

The Jacobsburg Record

JULY/AUGUST 1982

VOL. X, NO. 4

POCONO CHAMBER ORCHESTRA
August 29, 7:00 p.m.--Amphitheater

Note--Amphitheater. It was years in the planning and it took months of hard work, but now Dale Prinkey, Jacobsburg State Park Superintendent, announces that the Pocono Chamber Orchestra on August 29 will inaugurate the Amphitheater at the Park parking lot.

Keep that date open and plan to come.

The Sunday evening Summer Series of music have been a definite drawing card. Dale estimates the crowd at an average of about 200 each night. The programs have been sponsored by The Express and the U.S. Recording companies who furnish funds in whole or in part for the instrumental music, not only at the Park but at the Open House Henry Homestead sessions through the Music Performance Trust Funds as arranged by Local 577, American Federation of Musicians, Bangor-Stroudsburg.

The Park and the Jacobsburg Historical Society have appreciated so much the cooperation of the sponsoring bodies and the services and entertainment supplied by talented artists. Thank you, everyone!

SECOND ANNUAL PRIMITIVE ENCAMPMENT AND OX ROAST
JACOBSBURG STATE PARK - SEPTEMBER 24, 25, 26

This is the outing for all black powder buffs. The big prize for best score is being donated by George Dech--his hand-crafted functional replica of a Henry "Trade" Rifle.

The Jacobsburg Historical Society is the sponsor. The Henry Homestead will be open, 1-4 p.m., that Sunday, September 26.

Again the program will involve two nights' primitive encampment in tepees and lean-tos with meals prepared over open fires. Camp sites and the best authentic costumes will all be judged for prizes.

Set-ups will take place Friday night, and the ox roasting over an open pit will be started that night as well. For as long as they last, sandwiches will be served Saturday and Sunday from that ox roast. The Society will have other refreshments on hand, as well as birch beer on tap.

There will be special music Saturday night.

Flint lock shooting events are scheduled from 9-4 on Saturday and 9-2 on Sunday. The two-day scores will be totaled. It will be possible to re-enter the competition if a score is surpassed and a participant wants to try to outdo the second fellow.

(Continued on page 3)

FIELD JOURNAL, 1981
(Continued)

Virginia Lopresti, Archeologist

After three weeks at the Miller home, we spent the week of August 10 in the small building foundation on the south side of the Jacobsburg Inn. It is visible on the 1863 picture we have of the Wolle family reunion. The site proved to be 14 by 16 ft., inside dimensions and with stone walls. It had been much disturbed when the road from Nazareth and the roads to Wind Gap and Delabole had been improved.

We removed the stones, along with considerable amount of clay, to the area between the structure and the highway. Roofing slates were crushed and concentrated in several areas. Nails were scarce, ceramics almost nonexistent; broken glass we found occasionally, but we recovered about 100 oyster shells. We were delighted to find a whole Jacob Schneider bottled; we had previously collected broken pieces only in the tannery area. Jacob Schneider was a tavern owner on Walnut St., Easton, near the Court House. Two pieces of white kaolin pipe stem were found in the upper floor level. There appeared to be two living levels, but we found very few artifacts in either of them.

We had expected Friday, August 14, to be our last paid work day. But! Manpower Office called to say we could have our late start boys for another two weeks. One boy had left for vacation, and the first had already worked his allotted eight weeks. Our frailest boy decided he could not take any more heat and shoveling. So, Joe (Lopresti) and I with a crew of three tackled the Jacobsburg Inn.

To "do" the Inn was a 10-year dream come true--to see what we could uncover of this 200-year-old stagecoach stop. While visions of Williamsburg danced in our heads, we eagerly started on this building Jacob Hubler had constructed along the Minisink Trail in 1780. We worked on the front or east side--first at the corner nearest to the small house we had just completed. This end of the building had been completely pushed inside by a bulldozer. The stones in the area were returned to the corner of the building they were originally a part of--a wall to meet the fireplace that was saved from destruction because a large tree was growing right in it.

