

The Jacobsburg Record

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 1982

VOL. X, NO. 5

ANNUAL MEETING - THURSDAY, OCTOBER 21

MEMORIAL HALL - STOCKERTOWN

CASH BAR, 6:00 - DINNER, 6:30, \$8.50

Plan to come, particularly to vote on changing the Constitution and Bylaws to expand the membership of the Board of Directors. Details are included with this issue of the newsletter, page 3.

Mahlon H. Hellerich, Archivist and Museum Director of Lehigh County will be the speaker. Dr. Hellerich is also a Preservation Consultant and Immigration Counselor with Lehigh County. His talk will center on the work value of the amateur historian/researcher.

Dr. Hellerich was graduated from Muhlenberg College, 1940, and earned subsequent degrees from Columbia, University of Pennsylvania, Temple, and the University of Michigan. He has been a professor of history in Maryland, Iowa, and Pennsylvania before taking nonacademic positions relating to activities historical.

Indicative of Dr. Hellerich's wide-ranging interests are his membership and active concern in 18 associations and societies, among them: American Historical Association, Pennsylvania Historical Association, Pennsylvania German Society, Pennsylvania Folklife Society, Lutheran Historical Society of Eastern Pennsylvania, National Trust for Historic Preservation, Society for Industrial Archaeology, Lenni Lenape Historical Society of Pennsylvania, Civil War Round Table of Eastern Pennsylvania, Pennsylvania Canal Society, Society for the Preservation of Old Mills.

We all know what delicious dinners are served by the women of Memorial Hall. The menu this year includes fruit cup, turkey, ham, mashed potatoes, filling, frenched string beans, mixed vegetables, rolls and butter, lettuce with bacon dressing, relish dish, cocoanut cream pie, coffee, tea--all at no increase in price over the past two years. You will not want to miss this affair!

Please note: Send checks to Mr. Matthew Morris, 384 Henry Road, Nazareth, PA 18064, by October 14.

In addition, Matt Morris will have on hand a Henry rifle. The model of the Henry Gun Factory, fashioned and donated by Mr. Robert Wendler of Bethlehem, will be on display too.

Virginia and Joe Lopresti will exhibit artifacts from the Jacobsburg digs, and Eva Smith will show and take orders for the "Miss Clara" Jacobsburg cornhusk dolls. Diane Warner will offer her herbal packets and homemade vinegars. Dale Prinkey, Superintendent of the Jacobsburg State Park, will show and sell his hand-drawn prints of the several historic buildings in the Jacobsburg area. The Society receives a percentage of all sales.

Directions for getting to the Memorial Hall: Coming from the south on Rte. #33, take the Stockertown exit and turn right. At the end of the block, cross Rte #115 slightly to the right. At the dead end street, turn right, and the Hall is on your left. Coming from the north on Rte. #115, in Stockertown, immediately beyond the exit from Rte. #33, take the street to the left. At the end of that block, turn right, and the Hall will be on your left. Parking available.

FIELD JOURNAL, 1981

Virginia Lopresti, Archaeologist

With this issue, Virginia brings to an end the account of the Lopresti (Virginia and Joe) digs through the summer of 1981

Our work at the Inn did not stop with our 10 weeks of concentrated efforts. Because of an overheard conversation at a concert in Jacobsburg State Park, we continued part-time to November 1. I heard a wife ask her husband what the Benade House had been used for in the village. He did not know. I turned around and gave them a short history of the area. They were fascinated and wanted to get involved. There followed 10 days of additional digging.

Paul and Pauline Semoneit from Bangor, and sometimes their two daughters, were enthusiastic participants in the hard and exacting work involved in working 10 sq. ft. on the inside of the Inn site.

The stones and bones, rotted leaves and broken beer bottles along with roots, roots, and more roots were 18 to 24 in. deep. We did not cover much material until we reached the living level. Excitement was high the day we found an 1857 Flying Eagle penny in the doorway. Then 5 ft. from the doorway toward the center of the building, we found a thimble. It had a lovely design engraved on the side and had a sharp edge at the bottom. It is green but we have not had it analyzed yet to determine whether it is copper or brass. We are supposed to be able to tell by its displacement in water.

As we continued, we found some early ceramics and, of course, windowpane. A large glass marble found in the same area as the thimble has red, white, and blue banners in its center. On display, we keep it wet to better show off the colors.

