

The Jacobsburg Record

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 1982

VOL. X, NO. 1

1982 DUES ARE DUE

The Jacobsburg Historical Society does not send out bills--but we do remind our friends and members that the calendar year is the Society's fiscal year as well.

Attention is directed to the last page of this issue for an update on the Directory listing and to the various classes of membership. We suggest consideration of upgrading our contributions this year. Your canceled check made payable to the Jacobsburg Historical Society and sent to the treasurer, Miss Margaret H. Taylor, 733 Paxinosa Ave., Easton, PA 18042, will be your receipt. All contributions are tax deductible to the extent provided by law.

SOCIETY RECEIVES JAMES HENRY BOOKS

James Henry (1809-1895), only child of John Joseph and Maria Rebecca (Smith) Henry, was a scholar-historian (founder and first president of the Moravian Historical Society of Nazareth), a linguist, and a musician with an all-round intellect. He was educated for the ministry at Moravian College and Theological Seminary, but was never ordained. In the Henry family, he was the grandson of William, III and progenitor of the long line of Henrys who inhabited the Henry Homestead.

It is with particular delight, therefore, that the Society has accepted two books for its archives from the James Henry collection in the Reeves Library of Moravian College and donated through the courtesy of the Rev. Henry L. Williams, librarian.

The first book, "Lord of the Isles," is a poem by Walter Scott, dated 1828; the second is "Sketches of Moravian Life and Character" by James Henry himself, a first edition book, dated 1859, with a book plate autographed by Abraham Schropp. It will be recalled that James's grandmother, wife of William III, was born Sabina Schropp. Abraham, president for many years of one of the early banking institutions in Bethlehem, was Sabina's great great nephew.

The Scott poem was a gift to James from Mary M. Sautter, his fiancée, later (in 1833) to become his wife. Mary, educated at the Moravian Academy in Bethlehem, was the daughter of Moravian missionaries to Antigua in the West Indies.

Presentation of the books to the Society was made by Mrs. Thomas Law, Bethlehem, curator of the Henry Homestead.

We express again our delight at this evidence of interest in the Henry Homestead and our projects in the area.

PHOTOGRAPHER OFFICIALLY APPOINTED

Reginald M. Banks, Jr., Bushkill Township, is the newly appointed photographer for Society events. Heretofore Matt Morris has served informally. Banks is an amateur photographer of long standing. He is Assistant Division Superintendent of Heavy Forgings and Machine Shops, & Treatment, Bethlehem Plant, Bethlehem Steel Corp.

FIRST REPORT, 1981 FIELD JOURNAL, JACOBSTOWN

Virginia Lopresti

On June 18, 1981, I was to meet the Manpower supervisor at the Nazareth Senior High School. I was to be introduced to our 1981 crew who would be paid for working on the archaeological digs in the Jacobstown State Park. Of the four scheduled to appear, only one showed up. He reported to the site on Monday June 22. He was handicapped, but he did everything he was told to do to the best of his ability.

We very much wanted to complete the excavating of the 18th century mill, but before we could start, the weeds and brush had to be cleared from the area. The garbage (ashes and dumped trash) we had thrown to the outside of the foundation in 1980 was falling back into our hole. The first three days of the week were occupied with cutting the weeds and moving some of the material away from the walls. The Park crew had promised to remove this material from the premises to make it more convenient for visitors to the site.

We removed forge bricks to the Henry Homestead. Then the two bosses and one worker started on the inside of the old mill. There was considerable trash from the south bay that had been transferred to the north bay. Our helper was assigned to this task of shoveling the excess to the north of the mill.

J.A.L. busied himself in bay #2 next to the waterwheel bay. We were surprised to find the garbage 2½ ft. lower there than in the south bay. Joe found three more French grindstones that were taken subsequently to the Homestead. He found a doorway between bay #2 and the south bay but no steps. The floor of the south bay seemed to be considerably higher than the working level in bay #2 and well above the water level. Water began seeping into this bay when we leveled it about 6 ft. from the outside existing wall. We dug up some rotted wood, some large nails, some forge bricks, but nothing to be excited about.