Two of the boys assisted Joe on this wall and then the west wall. Along the latter they were pleased to find several small blown glass bottles. The remains of that wall were also difficult to locate as most of the stones had been pushed inside the building. Our most handicapped boy (not our frailest!) and myself worked the rest of the front of the building. Two small walnut trees were growing out of the tumbled down rocks. We removed the surrounding briars and sweet spice bushes.

There was considerable clay mortar among the large and small stones but very few artifacts. About six pieces of ceramics had to

be identified. Under layers of rocks, we uncovered crushed roofing slate and slate nails and broken window panes. It wasn't too long before we began to recognize a level area. It proved to be a 5-ft. wide stone patio next to the stone wall and a 5-ft. wide brick patio between the stones and the former roadway. At the edge of the stones but not extending into the brick area were the square cut stones that supported the porch at the second level.

We cleaned off the bricks and stones on our hands and knees. As a reward we found an 1893 Indianhead penny between two stones in front of the doorway in the northern half of the building. Other remains recovered were nails, hundreds of slivers of at least four different thicknesses of window panes and a forge hook from a box used at Matthew Henry's blast furnace. Nearby was a piece of blue slag from the furnace. We were surprised to find that doorway step was 16½ in. higher than the lower doorway.

An amusing part of working in the front porch area was to glance up at the passing cars and watch the drivers go by with their mouths open. Many told us later they thought we were rebuilding the stone structure and what was it---the best little you know what in Northampton County.

(To be continued)

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Shoot--Continued from page 1

Watch for registration costs and fees.

On Saturday only, the Northampton Militia (Allentown, and note ye olde name for the Queen City) will demonstrate a military encampment of the late 1700's with drills and showings of camp life.

For the entire weekend there will be craft and Indian game demonstrations.

The Bake House on the Benade property will be in use to demonstrate and sell bread and pies. There will be interpretive talks on bee keeping.

Dale hopes to present Carla Messinger, Allentown, who is part-American Indian and gives show-and-tell interpretations of Indian life in the 18th Century.

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BENADE HOUSE MUSEUM

Dale Prinkey announces that the official blueprints have received the go-ahead for re-doing the Benade House into a museum. The work will be put out for bids as a next step.

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Henry Homestead Open House--1-4 p.m., September 26 and October 24

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE FEHR FAMILY

By Charles M. Sandwick, Sr.

It was a surprise to learn that of the fifty-nine workmen employed at the Henry Gun Factory in Boulton during the month of January, 1866, eleven were named Fehr. Michael, Abraham, Peter, Lewis, Tilghman and Henry Fehr accounted for six of the twenty filers. Jacob, William and Reuben Fehr were among the sixteen men who worked at making gunstocks, while John and James Fehr were among the fifteen blacksmiths. Other occupations represented in the work force included four finishers, two riflers, a grinder and a breecher.

All eleven Fehrs were descendants of John and Eva Rosina (Geist) Fehr, natives of Bucks County, who came into Northampton County in the late 1700's, eventually settling in that part of Plainfield which is now (since 1813) Bushkill Township. The family of John Fehr was in Williams Township as early as 1790, but they were in Forks by 1798 (probably earlier), and by 1804 they were settled in Plainfield.

The gravestones of Johannes and Eva Fehr stand side by side in the lower part of the old cemetery behind St. Luke's United Church of Christ on the road from Belfast to Jacobsburg. It will be remembered that the original church on this site was founded jointly by members of the Reformed, Lutheran and Moravian denominations under the leadership of members of the Henry family, and was often called Henry's Church. Eva's stone is well preserved, but that of Johannes is badly weathered and partially defaced.

After many attempts to read the inscription of Johannes Fehr, I was inclined to abandon it as hopelessly illegible. I finally realized that if it were to be read at all it would have to be at a time when the sun's rays barely grazed the face of the stone. A few days ago, on July 31st, I discovered that the most favorable interval began at 2:22 p.m. daylight saving time. This is what I read:

Zum
Andenken an
JOHANNES FEHR
Wurde Geboren
den 15^{ten} April 1752
Ein Sohn von Johannes
Fehr und Gestorben
den 24^{ten} Februar 1839
Alt worden 86 Jahre
10 Monate und
9 Tage

Eva's inscription, which is completely legible, is as follows:

Zum Andenken an
EVA FEHR
Ehefrau von Johannes Fehr
Geboren den 10^{ten} Feb. 1757
Starb den 4^{ten} Oct. 1853
Alt geworden
96 Jahr. 7 Mo. 22 Tage.

