

The Jacobsburg Record

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 1985

VOL. XIII, NO. 1

1985 DUES ARE DUE!

Please be sure to pay 1985 dues due January 1. We have all received our reminders. Please send checks made out to Jacobsburg Historical Society and send to P. O. Box 345, Nazareth, PA. 18064. We are indebted to Reginald Banks, Treasurer, for these first-of-the-year dues reminders. If you have mislaid the letter, please use the Membership Application from the last page of this issue of The Jacobsburg Record.

Remember: a check for \$100 will make you a member of the Tannery Club, \$500 of the Boulton Club, and \$1000 of the Henry Rifle Club. We have Tannery Club memberships--thank you--and are looking forward to welcoming members into the Boulton and Henry Rifle Clubs.

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BOARD ELECTIONS

At the Board's first meeting of 1985, January 9, the following officers were nominated and elected. Congratulations to John Schlamp, President; 1st Vice President, Hilton N. Rahn, Jr.; 2nd Vice President, Matthew K. Morris; Secretary, Elizabeth L. Morris; and Treasurer, Reginald M. Banks, Jr. Bob Newell, substituting for the chairman of the Nominating Committee, James Wright, reported.

Society members are asked to suggest new names for Board membership. We cover the areas of Bethlehem, Easton, Nazareth. See any one of the Board officers.

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RING AROUND THESE DATES ON YOUR CALENDARS

April 23 - Spring Meeting, College Hill Presbyterian Church, Brodhead and Monroe Sts., Easton, 8 P.M. Note the Tuesday date.

June 15 - Summer Craft Festival, 4-H Building, Bushkill Township.

Sept. 6,7,8 - Encampment, Jacobsburg State Park

October 24 - Annual Meeting - Stockertown Memorial Hall.

Open House at Henry Homestead - 4th Sunday, April through October,
2 to 5 P.M.; Christmas Party, first Sunday in December, 1
to 4 P.M.

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Those who have been long-time members of the Society will want to know that our former treasurer, Margaret H. Taylor, is now in the Leader Nursing Home, 2600 Northampton St., Easton. Margaret was treasurer from the beginnings of our organization through 1983 when ill health caused her to resign.

1984 FIELD JOURNAL
Virginia Lopresti, Archaeologist

Digging at the Jacobsburg Inn was to begin on June 25 with help from the private Industry Council. They could provide us with our two-year veteran, Therese, and a handicapped 16-year-old male from Pen Argyl.

On the first day at the site, our three teen-aged boys from 1983 appeared to assist in the digging. We looked forward to a great summer, but our expectations were pretty well dashed. We had far fewer volunteer hours, and the contributions from our people were minimal. Another disappointment: J. A. Lopresti had volunteered to work on a fireplace at the Spring House, a part of the Benade complex. As a result, his assistance at the Inn was minimal and on a consulting basis only.

Joe started in May at the Spring House, worked five days a week until November. He put in a base for the fireplace on the ground floor, and he worked on the roof. These improvements were greatly appreciated by the many, many visitors to the area in the summer, fall, and winter. He also spent many hours replacing the beams in the stone walls and covering them with a tongue-and-grooved floor. His assistants, recruited by the Park, provided Joe with many stories--and even more complaints! And we did miss his help at the Inn.

With our inadequate crew, however, we went to work on the outside of the south side of the Inn's structure. The ground rose sharply from the patio level to the back porch area. The artifacts were fewer than on the north side and less interesting. The digging was more difficult because of burnt and hard-packed clay.

From the fireplace in the south wall, the clay area was 2½ ft. wide; above this area it was 4 ft. wide. From this hardened area--the 6-10 ft. toward the Jacobsburg Road--the soil was loose, dark, and rich but much disturbed. Seven large outbuilding stones were uncovered and placed near the tree growing opposite the fireplace. We did find some glass, nails, stoneware, redware, and on Thursday of the first week, we found another gunflint, possibly French. Many hours, too, were spent washing artifacts from the flax field and from the summer of 1983.

The second week went fast because of the holiday in the middle. Because of rain and wet ground, we worked mostly on artifacts after we returned from the Lehigh Valley Mall with new safety shoes. A redware pot and an ironstone cup were glued. The cup was photographed by a man from the Morning Call-Chronicle. It appeared in the Allentown paper in an article about the Muhlenberg College Archaeology dig at the Lantz House. Their professor conducted two workshops in May and June. The dig uncovered a fireplace base along the north wall. In the northeast corner of the foundation, they found many bits and pieces of discarded farm machinery among burnt sand and charcoal remains.

On July 9, three volunteers joined our small crew. Ten 5-ft. squares were laid out in the backyard of the Inn in spite of the very wet ground. The squares were troweled rather than dug with shovels. There were roots, trees, and only about a foot of topsoil. Nails, some early English ceramics, and a few pieces of glass were found. When an 1847 one-cent coin was dug up, our hard work seemed much easier--at least until the afternoon. When we wanted to show the coin to a visitor, IT (our treasure) had vanished. Following the uproar, it was found by our Manpower youth, presumably under our work-table. As a result of this incident, our crew was reduced by one by the Private Industry Council.