We were disappointed when no additional workers appeared on Monday of the second week. We called the Manpower Office and were assured we would have additional help on July 6. On Thursday, July 2, I traveled to Pen Argyl Senior High School to meet five boys who were eager and willing to work at Jacobstown. Oh happy day! Especially since the July 4 holiday was on July 3 for all government workers.

On July 6, all six young men reported to the Park Office. They were given a history of the project. Their parents were shown where we would be on rainy days and the digging site as well. Car pools were formed. Even though all the boys were handicapped in one way or another, all were given shovels and assigned digging areas. Two spent most of their time on the outside of the mill, leveling the material to make room for more. It was a problem to keep them out of each other's way.

One problem developed the second day. One boy was hit on the head by a piece of shale and had to have two stitches.

The enlarged crew did not enlarge our area of activity. It just moved the material much faster. It soon became apparent the south wall in bay #2 was partially made of the natural slate of the hillside. The south wall of the south bay was 2 ft. wider at the base. One foot below this stone shelf, the natural shale took over, and the floor was unbelievable in its crookedness.

(To be continued)

HISTORICAL RESEARCH

THE COLVER FAMILY OF BUSHKILL TOWNSHIP

By Charles M. Sandwick, Sr.

Jacob Colver, the first of the family to settle permanently in the vicinity of Filetown and Boulton, was a "Schreiner" by trade. "Schreiner" is perhaps best translated as "joiner," which Webster's New World Dictionary defines as a workman who constructs and finishes interior woodwork, as doors, molding, stairs, etc. But a "Schreiner" was really more than a joiner. His skills often ranged from those of carpenter to cabinetmaker and included such specialties as making gunstocks. In short a "Schreiner" was apt to be a highly skilled and versatile woodworker.

Johann Jacob Colver was born in Hope, N.J., 5 Oct 1783, and died in Bushkill Township 19 Mar 1844, son of Ephraim and Magdalena (Lanius) Colver and grandson of Ephraim and Hannah (Mason) Colver. In 1806, in Bushkill Township, Jacob married Catharina Steiner who was born in "The Settlement," Allen Township, 17 Oct 1786, and died in Bushkill Township 6 Sep 1857, daughter of Friedrich Heinrich and Susanna (Volz) Steiner.

Jacob Colver may have built the house in which his son Edward later lived with his large family at Colver's Corner, on the southeast corner of the intersection of Henry Road with the road from Cherry Hill through Jacobsburg to Wind Gap. John Woolf Jordan had pleasant memories of the Colvers (he spelled it Culver) which he shared with his readers in an article in the Nazareth Item of Friday, August 17, 1894. Under the pseudonym of B. P. J. (the initials of his little son), Jordan wrote the following, recalling his hikes from Nazareth to Boulton.

"Every visitor to the home of the Moravian historian and antiquarian James Henry, cannot fail to remember the point where the road to the Wind Gap is left to the right, and the old yellow house which stood at the corner. 'Culver's Corner,' and I have also heard it called the 'Yellow Springs,' was in my early visits to the 'Barony' flanked by a chestnut grove of considerable extent, and a sign board informed the stranger that it was '1 m. to Henry's Factory,' to me always the shortest of the three miles between it and Whitefield's House."

Jordan then gave details of the Colver family history which we have covered with more accuracy (we hope) in our two previous articles. Jordan concluded his column, "I was well acquainted with the Culvers, parents and children, all of them slim of frame and tall in stature, who fifty years ago resided at the 'Corner,' and on the occasion of my last visit to the well remembered spot, I was pleased to observe that the old homestead, albeit in a new dress, was still the same landmark of my early recollections- but the sign board had disappeared."

Since John Woolf Jordan was born at Philadelphia in 1840 and Jacob Colver died in Bushkill Township in 1844, it is certain that Jordan never knew Jacob, but it is equally certain that during Jordan's years as a student at Nazareth Hall, on visits to his father's cousin James Henry at Boulton, he had occasion to pass Colver's Corner many times,

and had ample opportunity to get acquainted with Edward L. Colver, many of his children, and probably some of his grandchildren.

