

The Jacobsburg Record

MAY/JUNE 1984

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COME TO THE FAIR!

JACOBSTOWN HISTORICAL SOCIETY COLONIAL CRAFT FESTIVAL

SATURDAY, JUNE 2, 1984, 11:30-5:30

4-H CENTER, 4 MILES NORTH OF NAZARETH—BROAD ST. EXTENDED

About 40 exhibitors will be showing and selling wares. New crafters this year include Betty Wismer, Sellersville, who will demonstrate the weaving of rugs and place mats; also Susan Morgan, Alburtis, who is a third-generation practitioner of hand woven baskets.

We welcome back Robert Wendler, Bethlehem, with his accurate miniature reproductions of area historic buildings; James Hess, Nazareth, this year instead of caning will demonstrate the restoration of antique chairs.

FEATURES

This year for the first time at our Colonial Craft Festival, Bob Newell and Jim Wright will be showing some of the Society's Henry guns and rifles. This is an opportunity for those who have not been able to get to the Henry Homestead Open House affairs. See page 5 of this newsletter for an account of our latest acquisition.

The Northampton Militia in colonial uniform, at various times during the day will demonstrate drilling, firing blanks, and will show off colonial cooking over camp fires.

Plan to spend the day! Joe Lopresti again will conduct tours of the Jacobstown area important to the Henrys and gun making in 1812. (Bus trips are free.) Virginia Lopresti will be showing and explaining artifacts from Jacobstown digs.

Angelo Spinosa and his stringed instrument group will play colonial airs on some very old instruments indeed.

Mrs. Sylvia Snyder will be the story teller to entertain small children during the day.

FOOD

This year Paul Hommer, Nazareth, is in charge of seeing the inner man does not lack for snacks and things.

Again please be sure to say yes to Carolyn Metzgar's husband when he calls to ask for baked goods.

Don't forget, Beatrice Pritchard will be calling for plants to sell.

One of our most popular offerings is the draught birch beer, to be presided over by Ellis Neuner.

IN APPRECIATION

A big thank you to Hilton Rahn and Aimee Trbuza for their work in getting ready for this early-date Festival! Aimee has been in charge of the exhibitors and the booklet. Carolyn Hickernell solicited our advertisers. Joe DiGerlando is always most helpful in securing and setting up tables the night before. Reggie Banks has been on a tight schedule to get parking tickets back to our patrons. Without a patron ticket, parking will be \$2.00.

FIELD JOURNAL, 1983, Continued
Virginia Lopresti

The second day of our summer project was a repeat of the Tuesday of 1982—RAIN. So we got an early start on washing artifacts and recording same. Later in the summer considerably more time was spent at the picnic table on the site. The sun was very hot at times so that a task in the shade of the walnut tree was quite welcome. We kept a basin of soapy water at one end of the table for the next eight weeks. As soon as a goodie, such as a kaolin pipe stem or a button, was found, it was washed and exclaimed over and, many times, recorded immediately on our yellow cards.

On Wednesday morning a gun flint was found. I was not aware of it until Thursday when a volunteer took her hand out of the soapy water and asked what it was she was holding. My heart really jumped. After 11 years we had finally found a gun flint. I thanked my lucky stars it had not been discarded as just another stone.

Our helper from Pen Argyl came only in the morning (husband worked the middle shift), but she came four mornings a week and was usually accompanied by one daughter, and one day brought all three daughters.

Lynn from Bethlehem, after the first day volunteered her services elsewhere and her brother, Mike, found a paying job. John soon became known as a whiz kid. He found the most straight pins and the most buttons, also the smallest thimble. His trowel uncovered a bit of military insignia—a horn, the insignia of the infantry from 1835 to 1872. Perhaps his biggest thrill came when he dug up a one-half cent coin dated 1805. He was joined midway in the summer project by a neighbor and fellow classmate, Nick. Nick's sharp eyes and willing hands added much to our store of treasures. We especially like the two pairs of spectacle frames he dug from the roots of a tree along the path to the privy.

