

# The Jacobsburg Record

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 1984

VOL. XII, NO. 5

13th ANNUAL MEETING - THURSDAY - OCTOBER 18

STOCKERTOWN MEMORIAL HALL

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

The committee in charge of arrangements for the annual meeting has included Janet A. Gum, Betty Morris, Althea Neuner, and Peggy Shuttleworth. We always rely on Peggy for the lovely flowers from her garden and the arrangements with her special touch.

We repeat the menu listing everyone has received by letter: Fruit cup, turkey and ham, filling, sweet potatoes, succotash, frenched green beans, lettuce with bacon dressing, rolls, apple tart, coffee/tea.

The price of \$8.50 includes tax and gratuity. It's a gala affair. Bring friends; non-members are welcome; and send checks and reservations to Mr. Matthew K. Morris, by October 11. The address is 384 Henry Road, Nazareth, PA., 18064.

By request, we will see the film, "The Gunsmith of Williamsburg," the same film shown at the first annual meeting of the Society. See the Sandwick report. The craft, by the way, is one of eighteen crafts currently practiced in Colonial Williamsburg on a permanent basis and in its own shop. The men and women involved wear costumes of the colonial period and in many instances demonstrate the making of the colonial tools. The blurb sent with the film states: "This film documents in carefully researched detail and through the workmanship of a highly skilled craftsman the making of a complete rifle of the 1770 period. (Note: William Henry 2nd was born in Nazareth 1757). The commentary not only provides an explanation of the craft but also touches on the history and traditions of guns." The fact that it is also available in French isn't exactly germane to our meeting.

What is germane to our meeting is the fact that the Jacobsburg Historical Society itself is beginning a gunsmithing shop in the Spring House close to the Bishop Benade House within the Jacobsburg State Park across from the parking lot. We have our own gunsmith in George Dech who has reproduced the Henry rifle by hand. Joe Lopresti has made extensive repairs to the Spring House, and by next year we expect to be entirely completed and set up. It will be another educational exhibit in the overall planning of Dale Prinkey, Park Superintendent, and Mike Jones, Associate.

## NOMINATIONS

The Nominating Committee (James Wright, Donald Burley, Robert Newell, Jessie Sandwick, Louise Young) present the following nominees for Board membership for a three-year period: Bobbie DiGerlando, Joseph A. Lopresti, Elizabeth L. Morris, Charles M. Sandwick, Sr., Jessie Sandwick, Charlotte C. Sayre, and John J. Schlamp.

According to the Society Bylaws, these names must be in the hands of members for consideration for at least 10 days before the election. Nominations from the floor are welcome; just be sure the person being named has agreed to serve.

## A TWELVE-YEAR-OLD LOOKS BACK

By Charles M. Sandwick, Sr.

The Jacobsburg Historical Society was twelve years old on the seventh of September. After an indeterminate period of gestation, the "child" was born in Easton on 7 Sep 1972 at the home of the late Catherine S. Beers. The birth announcement in The Express on the following day was datelined as from Bushkill Center. About a dozen persons attended the blessed event. It was announced that some of the immediate goals of the newborn society would be to collect information about historical sites in the Jacobsburg State Park and the surrounding area, such as the villages of Jacobsburg and Filetown, the Catharine Furnace, the Henry family and the former Henry properties at Boulton, including the gun factory; also the collection and preservation of artifacts relevant to the history of the area.

Within a week temporary officers and other members of an organizational committee were chosen. Mrs. Catherine Beers, of Easton, president of the Lafayette College Women's Auxiliary and a member of the American Association of University Women, was elected president, Joseph DiGerlando, a member of the Pennsylvania Earth Sciences Association, was elected vice-president and secretary. Miss Margaret Taylor, secretary-treasurer of the George Taylor Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, was elected treasurer. Other members of the organizational committee elected at that time were Watson Hart, Jr., president of the Bushkill Waterbed Association; Dr. Raymond Grant, assistant professor of geology at Lafayette College and vice-president of the watershed association; Bruce Drinkhouse, secretary-treasurer of the Northampton County Historical Society; Mrs. Gordon Santee ("Molly"), past president of the Easton Branch of the AAUW; Joseph and Virginia Lopresti of the Forks of the Delaware Chapter, Pennsylvania Society for Archaeology, and Mrs. Joseph DiGerlando ("Bobby").

