

The Jacobsburg Record

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 1982

VOL. X, NO. 6

CHRISTMAS TEA - HENRY HOMESTEAD

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5, 1-4 P.M.

ANTIQUE TOYS, GAMES - REFRESHMENTS



Come be drenched in nostalgia-- toys and games of yesteryear will bring back memories of another day--no Atari!

Relive former Christmases when even an orange was a marvel, and Parchesi and Dominoes were cherished.

We will have a putz and yes, we will have several antique dolls on display, along with some of the "Let's play house" pots and pans.

Husbands and fathers, as well as youngsters, will be interested in the 50-year-old Marklin wind-up steam locomotive and three cars--the baggage car, the diner, and the sleeping car. We will display four Buddy L pieces of equipment: clam bucket shovel, aerial ladder, dump truck, and oil tank truck.

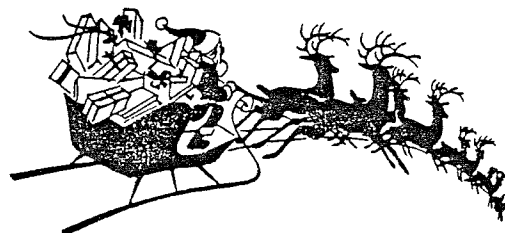
The Buddy L line of toys was built of pressed steel for backyard use, strong enough for youngsters to sit on. They are collectors' items these days. In addition, we will show a gasoline tank truck and an earth mover.

Bob Newell will show some of his cast iron toys. In fact, there will be many many items to see and admire. Oldsters and youngsters are welcome.

Virginia and Joe Lopresti will show some choice archaeological items from the digs.

The house will be decorated with Christmas twinings - 'tis the best season of the year - come enjoy the gay festivities!

Directions for getting to the Homestead: From the South, take Rte. #33 to the Belfast Exit; turn left, and just beyond the bridge, turn right into the Parking Lot. From the North, at the Belfast Hotel on Rte. #115, turn right; take the first left fork at Speck Plastics, and continue to the bridge, then right into the Parking Lot.



1982 FIELD JOURNAL

Virginia Lopresti, Archaeologist

The 1982 season started early when 30 Boy Scouts and leaders from New Holland, Pa., spent a weekend in Jacobsburg State Park. They arrived May 14 just before dark and were the first group to use the camping area off the Bushkill Center Road. They were ready and waiting at 9 a.m. the next morning, a Saturday, for their first try at digging up the past.

We had an unfinished project at the Miller's home. The floor had never been troweled. Eleven trowels and five shovels were divided up among the boys as was the floor space (admittedly a bit crowded). Two boys were put to work in the fireplace. Treasures started to turn up immediately. A long hat pin and a button were carefully put in bags. Bits of slipware and glass. Small pieces of early English ceramics and large pieces of bricks were placed in our white enameled colanders ready for washing. Shovels were always ready and waiting because their operators were eager to get their turn with a trowel.

It was hard to get the boys to quit for lunch; they worked until 1 p.m. before returning to camp for food. It was an unusually warm day in May. J.A. (Ed. Note: husband Joe) and I decided to meet the boys at the pump in the Village Picnic Area. Previous important artifacts were shown to the Scouts, and a short history of Jacobsburg was presented. The boys and leaders were taken on a hike of the previous nine years' digs with J.A. as guide. After they cooked their supper, they hiked to the Benade House. Here at dark, we showed them slides of Pre-historic Archaeological Excavations. Even though the evening became very cool, and not all the boys were appropriately clothed, it was difficult to get them headed for bed.

The next morning they were up and ready and willing to help with the Black Powder Sunday Shoot. Three o'clock found them packed and heading back for their homes in the Amish Country after an unforgettable weekend. A month later we met the mother of one of the boys who said her son was still talking about his archaeological weekend.

On Thursday, May 27, two busloads of Pen Argyl Junior High School students invaded Jacobsburg Park. About a dozen boys and one girl were interested in the archaeological area. We provided them with trowels, shovels, and supervision. They started in where the Scout Troop had left off. But there was a bit more excitement. One of the boys found an 1880 Indian Head Cent in front of the fireplace in the room where a spring once flowed (east room of the ground floor). A short time later another boy found a 1966 quarter in the doorway. No one admitted he or she might have lost it; so we assume someone lost the quarter during the 1981 summer dig. Ceramics, nails, glass, and bones were also recovered.