The children of Jacob and Catharina (Steiner) Colver, all born in what became Bushkill Township in 1813, were (1) Edward Livius, born 7 Oct 1807, of whom more will be told later; (2) Johanna Elizabeth (Anna E.), born 18 May 1810, who married William Alleman and whose family will be covered in an article on the Alleman family; (3) Jacob Francis, born 5 Jun 1815 and died in 1860, a tailor by trade; (4) Maria Lucretia, born 3 Jan 1819, who married John Fehr, born about 1816-7, in 1850 a gunsmith in Bushkill Township; (5) Lisetta Cordelia, born 28 Sep 1820, died at Bethlehem 10 Jan 1898, married at Schoeneck 10 Oct 1841 Charles Benjamin Hanke, born 25 Oct 1807, died at Bethlehem 25 Oct 1888, son of Jacob and Rachael (Klein) Hanke; (6) Sarah Rebecka, born 21 Aug 1823 and died in 1865, unmarried; and (7) Sabina Louise, born 9 Dec 1825, who married Benjamin Alleman. Both William and Benjamin Alleman were sons of Matthaeus and Maria (Edmonds) Allemann.

Edward Livius Colver was by trade a gunsmith. It will be recalled from the previous article that his will was witnessed by Granville and Edward T. Henry. He was born in what is now Bushkill Township 7 Oct 1807 and died there 28 Mar 1884. At Schoeneck, on 19 Jun 1831, he married Caroline Henrietta Rudy, who was born at Lancaster 27 May 1812 and died 21 Nov 1886, daughter of John and Maria Dorothea (Ettwein) Rudy. Edward and Henrietta had ten children, all of whom were born in Bushkill Township.

The children of Edward L. and Henrietta (Rudy) Colver were (1) Charles Francis, born 30 Jun 1832, died 18 May 1897, whose wife was Caroline, born 2 Jun 1831, died 11 Oct 1907; (2) James Albert, born 1 Jun 1835, who died young; (3) Harriet Amelia, born 9 Aug 1837, died at Schoeneck 13 Jul 1877, married Morris Kostenbader; (4) Mary Elizabeth, born 3 Dec 1838, married Peter Greitz (Kreitz?); (5) William Rudy, born 19 Sep 1840, of whom more will follow; (6) Louisa Magdalena, born 23 Nov 1842, died at Nazareth 20 Mar 1904, married John Henry Ritter, born Lower Nazareth Township 29 Aug 1838, died at Nazareth 19 Sep 1895, son of Charles and Catharine (Schneider) Ritter; (7) Jacob Herman (Herman J.), born 9 Mar 1845, married Ellen Elizabeth Koepp who died at Bethlehem 4 Oct 1885, daughter of Charles and Mary Koepp of Lehigh Gap; (8) Catharina Sarah, born 14 Sep 1846, married at Bethlehem 9 Aug 1868 Monroe H. Krout; (9) Henry Edward (twin), born 15 Sep 1850, died 9 May 1882; (10) Emma Emilie (twin), born 15 Sep 1850, died 7 Aug 1856.

William Rudy Colver was born in Bushkill Township 19 Sep 1840 and died there 21 Jun 1899, son of Edward L. and Henrietta (Rudy) Colver. On 30 Aug 1868 at Schoeneck he married Ellen Maria Giersch who was born in Bushkill Township 2 Jan 1846 and died there 29 Jan 1918, daughter of Carl Wilhelm and Eleanora (Clewell) Giersch. On her mother's side, Ellen M. (Giersch) Colver was a descendant of George and Anna Maria (Kuechle) Clewell, pioneers of Bushkill Township. William and Ellen had ten children, all born in Bushkill Township.

The children of William R. and Ellen M. (Giersch) Colver were (1) Edward William, born 14 Apr 1869, died 1929, married 28 Mar 1891 Amanda C.