The 10 ft. along the south wall brought us to the fireplace which was rather a disappointment for we found few artifacts in it. It had been repaired several times with bricks and mortar (cement). A piece of strap iron was found on the outside corner in the clay. In the center, we found nails and burnt wood. However the digging around the roots of the tree in the fireplace and around the tree in our 10-ft. square did hold a reward for us: The floor of the area was yellow clay on top of red clay. We surmise the yellow clay was imported to be used as mortar between the building stones and that the excess was spread unevenly on the floor. Some artifacts were found in and below this area as well.

Virginia hopes to begin coverage of their 1982 activities with the next issue.

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We want to thank Virginia and Joe for their work over the Encampment weekend, September 24-26. Joe did duty at the ox roast, and Virginia did all the preparation and buying for the refreshment stand for the benefit of the Society. She made candy, dozens of cup cakes, and the beef barbecue as well. Besides all that, as president she presided and made the arrangements for her 50th Nazareth High School class reunion on Saturday night.

SUGGESTED CHANGES, CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

Following is the report from the appointed committee, Matthew K. Morris, Mary Henry Stites, and Ellis A. Neuner.

After discussion and study of the Bylaws and Constitution of the Jacobsburg Historical Society, the Committee respectfully submits for the Membership's consideration the following:

JACOBSTURG HISTORICAL SOCIETY
BYLAWS

Current: ARTICLE I. Officers and Board of Directors

Section 3. - Board of Directors

a. The Board of Directors shall consist of twelve (12) directors, including the officers, elected by the membership.

Recommended: a. The Board of Directors shall consist of not less than twelve (12) and not more than twenty-five (25), including the officers, elected by the membership.

Current: d. Seven (7) directors shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

Recommended: d. A majority of the directors shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

During the course of the committee's study of the Bylaws and Constitution, it was our opinion that we should draw to the Board's attention an item that we would recommend for amendment:

JACOBSTURG HISTORICAL SOCIETY
CONSTITUTION

Current: ARTICLE V. Committees of the Board

Section 5.4 - Vacancy in Office

In the event any of the officers resign or be removed by death or otherwise, the Board of Directors shall fill such vacancy for the unexpired term of such office.

Recommended: Section 5.4 - Vacancy in Office

In the event any of the officers or Directors resign or be removed by death or otherwise, the Board of Directors may fill such vacancy for the unexpired term of such office.

The above recommendations are made to the Membership for their consideration and action by unanimous opinion of the appointed committee.

SOME DESCENDANTS OF JOHN AND EVA FEHR

By Charles M. Sandwick, Sr.

George Fehr came with his parents from Bucks County to Northampton County before 1790. By 1804 the family had settled in that part of Plainfield which later became Bushkill Township. George was a farmer and weaver. His farm was located on part of the land which was formerly owned by Franz Clewell, Sr., about a mile north of Cherry Hill, east of the road through Aluta toward Bushkill Center. On his tombstone in the old cemetery behind "Henry's Church" on the road from Belfast to Jacobsburg his name was carved as J. George Fehr, but he was generally known simply as George. Only rarely do we find his name recorded as John George. His first four children were baptized at the Union Church in Plainfield Township, now St. Peter's Lutheran, about one mile southeast of Wind Gap.

George Fehr was born in Bucks County 29 Aug 1782 and died in Bushkill Township 24 May 1866, son of John and Eva Rosina (Geist) Fehr. His first wife was Susanna Yohe whom he married about 1803. She is presumed to have died about 1818. Unfortunately we have no definite dates for Susanna (Yohe) Fehr, nor do we know where she was buried. She may have been the daughter of Johan Adam and Magdalena (Barndt) Yohe, whose daughter Susanna was born 23 Mar 1781, but we haven't been able to confirm it.

George and Susanna (Yohe) Fehr had at least six children, all born in what is now Bushkill Township. (1) Charles, b 16 Aug 1804; d Moore Tp 24 Sep 1891; m Catharine Jumper, b Forks Tp 7 Oct 1804; d 17 Dec 1882; dau of Leonard and Anna Magdalena (Kutz) Jumper. (2) Maria ("Polly"), b 24 Mar 1806; d 3 Sep 1875; m George Schiffer, b 26 Nov 1803; d 1 May 1864. (3) Sarah, b 7 Jul 1810; d 28 Oct 1877; m(1) Joh. Frederick Saylor, b 8 Oct 1803; d 12 Aug 1834; m(2) Jacob Cope, b 25 Oct 1796; d 24 Nov 1863; son of Isaac and Sarah (Miller) Cope, and widower of Anna Catharine (Bruch) Cope who d 13 Sep 1835.