THE EARLY JACOBSTOWN PURCHASES

By Charles M. Sandwick, Sr.

Jacob Hubler began acquiring land in what is now Bushkill Township as early as 1743. His first warrant, surveyed 4 Apr 1743, was for 100 acres. During the next ten years he obtained nine more warrants, some for 25 acres and some for 50 acres, the last of which was surveyed on 7 Mar 1753. The total of his acquisitions by warrant, by that time, was 425 acres. However, not long before he died, he had his property, which he called "Jacobsburg," resurveyed. The tract was found to contain about 432½ acres.

Hubler died in 1789, leaving a will which named as executors his sons Abraham and Isaac, who were also the heirs to his Jacobsburg estate. The will was witnessed by Jacob Eyerly Junr, Johannes Schaeffer and Georg Schwartz. The last two signed their names in German script, but Eyerly signed his in English script. One would have expected Hubler's will to have been written in German, but instead it was in English, suggesting the possibility that Eyerly assisted him in drafting the will.

Eyerly had been buying and selling real estate in Plainfield (now Bushkill) Township since 1787, apparently as a speculator. He was probably well acquainted with the Hubler property and aware of its potential as an investment.

On 13 May 1790, Abraham and Isaac Hubler sold nearly 361 acres of the Jacobsburg tract to Jacob Christ, hatter, Jacob Eyerly, Esquire, and William Henry, Esquire, all of Nazareth, for 177 pounds. On 1 Jul 1790, Christ, Eyerly and Henry obtained a warrant from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for 56½ acres adjoining the Jacobsburg tract on the southwest. On 2 Nov 1791, the three partners bought from Jacob Repsher and Elizabeth, his wife, about 22½ acres adjoining the tract on the east. The combined tract of about 440 acres was thenceforth called "Jacobs- burg," or as it was sometimes written, "Jacob's burg."

On 27 Nov 1792, Jacob Eyerly agreed to sell his undivided third part of the Jacobsburg tract to William Henry for 150 pounds. The amount having been paid, the transaction was confirmed by Eyerly's executors by means of a deed dated 25 Oct 1800.

On 9 Oct 1795, Nathaniel Michler was commissioned Justice of the Peace for Plainfield and Chestnuthill Townships. He decided that the Jacobsburg Inn would be an appropriate place for his personal and official quarters. Accordingly, on 7 May 1796, he bought from Jacob Christ, hatter, of Nazareth, and Christina Frederica his wife, their undivided third of the Jacobsburg tract. He then arranged with William Henry for a division of the property which would give Michler the Jacobsburg Inn with about 26½ acres of land. In the division, which was effected 4 Jul 1801, William Henry's share included "A certain Messuage or Tenement" and about 419½ acres of land. The total acreage divided

seems to have been 446 acres, exceeding the earlier computation by six acres.

Of the original Jacobsburg property left by Jacob Hubler, we have seen that most of it was sold in 1790 to the partnership of Christ, Eyerly and Henry. On 13 Jun 1791, Hubler's executors sold a little more than 14 acres to George Schwartz, who the following month sold it to Samuel Rees. On 5 Sep 1791 they sold about 50 acres to George Drum. On 16 Mar 1792 they sold a little more than 5 acres, for 5 pounds, to John Huff.

On 7 Oct 1796 Samuel Rees and wife sold William Henry the 14 acres plus, that the Hubler executors had sold to George Schwartz in 1791. In the same deed, they conveyed to Henry nearly 151 acres which adjoined the Jacobsburg tract on the west. For these 165 acres Henry paid 330 dollars, the rate being two dollars per acre. A tract of more than 100 acres, called "Wheatfields," which adjoined the Jacobsburg tract on the north, was patented to William Henry in January 1798. However, he sold Wheatfields in two parcels: the first, nearly 36 acres, he sold to Andrew Stocker on 20 Apr 1798 for 12 pounds (or about 30 dollars); the second, a little more than 72 acres, he sold on 27 Nov 1806, for \$1,441, to Abraham Heller.

On 27 Jul 1810, William Henry bought from Daniel Steiner and his wife Margaret, nearly 42 acres adjoining the Jacobsburg tract on the southwest, for which he paid the Steiners \$400. On 1 Nov 1815 Henry bought from John Ward and his wife Catharine, for \$656.33, almost 27 acres adjoining the tract on the southeast. Henry had previously purchased, at sheriff's sales, at least 125 acres (later described as 130 acres) held by the estate of Michael Herring, and 103 acres which had been owned by Frederick Bruch.

In 1792 William Henry erected a musket factory in the northern part of the tract, at what became the village of Jacobsburg. This facility was expanded in 1798 when he closed his factory in Nazareth and transferred its operations to Jacobsburg. This was the first of several manufacturing enterprises developed on the Jacobsburg tract by William Henry (II) and by his sons John Joseph, Matthew and William (III). In a few years they were producing bar iron, used in making gun barrels and other products; pig iron from ore brought in from Lower Mount Bethel, Williams, Hanover and Whitehall Townships; files for use by the filers they employed, particularly in the manufacture of parts for guns; stoves, pots, kettles and skillets; and the rifles for which the family is most famous.