Henshue of Nazareth, born 25 Feb 1868, died in Plainfield Township 4 Apr 1931; (2) Albert J., 2 slater by trade, born 16 Aug 1871, resided in Boulton in 1893, died 21 May 1944, married at Schoeneck 28 Jan 1893 Annie Rodenbach, born in Bushkill Township 28 May 1876, daughter of Stephen Rodenbach; (3) Emma Louisa, born 14 Jun 1873, married in Feb 1892 Aaron F. Itterly, born 1 Oct 1870, died at Aluta 12 Apr 1920, son of Josiah Itterly; (4) Henry Eugene, born in Boulton 31 May 1875, died 17 Sep 1875; (5) William Robert, born 22 Jul 1876, died 25 May 1918; (6) Charles Granville, machinist by trade, born 15 Oct 1878, married at Schoeneck 18 Oct 1906 Laura F. Abel, born in Belfast 3 Dec 1879, daughter of Zachariah Abel; (7) Joseph Levin, born 24 Mar 1881, died 21 Sep 1882, accidentally drowned in the mill race of the Henry gun factory at Boulton; (8) Henry James (called Harry), born 24 Dec 1883, married Laura Geiser; (9) Anna O. (called Annie), born 16 Oct 1885, married at Nazareth 17 Oct 1903 Edwin D. Breidinger, born in Bushkill Township 12 Nov 1876, son of John M. and Lucy Ann Breidinger; (10) Robert L., born 19 Aug 1888, died 4 Jul 1956, married Mary Jane Houser who died 18 Apr 1964.

Since we prepared our previous article we have received much valuable information from Gerald E. Colver, manager of the Lafayette College book store and a grandson of Edward W. and Amanda (Henshue) Colver regarding the earlier generations of the Colver family, tracing the family from the Puritan pioneer Edward Colver who came from England to the Massachusetts Bay Colony in 1635, through three generations to Ephraim Colver (1717-1775) who came to Pennsylvania from Connecticut in 1751. Ephraim was a great-grandson of Edward Colver, the Puritan settler. This information plus other data disclosed by subsequent research will enable us to expand our Colver records considerably. Also, Michael P. Kramer of Bath was so kind as to send us a copy of the data he has collected in his own research on the Colvers of the Rittersville and Schoenersville areas, descendants of Charles and Anna (Heil) Colver. Many thanks to Gerry Colver and Mike Kramer!

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CHANGING OF THE GUARD

At our Open House affairs, she frequently presided over the punch bowl, petite, dark haired and brown eyed, and with a merry laugh. She is Judy Sandercock and, with her minister husband, the Rev. Robert Sandercock, has moved to Philadelphia. They served the College Hill Presbyterian Church in Easton for 21 years and now are in charge of a Presbyterian home for about 18 or 20 retired church professionals.

We express our appreciation to Judy for her chairmanship of the Society's Hospitality Committee, for baking and soliciting, along with Peggy Shuttleworth, countless numbers of cookies and the making (and stretching) of many gallons of punch and hot cider. We had fun and we shall miss Judy, but we certainly wish the family all success in a new version of service and commitment in the wider environment of the city of Philadelphia.

Althea Neuner is the new chairman of Hospitality. She will continue to enjoy the expert and creative assistance of Peggy Shuttleworth.

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Ask a friend to join the Jacobsburg Historical Society

BOARD ROOM NOTES

George and Dottie Burns, Quakertown, have presented the Society with a large cookie press of cast iron of about the year 1850. George and Dottie are on hand each year to help with the Craft Festival. George is distantly related to the Henrys, and we are happy to welcome them each year. A great big thank you for presenting this newest item for display at the Homestead.

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We note that Beatrice Pritchard, Nazareth, is the new chairman of the Flower Garden Committee on which she formerly served as a member. Jane Gilbert, Bushkill Township Supervisor, and Mary Henry Stites, past committee chairman, are serving with Beatrice.