(4) George, b 21 Oct 1812; d Bushkill Tp 28 Dec 1889; m(1) 26 Apr 1840 Maria Louisa Siegfried, b Bushkill Tp 22 Jun 1820; d 23 Feb 1849; dau of Paul and Johanna Maria (Clewell) Siegfried; m(2) 4 Jan 1852 Christina (Meyer) Seyfried, b Bushkill Tp 9 Dec 1817; d 24 Mar 1898. (5) John, b about 1815; m 17 Apr 1836 Maria Lucretia Colver, b Bushkill Tp 3 Jan 1819; dau of Jacob and Catharina (Steiner) Colver. In the 1850 census of Bushkill Tp, John Fehr, 34, was listed as a gunsmith. (6) Michael G., b 14 Feb 1817; d 22 Apr 1902; m 18 Sep 1842 Friedericke Louise Mueller, b 17 Jan 1823; d 15 Mar 1895; dau of George and Philippine (Clewell) Mueller.

Both wives of George Fehr were named Susanna. He married second, about 1819, Susanna Unangst, b Bethlehem Tp 9 Nov 1791; d Bushkill Tp 6 Oct 1876; dau of John and Elisabeth (Frankenfield) Unangst. They had six children, all born in Bushkill Township. (7) Eva, b 2 Jun 1820; bap in the Schoeneck Moravian Gemeinhaus 18 Jun 1820, although the parents were not members; sponsors, the child's grandparents, John and Eva (Geist) Fehr of Bushkill Tp. The child Eva is presumed to have died young, as she is not mentioned in later records of this family.

(8) Joseph, b 9 Feb 1822; d 8 Feb 1889; m 23 Mar 1845 Julianna Philippina Clewell, b Bushkill Tp 21 Jan 1825; d 17 Aug 1870; dau of John Samuel and Catharina (Hahn) Clewell. (9) Reuben, b 13 Dec 1823;

d 7 Mar 1891; m 25 Nov 1847 Caroline Elisabeth Clewell, b 10 Dec 1822; d 8 Nov 1902; dau of John Samuel and Catharina (Hahn) Clewell. (10) Frederick, b 23 Oct 1826; d 8 Mar 1896; m Sobina -----, b 5 Feb 1832; d 29 Sep 1916. (11) Elizabeth, b 26 Oct 1828; d 22 Jan 1897; m Andrew L. Keller, b 17 Apr 1827; d 23 Jan 1911; son of Jacob and Catharine (Hahn) Keller. (12) Jacob, b 4 Apr 1831; d 12 Jan 1894; m Matilda L. -----, b 15 Feb 1836; d Palmer Tp 29 Jun 1916.

The reader will have noticed that in 1820 John and Eva (Geist) Fehr were sponsors at the baptism of their granchild Eva, daughter of George and Susanna (Unangst) Fehr. Ten years later, in 1830, they were again sponsors at the baptism of a grandchild named Eva, daughter of Peter and Sarah (Unangst) Fehr. George and Peter were brothers, and Susanna and Sarah were sisters. The significant fact is that on two occasions, ten years apart, Grandmother Eva gave Geist as her maiden surname.

Peter Fehr was born in Forks Township 19 Dec 1799, and died in Bushkill Township 6 Jun 1851, son of John and Eva Rosina (Geist) Fehr. He married Sarah Unangst who was born 1 Jul 1802, and died in Plainfield Township 21 Mar 1882, daughter of John and Elisabeth (Frankenfield) Unangst. They had six children, all born in Bushkill Township. (1) George, b 8 Nov 1822; d Plainfield Tp 27 Feb 1892; bur Forks Church cemetery; m Mary Ann Hinkel, b 4 Jul 1827; d 1 Jan 1891; dau of Samuel Hinkel of Lower Mt. Bethel Tp. (2) Peter, b 8 Mar 1824; bap 5 May 1824 at Forks Church; d Pen Argyl 6 Jun 1882; m Emilie Elisabeth Stauber (Amelia), b Filetown 3 Dec 1829; d 26 Oct 1917; dau of Christian and Dorothea (Benade) Stauber.

(3) Henry, b 26 Jan 1826; d 30 Nov 1872. In the 1850 census of Buskill Tp he was listed as a filer. (4) Eva, b 5 May 1830; bap 11 Aug 1830, Schoeneck Moravian (the parents were not members); sponsors, John and Eva (Geist) Fehr. The child Eva died sometime before 1851, probably in early childhood. (5) Sarah Ann, b 30 Oct 1833; d 16 Aug 1854, unmarried. (6) Matilda, b about 1839; m 9 Jun 1867 John Q. Hoy or Hay of Bethlehem Tp; resided in 1892 in Hanover Tp.