After finishing the patio area to the edge of the macadam, the crew moved up the hill. One foot of soil had been removed from the north wall, 5 ft. wide, and between the two windows in the north wall of the Inn at the ground floor level. The dirt from the corner of the Inn to the first window was moved north first. After taking away 1½ ft. of dirt, we found a retaining wall at a right angle to the north wall. It was a dry wall and intact. About 1 ft. west of this wall we were greatly surprised to find a bar of pig iron, bent at one end. We are still wondering how it got there; Matthew Henry's blast furnace was a ¼ mile downstream. (See last item, page 6, this newsletter.)

The girls troweled this area, and the boys used shovels on the next 5-ft. wide strip from the stairway area to the back porch area. The artifact count was considerably less in these squares. This fact led us to believe that a former path led from the road to the kitchen area. The crockery bits recovered from the 3-ft. deep area next to the wall perhaps had been deliberately put there to make the path less muddy. In the process, the fragile early English ceramics were reduced in size to the many bits not much bigger than a finger nail. They were 3 ft. thick all along the north wall. Here buttons changed from pearl and milk glass to wood and metal with shanks. Glass of any type was scarce. Dirt containing artifacts in the second 5-ft. section was only 2 ft. thick. In the third row of 5-ft. squares, the loot was in dirt only 1 ft. thick.

THE PIONEER OF JACOBSTOWN

By Charles M. Sandwick, Sr.

Jacob Hubler, the pioneer settler of Jacobstown, came from Twann in Canton Bern, Switzerland. He was born about 1710, presumably at Twann, the son of Hans Jacob Hubler. Twann was a village, mostly of winegrowers, beside the Lake of Bielle, now better known as Bieler See. It was in the district of Nidau, about fifteen miles northwest of Bern.

After apprenticeship at shoemaking, Jacob Hubler went to Holland and worked there as a journeyman in that trade. From there he came to America, sailing from Rotterdam on the ship *Virtuous Grace*. He arrived at Philadelphia 24 Sep. 1737, and the same day took the oath of allegiance to the government. He signed his name (in German script) Jacob Hubler. On the ship's manifest his name was recorded as Jacob Howbelare, and his age was given as twenty-six. In another list he was called Johan Jacob Hubler, and in a third, based on his signature, he was Recorded as Jacob Hubler.

About 1740 he settled in what later became Plainfield Township, in the part which is now Bushkill Township. By warrant and purchase he eventually accumulated a tract of more than 400 acres which he called Jacobstown. Later, this name was given to the settlement on the tract where, about 1740, he had built the first log cabin.

By 1742, probably earlier, Jacob Hubler had married Barbara, of whose maiden name we are uncertain. We do not know when or where they were married. We do know that Jacob had seven sons and four daughters living in 1770, but of these we have identified only five sons and two daughters, who were still living until one of them, Isaac, died in 1794. Church records pertaining to the family of Jacob and Barbara Hubler are strangely and unfortunately lacking.

In 1754 Jacob Hubler was the first of eleven landowners who signed a petition for the erection of Plainfield Township, incorporation of which was finally effected in 1762. In 1763 he took the oath of naturalization. On 2 Oct 1775 he was elected to the Committee of Observation of Northampton County, a patriotic service which is recognized by his being listed in the *DAR Patriot Index*.

Just when Jacob Hubler built the Jacobstown Inn is not known. It was built no later than 1785, possibly much earlier. It contained ample quarters for a store, tavern, family residence and accommodations for guests.

Early in 1770 Jacob Hubler made an effort to withdraw his inheritance, then valued at 300 crowns, due him from his father's estate, which was still administered by a guardian in the Nidau district. Technicalities impeded the settlement. The situation was unchanged in 1782. Finally, his eldest son, Jacob Hubler, Jr., as heir to this claim, was able to prove his right to it, and his representative, Marc Voulaire, received for him 400 crowns, less ten percent tax, in 1793, in full settlement of the claim. Voulaire was a teacher in the neighboring canton of Neuchatel.

Jacob Hubler died in May 1789 and was buried in an unmarked grave on his Jacobsburg farm. His will, dated 4 May 1789 and proved 9 May 1789, named his wife, six sons and two sons-in-law, as well as small bequests to the hospital in Philadelphia, to an orphans' home, and to the overseers of the poor in Plainfield Township, all for the benefit of poor persons, and also to certain public officials to be used toward the cost of erecting a bridge over the Bushkill Creek on his land. His widow, Barbara, died in Lower Mt. Bethel Township. Her will, dated 17 Jun 1795 and proved 16 Jan 1796, mentioned the five sons and two daughters who survived her.