A lot of debris has had to be swept away in order to prepare an account of the Fehr family. It has been claimed that the father of John Fehr, who was born in 1752, was Jacob Fehr, born in 1704, who immigrated in 1739 and settled in Lower Saucon. The claim is incorrect. John's parents were John and Dorothea Fehr, of Bucks County.

Another fallacy is the claim that Eva Rosina Fehr's maiden name was Bowman. We have found only hearsay to support this assertion and have been unable to pinpoint its origin. The fact is that her maiden surname was Geist, which she affirmed when John and Eva Fehr, nee Geist, of Bushkill Township, grandparents of the child, were sponsors at the baptism of Eva, born 5 May 1830 and baptized 11 Aug 1830, daughter of Peter and Sarah (Unangst) Fehr (spelled Fair in the Schoeneck Moravian register).

The obituary of Johannes Fehr in a register of St. John's Lutheran Church, Easton, states that he was the son of "Joh & Dorothea;" that he was born in Bucks County 15 Apr 1752 and died in Bushkill Township 24 Feb 1839; that he married Eva Geissin in 1773; that they had six sons and seven daughters, of whom two sons had died, and also had 85 grandchildren and 60 great-grandchildren. Unfortunately, the original register in which this information had been recorded in German, was replaced many years ago by an English translation, and the original has since disappeared. Mrs. Jane Moyer has undertaken a search for the original, thus far without success. If an examination of the German text should disclose that the name transcribed as Geissin should have been Geisten, it would provide further confirmation that Eva Rosina's surname was Geist. Whether the name was Geiss or Geist, it certainly was not Bowman.

Eva Rosina outlived her husband by fourteen years. Her newspaper obituary reads as follows: "Fehr, Mrs. Eva Rosina, DIED--In Bushkill Township, October 4, 1853, aged 96 years, 7 months, 27 days. Born in year 1757 in Tinnicum Township, Bucks County; married John Fehr in 1773; widow since 1838." (This should be 1839). "Mother of thirteen children, nine of whom were living at time of her death, 90 grandchildren, 242 great grand children, 23 great great grandchildren." It is no wonder that so many Fehrs were available to work for the Henry Gun Factory!

The children of John and Eva Rosina (Geist) Fehr were as follows:
(1) A son who died without issue before 1839, probably much earlier, whose name and birth date we do not know. (2) Maria, born about 1775, married Jacob Bowman (he signed it Bauman), who resided in Forks Township in 1798 and 1799. Maria was a widow by 1838. (3) Catharina Barbara, b 25 Jul 1777, d 20 Jan 1868, m John Wright. (4) J. George, b 29 Aug 1782, d 24 May 1866, m (1) Susanna Yohe; m(2) Susanna Unangst, b 9 Nov 1791, d 6 Oct 1876, dau of John and Elisabeth (Frankenfield) Unangst. (5) John, b about 1784, m Elisabeth Moser. (6) Jacob, b 1786, weaver, m 28 Feb 1803 Elisabeth Heimer.

(7) Mary Elisabeth, b about 1789, m 5 May 1805 John Jacob Achenbach. In 1855 the Achenbachs resided in Orange Township, Columbia County, Pa. (8) Sarah, b about 1792, m Abraham Ward. (9) Eve, b about 1794, m 31 Jul 1814 John Yohe. (10) Michael, b 8 Apr 1797, d 6 Apr 1865, m Elizabeth Heitzmann, b 15 Aug 1795, d 13 Jun 1878. (11) Peter, b 19 Dec 1799, d Bushkill Tp 6 Jun 1851, m Sarah Unangst, b 1 Jul 1802, d 21 Mar 1882, dau of John and Elisabeth (Frankenfield) Unangst. (12) Margaretha Rebecca, b 15 Dec 1802, d 8 Jun 1859, unmarried. (13) Eliza, b 15 May 1805, d 22 Sep 1890, m Henry Mohn, b 4 Oct 1803, d 13 Mar 1875.