Research concerning John and Eva (Geist) Fehr and their descendants is being continued. At least one more article about this family will be published in The Jacobsburg Record.

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On the following pages, we present the third item by Charlie Sandwich as he continues his work of excerpting the 1851 Manuscript History of Northampton County by Matthew S. Henry.

We repeat from our May/June issue, Sandwich's note on Henry:

Matthew Schropp Henry (1790-1862), builder of the first blast furnace in Northampton County at Jacobsburg, was himself a "refugee from Nazareth" who in 1819 had eloped to Easton with his first cousin, Ana Catharine Henry (1794-1833), where they were married by a Lutheran pastor. They were later admitted to the Moravian congregation at Schoeneck. His statement that the membership there (as of 1851) "consists mostly of such refugee members or their descendants," is an exaggeration.

THE VILLAGE OF JACOBSTOWN

By Matthew Schropp Henry

Jacobstown is a village on the road from Cherry Hill to Wind Gap, nearly four miles from Nazareth, containing at present a tavern and store owned by the estate of Thomas Gold, also a tannery, grist mill, saw mill and a few dwellings all owned by Jacob Cope. The name is derived from Jacob Hubler, one of the first settlers, who was there about the year 1790.

The property, consisting of about 400 acres, was purchased by William Henry, Jacob Christ and Jacob Eyerly in 1790 from Mr. Hubler's heirs. One third was subsequently purchased by Nathaniel Michler, who upon a division retained the large stone tavern and about twenty-six acres of land. Here Mr. Michler kept a store until 1809, then sold his stock of goods to a refugee from Nazareth¹ and moved to Easton.

William Henry in 1792 erected a manufactory for muskets, for which he had contracted for several thousand with the governor of Pennsylvania. This building is now transformed into the grist mill. In 1808 Mr. Henry erected a forge for manufacturing bar iron. The first bar of iron made in this county was made there on 12th May 1809.

In 1815 Matthew S. Henry (the compiler) became the owner of the forge, mills, etc. In 1824 he erected a blast furnace² where he made the first pig iron and the first stove castings in May 1825. He sold these iron establishments to Messrs. Wolle³ and Kern⁴ in 1833, and production was carried on by them or their assignees until 1840. These iron works were situated on the Bushkill Creek. The tannery is upon the spot where the furnace stood.

(An edited passage from M. S. Henry's Manuscript History of Northampton County, 1851. Footnotes added by C. M. S., Sr.)

¹The "refugee from Nazareth" who leased the Jacobstown Inn from Nathaniel Michler and bought the latter's stock of merchandise, was actually Matthew Henry's brother-in-law, John Frederick Wolle (1785-1860). In 1809 Wolle married Sabina Henry (1792-1859), daughter of William and Sabina (Schropp) Henry. From 1809 to 1818 the Wolle family resided in the Jacobstown Inn, and five of their eight children were born there. (See The Jacobstown Record, vol. 5, no. 3, April 1977, p. 1-4).

²For a description of the Catharine Furnace, see M. S. Henry, History of the Lehigh Valley, Easton, PA.: 1860; p. 165; or see The Jacobstown Record, vol. 5, no. 7, Nov./Dec. 1977; p. 6.

³William Henry Wolle, b Jacobstown 19 Dec 1810; d Bethlehem 25 Jul 1853; son of John Frederick and Sabina (Henry) Wolle; m Eleanor Hamner; 6 children.

⁴This Peter Kern had been a blacksmith in Nazareth before joining with William H. Wolle in the purchase of several hundred acres in Bushkill Township, with improvements including the forge and furnace, from Matthew S. Henry. In the deed (Book C6, pp. 118-121, dated 12 Sep 1833) Wolle and Kern were described as iron manufacturers. The purchase price was \$30,000.

In an earlier partnership with John S. Haman, innkeeper, of Northampton County, notably in Bushkill Township. From 1831 to 1833 their wives, Charlotte Kern and Sarah Haman, were parties with them to several sales of property.

The Jacobsburg venture proved unprofitable. On 6 Jan 1835 William H. Wolle and Peter Kern of Bushkill Township, ironmasters, and Charlotte, wife of Peter Kern, assigned all of their properties to John F. Wolle and Jacob Wolle, both of Bethlehem, and Joseph Albright, of Oxford, New Jersey, for the benefit of their creditors. (Misc. book 4, pp. 186-188.)