On a beautiful Sunday afternoon, 16 Oct 1972, the Jacobsburg Historical Society held its first annual "Walk Through Henry's Woods." Thanks to the excellent advance publicity in the area newspapers and on radio, including a feature story by staff writer Virginia Parry, illustrated with a map, which appeared in The Express, Easton, on October 5th, about four hundred people took the mile-and-a-half hike, guided by six members of the society who pointed out both the natural features and the remains of historic sites along that part of the Bushkill. As reported in The Express on October 16th, "The walkers began at the site of the Henry gun factory where Albert Toth, of Belfast, described the history of the factory and the guns it made. Toth used old prints and pictures to illustrate his talk."

On 16 Nov 1972 the first annual meeting of the Jacobsburg Historical Society was held in Easton at the College Hill Presbyterian Church. The featured program was the showing of the film, "The Gunsmith of Williamsburg." Thirty-three new members were received at that meeting, bringing the total to forty-five. Volunteers were recruited to serve on the research, archaeological and restoration committees. A nominating committee was appointed, consisting of Watson Hart, chairman, Gordon Santee, Bruce Drinkhouse, Lorraine Mineo and Virginia Purdy.

By the end of the year we had seventy-five members. On 25 Jan 1973 a meeting of the Society was held in the community room of the College Hill branch of the Easton National Bank and Trust Company, at which the following officers were elected: Mrs. Catherine S. Beers, president; Joseph DiGerlando, vice-president; Hilton Rahn, secretary, and Miss Margaret Taylor, treasurer. Other directors elected were Donald Fowler, Dr. Isidore Mineo, Mrs. Douglas Purdy, Mrs. Gordon Santee, Charles Sandwick, Sr., Miss Mary Henry Stites and Albert Toth. Priorities were discussed, and it was agreed that archaeological digging, complemented by historical research, must go forward as soon as approval could be obtained from the state, as it was anticipated that within two years many of the historical sites would be under a 94-acre lake which was then included in the plans for Jacobsburg State Park. Approval for the archaeological project was received a month later.

Subsequent elections of officers were held at the annual fall meetings, with terms to begin the following January first. The second annual meeting was held on 23 Oct 1973 at St. Luke's United Church of Christ, just west of Belfast on the road to Jacobsburg. With two exceptions, all officers and directors were reelected. Lorraine Mineo replaced her husband, Dr. Isidore Mineo, and Lester Stein, architect, of Nazareth, replaced Donald Fowler, as directors. The president reported that the board of directors had unanimously approved a proposal that the Society lease the Henry Homestead from the Pennsylvania Bureau of State Parks for 99 years at one dollar a year, for the purpose of restoring it and using it as a museum. Eschor Clewell, curator of the Moravian Historical Society museum in Nazareth, gave a talk about the rise and decline of the village of Jacobsburg, and of the inn and industries that once had thrived there.

The year 1973 had been a busy one for the Society. In March a newsletter was mailed to the Society's ninety-seven members and to a list of prospective members. Before the year ended the Society had 260 members, due in no small measure to the efforts of Mrs. Henry Fluck ("Kitty") and the other fourteen persons on her membership committee. On March 14th more than twenty members of the archaeology committee met at the home of the chairman, Mrs. Virginia Lopresti, and initiated plans for digging at various sites in Jacobsburg, in cooperation with C. Walter Tremer, archaeology instructor at Muhlenberg College. The historical research committee, of which Charles Sandwick, Sr., was chairman, undertook to coordinate its work with that of the archaeology committee, searching for historical data about the now defunct village of Jacobsburg, its people, and their occupations. At a meeting of the Society held on May 2nd, Albert Toth spoke on Forgotten History of Jacobsburg. A newsletter issued in October announced that persons who became members before the end of 1973 would receive certificates of charter membership. On 14 Oct 1973 the Society held its second annual "Walk Through Henry's Woods" which was attended by more than five hundred visitors.