Jacob Fear and John Fear were among those who took oaths of allegiance before Robert Patterson, J. P. of Tinicum Township, Bucks County in 1778. Jacob Fair was listed in Class 2, and John Fair in Class 8, both as privates, in Captain Patterson's company of militia in Tinicum Township, Bucks County, in a return dated May the 22nd, 1780. Jacob was John's older brother. Jacob Conrad Fehr was born in Bucks County 15 May 1741 and died in Northampton County 11 May 1813. His death record at St. John's Lutheran Church, Easton, says he was a son of John Fehr. He married Christina Beischlein, who was born 22 Aug 1759 and died 26 Sep 1840. Their graves are in the old Williams Township cemetery.

We have been troubled by the many variant spellings (and misspellings) we have encountered, of a surname as simple as Fehr, such Fare, Faer, Faehr, Fair, Fear, and even Fuhr. Probably Fehr and Fuhr were different names, but they were sometimes spelled interchangeably, causing confusion in the interpretation of records. The DAR Patriot Index (1966) does not list the name Fehr, but it does list both Jacob and John under the name Fair, as a result of the spelling in their militia records.

The first two recorded purchases of land in Plainfield Township by John Fehr were made on 28 Apr 1804, both from Frederick Koehler, weaver, and Barbara his wife, one of about 119 acres in the Clearfield tract and the other of about 69 acres in the Plymouth tract, land which had been patented to Koehler by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. His next recorded purchases in the township were: in 1808, from Christian Scheibly, 8 acres; in 1814, from John Kind, 16 acres; in 1816, now in Bushkill Township, from Herman Shuman, 128 acres formerly owned by Franz Clewell, Sr.; also in 1816, from Samuel Kolp, 8 acres, and from Jacob Knecht, 16 acres, both of land formerly owned by DeWalt Hahn. In some of these transactions John Fehr was called "innkeeper."

We intend to devote one or more articles to the descendants of John and Eva Rosina (Geist) Fehr who remained in or near the Jacobsburg area, particularly those who contributed to the industrial life of the locality.

(In our May/June issue, we presented a first edited excerpt from Matthew S. Henry's Manuscript History of Northampton County, 1851. This is a project out of the Research Committee, and Charles M. Sandwick, Sr., committee chairman, is doing the editing. Here we present a second offering. The footnotes 1 through 4 have been added by Mr. Sandwick.)

THE VILLAGE OF CHERRY HILL

By Matthew Schropp Henry

Cherry Hill contains a store and tavern, owned and operated by Peter Gross, who located here about 1830.¹ There are also six or eight dwellings. Among the inhabitants is an ingenious musical instrument maker by the name of Martin, a man known both in Europe and America as the maker of the best guitars in the whole world. His instruments are preferred in Paris and London to all others. The compiler has had the opportunity of conversing with an eminent performer on this instrument, who assured him of this fact.²

The village is on the main road from Nazareth to Wind Gap, about one mile from the former place. The name originated from a number of cherry trees that are growing here. Messrs. Miller³ and Molther⁴ erected the store here about 1826 or 1827, but as a result of the accidental drowning of Mr. Molther in the Delaware River the property was sold to Mr. Gross.

¹Peter Gross, b Bethlehem Tp 18 Feb 1805; d Cherry Hill 3 Aug 1880; son of Philip and Sarah Gross, who moved from Bethlehem Tp to Moore Tp; m 30 Dec 1827 Judith Miller, b Moore Tp 24 Aug 1809; d Cherry Hill 4 May 1887; dau of Matthias and Catharine (Bildheimer) Miller. From 1833 until about 1853 they lived at the inn in Cherry Hill, after which they moved to a house a few rods further north on the west side of the road from Cherry Hill through Bushkill Centre.

They had seven sons and five daughters, of whom three sons and one daughter died before them. Belinda died in 1840 aged 11 years, after which that name was given to another child. Charles H. died leaving two children. We do not know the names of two of the sons who died.

Their surviving children were James P., William H. S., Chester, Luther Peter, Belinda wife of John S. Jacobs, Maria Louisa wife of Tilghman S. P. Steiner, Adeline wife of Robert Huber, and Clara Amelia wife of Lewis Andrews.