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NOTES AND NEWS

Matthew Morris reports reservations are going fast for the November 15 Philadelphia Museum of Art Field Trip. The Jacobsburg Historical Society and the Northampton County Historical Society together are sponsoring the event. M. Morris says a second bus may be necessary. Saturday, October 23, is the deadline for reservations.

The date is one of 10 special "County Days" on Pennsylvania German Art organized by the Museum. The price of \$30 for Historical Society members, or \$35 for nonmembers, includes the bus trip down and back from and to the Holiday Inn East, lunch in the Museum Restaurant, and all entrance fees. Send checks to Matthew Morris, 384 Henry Road, Nazareth, PA., 18064; phone, 759-0751.

In addition to the Museum offerings, the Lehigh Valley Group will tour two Fairmount Park homes: (1) the "Woodford Mansion" acquired in 1756 by William Coleman, merchant, lawyer, judge, and friend of Benjamin Franklin, that includes the Naomi Wood collection and (2) "Mt. Pleasant," built in 1761-1762, the elegant home of John Macpherson, Scottish sea captain.

End-of-trip reservations at the Holiday Inn East, for dinner at your own expense, can be made through M. Morris. Come, join!

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The Henry Homestead has been the recipient of a 9 x 12 "Hamendon" East Indian woven rug. The donors are Mr. and Mrs. Ralph W. Perkinpine, Easton, members and friends of the Society who were kind enough to think of us when they moved into a wall-to-wall carpeted home.

The rug was quickly laid on the floor of the Homestead "parlor." It was much admired at the very first Open House following receipt, and we hasten to express our appreciation. Thank you, Perkinpines!

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Speaking of Open House, there is one more regularly scheduled one, October 24. Those who have come to the last several tours have been pleased to offer congratulations to Claude Jones on his refinishing of the Society's mid-18th Century chest. It is a handsome one. What a tree that one-plank lid must have come from, and we can't help but wonder about the significance of the one green leaf design Claude found on the front and sides when he began cleaning. He has faithfully reproduced it. Congratulations again on a beautiful job.

Notes and News, Continued

Now that the time is here to plant Spring bulbs, we are reminded of the tulip bulbs put in last year at the Homestead. The blooming made a lovely picture and was well worth the day-long, back-breaking (and ground under the finger nails) work put in by Beatrice Pritchard of the Society's Garden Committee and the ladies from the Moorestown Garden Club. We salute all of you and hope everyone will make it a point to see the tulips every year. Thank you, everybody!

We also appreciate the efforts of Diane Warner in putting in an herb garden at the Homestead.

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The plaintive lament of everyone who writes copy: One survives only by a sense of humor and humility.

Hilton Rahn, Jr., put in three, not two, laudable years as chairman of the Society's Colonial Craft Festival. We appreciated every one, Hilton!

Then things have a way of back-firing. The editor admits to waxing cute over ye olde spelling of Northamptowne as the original name of Allentown, only to find it came out "Northampton." Well, so it goes, and the editor accepts full responsibility for all of these goofs in the July/August issue of the newsletter.

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But let's get back to happier comments--the rousingly successful summer of soirees at the Jacobsburg State Park. The Sunday evening concerts were sponsored by The Express (Easton) in cooperation with the Jacobsburg State Park and the Music Performances Trust Fund. In addition, the performances were coordinated by Local 577 American Federation of Musicians, Bangor/Stroudsburg.

For the series of seven or eight concerts, between 3000 and 4000 people brought chairs, blankets, cushions, and tail-gateing picnics to enjoy guitarists and group bands of pop, jazz, bluegrass, all kinds of music. The woods rang. We hope the performers enjoyed the experience as well.

Mightily appreciated, too, were the harpists, flutists, and violinists who gave us such beautiful music for our Open House Henry Homestead tours.

Throw in a Black Powder Shoot and a three-day Primitive Encampment, and it was a truly eventful summer of which, we are sure, Dale Prinkey and his associates of the Jacobsburg State Park can be most proud.

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James Wright, Nazareth High School teacher and author on historical themes in The Express (Easton), is a new member of the Research Committee. Charlie Sandwick, chairman, announces. Jim is a member of the Jacobsburg Historical Society, as well as the Northampton County Historical Society.

The next meeting of the committee is scheduled for October 27, 7:45, at the Sandwick home, 819 Spring Garden St., Easton.