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The Board authorized the purchase and installation of four 5-lb. all-purpose fire extinguishers for the Homestead.

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Hilton Rahm, Jr., announced the date of July 17 for the Summer Crafts Festival. Mary Lou Audenried again is in charge of securing the participation of crafters. Other arrangements will be announced later.

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Nazareth Day will be observed this year on July 24, and the Jacobsburg Historical Society again will sponsor a sales table in charge of Betty Morris. Betty reminds members and friends to bring "good items" to her for pricing before the sales day.

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The Society would welcome donations of a refrigerator for the Homestead kitchen, as well as shelves and a cupboard with glass doors for the Society Office. Also a steel file cabinet!

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Kathryn Schlamp reported that about 475 men, women, and children attended the Open House in December. Matt Morris' Buddy L Train and tracks were the hit of the day for big and little kids. Donations amounted to \$196, exclusive of all the home-made cookies.

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Joe Lopresti has been searching the archives in Harrisburg to see whether or not the Henry Homestead log cabin was the first one built by Jacob Hubler (whence the name for Jacobsburg).

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How about a vacuum cleaner with attachments for the Homestead?

DIRECTORY

Board of Directors

JOHN J. SCHLAMP - President
 MATTHEW K. MORRIS - Vice President
 ELIZABETH L. MORRIS - Secretary
 MARGARET H. TAYLOR - Treasurer
 JANET A. GUM
 MARY LOU AUDENRIED
 JOSEPH T. DIGERLANDO
 JOSEPH A. LOPRESTI
 ELLIS A. NEUNER
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 CHARLES M. SANDWICK, SR.
 MARY HENRY STITES - EMERITUS
 LOUISE K. YOUNG

Nazareth 759-0302
 Boulton 759-0751
 Boulton 759-0751
 Easton 252-1315
 Nazareth 759-1862
 Nazareth 759-4649
 Wind Gap 759-7239
 Stockertown 759-1580
 Boulton 759-1764
 Bethlehem 868-1789
 Easton 252-1290
 Nazareth 759-4610

Committee Assignments

Archaeology - Joseph and Virginia Lopresti
 Corresponding Secretary - Joy A. Betz
 Editor, Jacobsburg Record - Charlotte C. Sayre
 Homestead - Kathryn M. Schlamp
 Cataloguer - Elizabeth L. Morris
 Curators: Contents - Dorothy Law
 Gunnery - Albert Toth
 Exhibits - Virginia Lopresti
 Flower Garden - Beatrice Pritchard
 Jane Gilbert, Mary Henry Stites
 Herb Garden - Diane D. Warner
 Maintenance - Ellis A. Neuner
 Hospitality - Althea Neuner
 Peggy H. Shuttleworth
 Membership - Margaret H. Taylor
 Music in the Woods - Dale W. Prinkey
 Photography - Reginald M. Banks, Jr.
 Publicity - Louise K. Young
 Research - Charles M. Sandwick, Sr.
 Summer Craft Festival - Mary Lou Audenried
 Hilton N. Rahn, Jr.

Stockertown 759-1580
 Nazareth 759-3507
 Easton 253-9516
 Nazareth 759-0302
 Boulton 759-0751
 Bethlehem 866-7910
 Nazareth 759-2153
 Stockertown 759-1580
 Nazareth 759-4905
 Nazareth 759-3555
 Boulton 759-1764
 Boulton 759-1764
 Easton 252-1315
 Nazareth 759-7616
 Nazareth 759-6696
 Nazareth 759-4610
 Easton 252-1290
 Nazareth 759-4649

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FOR JACOBSTOWN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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

Name Contributions

Tannery Club	\$100	Boulton Club	\$500	Henry Rifle Club	\$1000
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Name _____

Street _____ Tel. No. _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Please return this slip with your check made payable to Jacobsburg Historical Society. Mail to: Miss Margaret H. Taylor, 733 Paxinosa Ave., Easton, PA. 18042. All contributions are tax deductible to the extent provided by law. Your canceled check is your receipt.