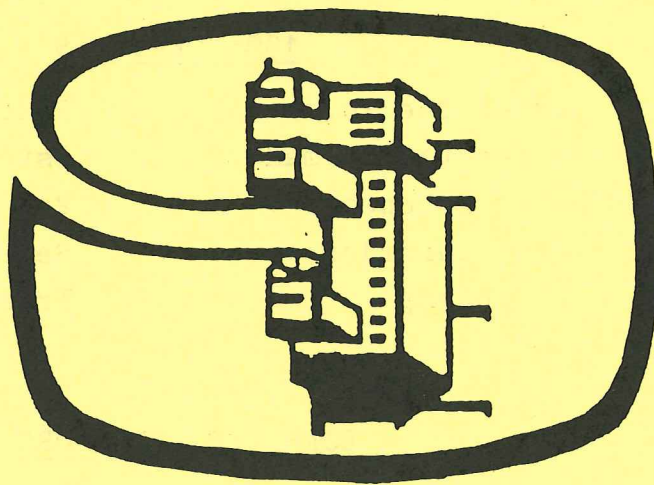
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