Meanwhile J.A. spent considerable time trying to repair the damage that occurred in the south wall of the East Room during the 1981-82 winter. Most of the rocks fell into the room, thus destroying the niche that enclosed the 19th century spring. We are so grateful to have had several pictures taken after the 1981 dig was completed.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 4, "CHRISTMAS NATURALLY"

Come to the Henry Homestead kitchen on Saturday, December 4, to learn how to make Christmas ornaments and decorations out of nature's materials found in the Park. Mike Jones, Assistant Park Superintendent, will teach the class. Only 20 people can be accommodated. Registrations must be in by December 1. Free!

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THREE HENRY RIFLES PURCHASED BY THE SOCIETY

The Society will have on display on December 5 all four Henry rifles now in our possession. The first was a gift in 1980 from William Atherton of Connecticut, great-grandson of William Henry 3rd.

We are pleased to announce three Henry rifles have been purchased recently for \$1670 from the Cay Beers Memorial Fund. We are proud to present these guns for the first time. They were bought from a Lehigh Valley estate antique gun collection that was gathered in the 20's and 30's. Bob Newell, member of the Research Committee, and exhibitor, along with James Wright, of Henry rifles and Civil War guns at previous Open House events, was instrumental in pointing out that this estate sale was an opportunity not to be missed.

One gun has been identified by George Dech, expert in Henry rifles, in particular, as a late Indian Trade gun of about the 1840's or 50's. It is a full stock gun. It could use one big bullet for bringing down buffalo or deer or it could use small buck shot for small animals. The Henrys would have made this style when the fur trading companies were flourishing. Buyers would come to the factory. This particular gun is a James Henry.

The other two guns are marked James Henry and Son, which dates them at about 1860-80. Both are half-stock rifles (wood does not go out to the end of the bore). One is of 36 calibre, small bore, deeply rifled for squirrel hunting or target shooting. The second is in particularly good shape--wood is attractive, and probably was used locally for general hunting.

We wish to thank Bob Newell, too, for providing the three special cases to envelope the three rifles. We appreciate this thoughtful gift.

All these rifles are stored in safe and secure places remote from the Homestead.

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Membership in the Society now stands at 430. Please remember dues are due for the year 1983 as of January 1. We do not send notices.

Ask a friend, neighbor, relative to join!

BOARD NOTES

Three new members have been added to the Board of Directors: Virginia Lopresti, Stockertown; Robert Newell, Nazareth; and Charlotte Sayre, Easton.

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John Schlamp, president, appointed committees as follows: Matthew Morris, Dorothy Law, Ellis Neuner, and Kathryn Schlamp to work with the Park Encampment Committee; an Annual Meeting Committee of Hilton Rahn, Charles Sandwick, Sr., and Charlotte Sayre. The Spring Meeting of the Society will be in charge of Janel Gum, Betty Morris, Althea Neuner, and Peggy Shuttleworth.

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After the purchase of the three Henry rifles, there was still a sum of about \$450 in the Cay Beers Memorial Fund. That amount was designated as an Acquisition Fund. Mary Henry Stites, Matthew Morris, Robert Newell, and Louise Young were named as an Acquisition Committee to accept gifts to the Society.

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Colonial Craft Festival, July 17, netted the Society a bit better than \$1300.

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Dale Prinkey, Jacobsburg State Park Superintendent, announced that the Bureau of State Parks has awarded the contract for work to proceed on the Benade House to turn it into an Historical Interpretive Center. It will feature displays of the history of the Park with themes changing every so often, for instance, to feature iron making, gun making, and the like.

In addition, contracts will be let shortly for restoration of the Spring House, the two-story building in front of the Benade House.

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NOVEMBER 15 PHILADELPHIA TRIP

Two buses, including 72 people from the Jacobsburg Historical Society and the Northampton County Historical and Genealogical Society, made the trip to the Philadelphia Museum of Art on November 15. Matthew Morris and Ann Rahn made the arrangements for this special exhibition on the Pennsylvania Germans: A Celebration of Their Arts 1683-1850. The day was one of the Pennsylvania German County Days prepared for regional groups. It was a beautiful day, the tours were fascinating, and everyone is wondering for where the next trip can be planned.

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Next Board Meeting: December 1, 7:30 - Nazareth National Bank

EVA FEHR'S PENSION APPLICATION

By Charles M. Sandwick, Sr.

Our country was very slow in developing a pension system for its Revolutionary War soldiers. In 1790 the individual states began paying small allowances to their disabled veterans. Years later the Federal government contributed to the funding of the obligations the states had undertaken in behalf of their invalid Revolutionary War soldiers. By an Act of Congress in 1818, the United States provided small pensions to needy veterans who had served a minimum of nine months in the Revolutionary War. In 1820 stringent rules were imposed for proving need before a pension could be granted. Undoubtedly, pride kept many veterans from proving themselves paupers in order to obtain the pittances which were allowed.