Jacob Hubler, Jr., their eldest son, was born 2 Oct 1742. He died in Moore Township 19 Oct 1811, the result of having fallen from a tree nine days earlier. His wife Catharine, whom he married before 1772, died in Moore Township 7 Mar 1813. They had at least six children.

Frederick Hubler, the second surviving child of Jacob and Barbara, probably was born about 1745. In 1770 and 1772 five parcels of warranted land were surveyed for him in Northampton County. He remained single until as late as 1781, when he was living in Skippack Township, then in Philadelphia County but after 1784 in Montgomery County. Eventually he married Mary, and they were living in 1791 in Limerick Township, Montgomery County.

The next child of Jacob and Barbara Hubler was Christina, who was born 14 Jun 1747 and died in Lower Mt. Bethel Township 11 Apr 1813. In 1766 she married Michael Glass, a blacksmith, who was born in the Palatinate 19 Aug 1736, and died in Lower Mt. Bethel Township 19 Apr 1808, son of John Michael Glass. Until about 1780, Michael and Christina (Hubler) Glass lived in Allen Township, which until 1845 included East Allen. By 1785 they had settled in Lower Mt. Bethel Township. Most of their thirteen children were baptized by Lutheran pastors.

Gotlieb Hubler, possibly born about 1748, was the fourth child of Jacob and Barbara who survived them. He had a warrant for 100 acres of land in Northampton County which was surveyed for him 29 Apr 1772, and two more warrants for 12 and 15 acres which were surveyed 8 Mar 1775. In 1791 he was taxed in Moon Township, Allegheny County, Pa.

Rosina Hubler (also called Rosanna), the fifth surviving child of Jacob and Barbara, was born in 1749 and died 6 Sep 1828. She married, sometime before 1776, Christian Hellman, who was born in Germany in 1735 and died in Northampton County in April 1815. Of their children, we have records of only four, three of whom were baptized at Zion Stone Church in Allen Township, the first by a Lutheran pastor, and two others by a Reformed minister.

The sixth surviving child of Jacob and Barbara Hubler was John, who was born in the interval from 1750 to 1760. He obtained a warrant for 40 acres of land in Northampton County, which was surveyed for him on 10 Jan 1786. He was still single in 1788. Except that he was living in 1795, we have no other information about him.

Abraham Hubler, the seventh surviving child of Jacob and Barbara, was born 20 Feb 1761, and died in Lower Mt. Bethel Township 23 Dec 1831, leaving an estate valued

at \$35,643. Sometime before 1798 he married Susanna. Abraham and Susanna Hubler had two daughters. Elisabeth, born 16 Feb 1798, married Jacob Becker (Baker). Catharine, born 26 July 1800, married Joseph Shimer (Scheimer). Among other bequests, Abraham Hubler left a 160-acre farm in Allen Township to his son-in-law Jacob Baker, and a 150-acre farm in Upper Nazareth Township to his son-in-law Joseph Shimer.

Isaac Hubler, the eighth child of Jacob and Barbara of whom we have any record, was born about 1763 or 1764. He was killed by a bolt of lightning 16 Aug 1794 at the age of 30. According to a record of the First Reformed Church of Easton, he was buried in the English churchyard at Mt. Bethel.

Two sons, two sons-in-law, and two grandsons-in-law of Jacob and Barbara Hubler were soldiers in the Revolutionary War. The sons were Abraham and Isaac, both of whom served in the 3rd company of the 2nd battalion of the Northampton County militia, under Captain Jacob Heller, in the years 1780 to 1782. The sons-in-law were Michael Glass and Christian Hellman. The grandsons-in-law were the two husbands of Anna Maria Glass, namely Peter Breidinger and Philip Deily.