²Christian Frederick Martin, b Neukirchen, Saxony 31 Jan 1796; d Nazareth 16 Feb 1873; m Apr 1825 Lucia Ottilia Kuehle, b Vienna, Austria 7 Nov 1804; d Nazareth 24 Dec 1872. The first of their seven children, Christian Frederick, Jr., was born in Vienna 2 Oct 1825. About 1829 the family moved to Neukirchen. In September 1833 they came to New York, where the father worked at his business of guitar making. Five years later they moved to Cherry Hill where they remained twenty-three years, after which they moved to Nazareth. Christian Frederick Martin became the most celebrated guitar maker in America. Lucia Ottilia was a gifted harpist and vocalist. Four of their children survived them.

³Christian Henry Miller, b Meinungen, Saxony 2 Mar 1767; d Nazareth 17 Sep 1833; came to America in 1793, worked as a hatter for Jacob Christ; m 13 Dec 1795 Jacobina Fredericka Christ, b Nazareth 29 Sep 1772; d Nazareth 27 Oct 1841; dau of Jacob and Christina Fredericka (Schlosser) Christ. In 1795 C. H. Miller became manager of the congregation store in Nazareth. In 1829 he bought the store.

⁴Charles Molther, b York, Pa. 20 Oct 1801; d 27 Jul 1831, accidentally drowned in the Delaware River while on a fishing party with several other men; son of Rev. Johannes and Susanna Salome (Kreiter) Molther; m Easton, Pa. 22 Apr 1827 Lydia Kimball of Easton. Their first child, an unnamed baby girl, died 20 May 1828 soon after she was born. Mr. Molther was survived by his wife and one daughter, Louisa Maria, born 11 July 1829. Peter Gross acquired the property from Charles Molther's estate by a deed dated 30 Apr 1832 and recorded 12 Oct 1832.

NOTES AND NEWS

We are open to volunteers to come onto the Jacobsburg Historical Society Board of Directors--particularly "next generation" individuals. We plan to expand the Board to 25 members. Call John Schlamp, 759-0302, or any member listed on the last page of this issue.

The new Board, to be elected in October for one, two, or three years, will choose their own officers. It will continue to be a Working Board, so expect to be involved. We welcome newcomers.

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Speaking of "working," we thank Hilton Rahn, Jr., for his leadership as chairman for the past two years of our Summer Colonial Craft Festival, particularly our July 17 version this year. We appreciate so much his service. The affair involves a large number of people and many arrangements. Thank you, Hilton!

In addition, we certainly appreciate Mary Lou Audenried's work in getting together the 50 or more crafters and exhibitors. They are the core of our affair, and we know it is a year-round task to keep in touch and get new folks.

A great big thank you to Geary Gum who contributed the Hershey ice cream. And hats off to the kitchen crew, particularly Betty Morris and Althea Neuner, who put together the delicious barbecue, crying over the onions all the way.

Finally three cheers for everyone who helped set up, for the bus and driver and Joe Lopresti's "digs" explanations, the story-telling for youngsters, and the birch beer dispensers, Matt Morris and Ellis Neuner. A bang-up job, everybody!

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Betty Morris, Dottie Law, and Kathryn Schlamp earned \$144.15 at the Nazareth Day festivities. They worked (in the sun) at the Jacobsburg Historical Society table offering for sale good oldies.

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For the Henry Homestead the Society has received from Miss Dorothy R. Miller, Easton, a set of six round copperish canisters, about 4 in. high, and in their own holder. They are probably late 1800's, and we say thank you very much to Dorothy.

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Bob Newell at Research Committee meeting, June 23, reported that his Dad, on a browsing expedition, Palmerton Library, located a book published in 1924, "The Kentucky Rifle," by Capt. John G. W. Dillin. The book included excellent photographs of the Henry rifle and interior and exterior views of the Henry gun factory. Capt. Dillin interviewed Charles Henry pictured working on a rifle-boring machine. He was shown around the works and all the Henry homes. The book was later discovered also on the Easton Library reference shelves.

DIRECTORY - 1982

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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

Tannery Club	\$100	Boulton Club	\$500	Henry Rifle Club	\$1000
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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 cancelled check is your receipt.