Also in October 1973 the Society adopted as its seal a logo based on a nineteenth century woodcut of the Henry Gun Factory at Boulton. The symbol was drawn and contributed by Barry Jones of Easton, an advertising artist, who also donated the design for the Society's charter membership certificates. A supply of stationery with the new letterhead was given by the Correll Printing Corporation of Easton. The cost of preparing and printing the certificates was contributed by Albert ("Mickey") Toth of Belfast.

The events which led to the "birth" of the Jacobsburg Historical Society will be the subject of another article. From time to time we shall continue our review of the history of the Society.

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Muriel Miller is a whiz. Muriel has been associated with The Jacob-  
burg Record from the beginning of Vol. I, No. 1. She is the excellent typist who not only does the newsletter, but is also the one on whom we call when we are in a jam! Being the professional she is, she always comes through under pressure. Those of us involved in "going to press" tip our hats to Muriel with a great big thank you.

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There are changes in committees for the Homestead grounds. Beatrice Pritchard, long associated with the garden, has asked to be relieved, as has Diane Warner, the keeper of the plot of herbs. Both maintain their interest, and we want them to know we have appreciated their work. Thank you so much!

Bobbie DiGerlando is taking over the herb garden, and we express our thanks to Bobbie.

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Sunday Open House dates at the Homestead: October 28 and the Christmas Party, December 2.

Featured at the Christmas Open house will be trains and more trains, all of them 50 years old and plus. Don't miss it! Make a note of these dates.

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The State Bureau of Parks has notified us of its decision to put on hold our plans for renovating the Homestead barn. Money!

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The Homestead continues to be a popular stop on Sunday afternoons--162 came to the August Open House.

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Dorothy Law, Henry Homestead Curator, suggests we include in our "wish list" a large cupboard with glass doors for displays. Anybody know of one?

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On Friday, October 5, the Park will be host to the elected officers of Northampton County Townships. There will be exhibits and tours in the morning and a program in the afternoon. Louise Young has offered to be at a table for the Jacobsburg Historical Society jointly with the Park. Kathryn Schlamp will assist in manning the display.

JACOBSBURG HISTORICAL SOCIETY

1 9 8 4     D I R E C T O R Y

OFFICERS:

JOHN J. SCHLAMP, President	Nazareth	759-9392
MATTHEW K. MORRIS, 1st Vice President	Boulton	759-0751
HILTON N. RAHN, JR., 2nd Vice President	Bethlehem	868-1789
ELIZABETH L. MORRIS, Secretary	Boulton	759-9751
REGINALD M. BANKS, JR., Treasurer	Nazareth	759-6696

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

3 Year Terms:

Reginald M. Banks, Jr.	Nazareth	759-6696
Donald P. Burley	Nazareth	759-1086
Joseph DiGerlando	Wind Gap	759-7239
Virginia Lopresti	Stockertown	759-1580
Walter L. Peters	Nazareth	759-1530
Hilton N. Rahn, Jr.	Bethlehem	868-1789
James A. Wright	Nazareth	759-9119

2 Year Terms:

Janet A. Gum	Nazareth	759-1862
Matthew K. Morris	Boulton	759-9751
Ellis Neuner	Boulton	759-1764
Robert N. Newell	Nazareth	759-5423
Kathryn Schlamp	Nazareth	759-0302
Ann Marie Trbuza	Bath	837-9925
Louise K. Young	Nazareth	759-4610

1-Year Terms:

Bobbie DiGerlando	Wind Gap	759-7239
Joseph A. Lopresti	Stockertown	759-1580
Elizabeth L. Morris	Boulton	759-9751
Charles M. Sandwick, Sr.	Easton	252-1290
Jessie Sandwick	Easton	252-1290
Charlotte C. Sayre	Easton	253-9516
John J. Schlamp	Nazareth	759-0302

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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NAME AND ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

TEL NO. \_\_\_\_\_

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.