(The above is Chapter 4 of the in-progress Sandwich book on the people and places of Boulton/Jacobsburg)

TWO ITEMS OF INTEREST FROM BOB NEWELL . . . OUR SOCIETY'S "NEWEST" HENRY RIFLE

Civilian "Kentucky" style long rifle with 50-cal. rifled barrel of slightly under 39 in. in length. Has classic simplified "pineapple" patchbox as seen on Henry long rifles produced both in Philadelphia and Boulton. The lockplate (originally flint, later converted to percussion) is marked

J.J. HENRY
BOULTON

and is of the style used on the Henry version of the North Model 1826 flintlock U.S. Navy pistol.

This rifle has been fitted with an iron ramrod. The ramrod is probably an old cut-down military musket rod. Civilian firearms of this period normally had ramrods of hickory wood.

Immediately to the rear of the trigger guard there is a small "US" mark. This mark is questionable. I feel it was applied within the last 30 years, probably in hopes of passing the piece off as a military contract rifle of the 1812 or even Revolutionary War era. In all likelihood, the rifle was manufactured during the late 1820's or early 1830's.

Though the rifle is obviously in need of first aid, it can be repaired and put back into flintlock ignition. It is now one of our earliest pieces and will make a fine companion piece for our "South Carolina" militia rifle.

Having devastated our acquisition fund again, I pledge to refrain from "shopping" unless donations are involved!

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A HENRY PISTOL FROM LAKE ERIE

Society members and friends visiting the U.S. Naval Academy Museum at Annapolis should keep a sharp lookout in the War of 1812 section, for another Henry

gun has been "discovered." The weapon in question is a "J. HENRY/PHILA" flintlock pistol similar to the 1807-1808 federal contract types.

What makes this particular handgun so very special is the fact that its owner during the War of 1812 was none other than Capt. Oliver Hazard Perry, victor of the naval battle of Lake Erie, Sept. 10, 1813. Following their great victory near Put-in-Bay, Ohio, Perry and his sailors fought on land, assisting Gen. William Henry Harrison in his victorious battle against the British and their Indian allies at the Thames River, Canada. Capt. Perry, only 20 years old at the time, carried his Henry pistol into this battle. Perry later served in the defense of Baltimore in 1814. He died at the age of 34 while on a diplomatic mission to South America.

The Naval Academy Museum has a fine collection of weapons, uniforms, ship models, etc., covering periods from the Revolutionary War to Viet Nam and the space program. The Academy grounds also have many outdoor exhibits.

HENRY HOMESTEAD OPEN HOUSE

Curator Dorothy Law reports that special exhibits for the next two Open House dates include:

May 27 (Memorial Day Weekend) — Old photos, particularly of the Henry family.

June 24 — Examples of old lace and other items.

Again this year we are indebted to the Music Performance Trust Fund, Local 577 of Bangor-Stroudsburg, for the Open House lovely music by young talents. Roger A. Bet, Project Chairman, lists the programs for the rest of the season. We give you here the Webster definition of bourree: "17th century French dance composition in double time with an upbeat."

May 27 — Bourree. Aralee Dorough, flute; Sheila Robinson, flute; Joel Robinson, bassoon; Mary Marie Rapping, harpsichord.

June 24 — Paulette Gallo, harp.

July 22 — Gina Bertucci, flute; Barbara McMahon, flute; Judy Fulmer, bassoon.

August 25 — Delaware Water Gap Brass Quartet. Rick Chamberlin, trombone; Jim Daniels, trombone; Pat Dorian, trumpet; Ken Brader III, trumpet.

September 23 — Ted Williams, classical guitar.

October 28 — Barbara McMahon, flute; Gina Bertucci, flute.

VIRGINIA'S FIND

From a sale in Souderton, Virginia Lopresti has come up with a real find: a combination bellows (with tuyere) and hand forge. The bellows is a 6-ft. one and all purchased for \$120 from budgeted archaeological funds. Claude Jones is putting all items in working order.

(A tuyere, from Webster again, is a nozzle through which an air blast is delivered to a forge or blast furnace. This is an important find for us, particularly the hand forge, because of the 1808 Matthew Henry forge from which came the first bar iron manufactured in Northampton County.) Bethlehem Steel, take note!

JACOBSBURG HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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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, payable to Jacobsburg Historical Society. Send to P. O. Box 345, Nazareth, PA 18064. All contributions are tax deductible to the extent provided by law. Canceled check is your receipt.