An Act of 7 June 1832 required pensioners to have served at least six months in military service. An Act of 4 July 1836 extended benefits to widows of pensioners provided they could prove they had been married to their soldier husbands before the end of the Revolutionary War. On 7 July 1838 Congress passed an Act "granting half pay and pensions to certain widows." Other laws affecting the military pension system were enacted on 3 March 1843 and 7 June 1844. In all cases, the service of the soldier had to be proved, and in the cases of widows, proof of marriage was required.

John Fehr, who had served in the militia from Tinicum Township, Bucks County, died 24 Feb 1839, nearly eighty-seven years old. He was neither an invalid nor a pauper; so he had never asked for a pension. Therefore, he had never been required to obtain the testimony of witnesses, under oath, to prove his military service. Militiamen rarely received written discharges when their terms of service ended; so it is unlikely that John Fehr ever received one.

On 12 Jan 1852 Eva Fehr of Bushkill Township made a sworn declaration before John Wilson, Justice of the Peace, in support of an application "for arrears of Pension due her on behalf of her husband John Fehr late a Soldier of the Revolution, decd." Under oath, she stated that she was the widow of John Fehr to whom she was married 15 May 1773, for which she still had a certificate. She said that when they were married her husband was about five years older than she. She confirmed that he died in Bushkill Township 24 Feb 1839, at which time she had resided with him in Northampton County about fifty-three years, having previously lived in Bucks County, where she was born and married. She further declared that she was born 10 Feb 1757 and was now almost ninety-five years old.

Eva said that she distinctly remembered that her husband John Fehr was a soldier in the Army of the Revolution. The first time he was drawn or volunteered, he served the whole of his term. The second time, he procured a substitute. The third time, he served as a teamster. She said she had often heard him speak of carting flour, meat, food, etc. for the army. She remembered hearing him speak of serving under a certain Irwine or Merwine--she couldn't recall the exact name. She had also heard him speak of a certain Robert Stewart as an officer to whom he was subordinate. She further declared that the marriage certificate, now in her possession, had been in the family ever since her marriage with John Fehr in 1773.

By the time Eva filed this application, her late husband, John Fehr, would have been nearly one hundred years old. The youngest soldier with whom he served would have been in his nineties. What chance would she have had of finding even one survivor whose own service record was established, who could swear that John Fehr had served with him, and could affirm the duration of John's service? Alas, the pension bureaucracy, geared now to processing the claims of War of 1812 veterans and widows, had to have this kind of evidence in order to process Eva's claim.

Eva Fehr died 4 Oct 1853, less than two years after her pension application was filed. Her son-in-law, John Yohe of Upper Mount Bethel Township, and others, continued to press her claim. The last document in her file is a copy of a letter from the Pension Office, dated July 16, 1857, to Edward J. Fox, Esq., Easton, Pa.: "In answer to your letter of 15th ultimo, I have to inform you that in the declaration for a pension of Eva Fehr, widow of John, she alleged that her husband performed two tours of militia duty in Pa. and also served as a teamster, in the Revolutionary War, and that one officer under whom he served was Robert Stewart. This declaration was not accompanied by any sort of testimony to prove her husband's service; and as this office contains no evidence of the alleged service, her claim was not allowed." (Rev. War Pens. App. File R3482, National Archives, Washington DC 20408.)

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REPRINTED!

Please note the next two pages are reprints from the September/October issue of The Jacobsburg Record. We are sure you noticed the right-hand side of pages 4 and 5 in the delineation of the Fehr genealogy did not print--some critical dates, in particular, were lost. In all fairness (no pun intended) to Charles Sandwick, Sr.'s research, we present the work again.

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Last Minute News Flashes . . .

As part of our December 5 Christmas Open House at the Homestead, Diane Warner will be present with her packets of all sorts of herbs and her own homemade vinegars.

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Robert Schall will again demonstrate his artistry in splint weaving. He shows how he goes back to the trees for his wood--he starts from scratch! He will also have on hand a model of a "Schnitzelbank." (Come see for yourself what it is.)

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We also expect to see Eva Smith, premier fashioner of cornhusk dolls, including the Society's own "Miss Clara," as well as Dale Prinkey with his artist's versions of Jacobsburg area buildings and homes.

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Claude Jones will exhibit nine little tin soldiers plus items from his old-time erector set, a play wagon, and a derrick.

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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DIRECTORY - 1982

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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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Please return this slip with your check made payable to Jacobstown 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.