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GOV. WOLF/SUN INN ASSOCIATIONS ANNUAL DINNER, FEBRUARY 12

SEIPSVILLE HOTEL - 7 P.M. - \$12.00

PLEASE CALL VIRGINIA LOPRESTI BY FEBRUARY 6 FOR RESERVATIONS

PUBLICATION FUND STARTED BY WALTER AND MARGARET PETERS

The Board at its January meeting expressed deep appreciation to Walter and Margaret Peters, Nazareth, PA., for their generous gift to the Society of approximately \$13,000 to start a Jacobsburg Historical Society Publication Fund.

The Society's first hardback offering will be the printing of articles by Charles M. Sandwick, Sr., that have appeared in The Jacobsburg Record, from 1974 through December 1984, concerning Jacobsburg, Boulton, and the part played by the Henrys and other local families in the founding and running of the Henry Gun Factory. It is fascinating local history that took place along the Bushkill Creek. The nation's history, as well, is covered from the time of the Indian Wars through the War of 1812 and the Civil War. Now the Henry Rifle is an object of intense pride among collectors.

The Society expects the book to be out in time for an early presentation for the Christmas 1985 book trade. At this writing the price will probably be under \$25. Publisher: Oaks Printing Co. of Bethlehem.

The Society aims to keep the Peters gift as a nest egg and as a basis for a revolving fund for further publications. Gifts to the fund will be welcome. Gifts and receipts from the book sales, it was resolved by the Board, will be put into the Publication Fund.

The Society is fortunate to have the Henry Homestead, owned by five generations of the family, as a focus for Society affairs. In addition, the activities of Virginia and Joe Lopresti and their archaeological digs in the area, the restoration and events taking place in the Jacobsburg State Park under the direction of Dale Prinkey, Park Superintendent, the pristine Henry's Woods, and the Floor of the Forest accounts to be written, all make for lively historical telling.

It was Walter Peters' admiration of what was being accumulated here in the Record that started his thinking it should be preserved in a permanent form. The Peterses have given us a generous foresighted grant, and we are most appreciative.

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CHARLES M. SANDWICK, SR., GENEALOGIST

We must, too, acknowledge the scholarly perseverance of one, Charles M. Sandwick, Sr. His meticulous searches and digging into the history of the area have taken him to the archives of the Schoeneck Moravian Church and to the Moravian Archives in Bethlehem. He has spent countless hours on the second floor of the Easton Public Library among the outstanding genealogical records there. He has tramped the Schoeneck Church Cemetery and the Union Cemetery at Belfast. We salute a unique historian and scholar.

Besides the Jacobsburg Historical Society, Charlie holds membership in numerous other historical associations.

BELLOWS RESTORATION

Those who attended the Board meeting on January 9 were treated to a particularly interesting slide show.

Remember Virginia Lopresti's find announced May/June 1984? It was a 6-ft. bellows complete with tuyere (nozzle) Virginia picked up at a Soudertown sale. Claude Jones, himself a master craftsman, has repaired and refurbished it. Through the step by step devotion of Reggie Banks's camera lens, we have a detailed account. On top of that, we at the meeting, had the advantage of Claude's own narration.

This was all done in Claude's Belfast garage, and if you know the this-'n'-that that a master craftsman stores in his one-car garage, you have got to appreciate it took some maneuvering to get Claude, the two sides of a 6x3-ft. bellows, Reggie, and the camera all fitted in at the same time! However, it was all done, and a fascinating documentary it is.

During its estimated 75 Soudertown years, the bellows had suffered squirrel and mice invasions, to say nothing of the chewed damage. Claude talked of chewed valves, floating ribs, evidences of soft coal and charcoal, the made-from roof shingle, the nuts, paper, rags, and leaves. Very carefully the pattern for the leather had to be recreated. Joe Lopresti and Claude decided on the delicate matter of leather thickness to purchase, and they chased around to places to find it. Then there was the matter of nails in the molding--all had broken. There were hundreds of holes.

Bill Karch of Nazareth donated the bass wood for the molding--and wouldn't you know--Claude used great-grandfather's wooden clamps to fashion leather to frame by means of the molding. Somewhere, too, along the way, there was mention of the modern gimmick, the staple gun.

Claude spent 52 hours of actual work on the piece and what shows are the intense interest and devotion to recreating an historical item from long ago. We suspect a good many in the community became involved and interested as well.

You remember Virginia also purchased for the Society at the same time, the hand forge that is of a piece with the bellows. No wonder she was excited to see the whole package, and we shall be excited to see it all recreated now through the gifted efforts of Claude Jones. How fortunate Reggie Banks thought to take a camera account of the whole process and to be available when Claude would call to say, "Now is the time!"

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DAY TRIPS

Let Matt Morris have suggestions for day trips this Spring or Fall. Gettysburg has been suggested with our Civil War buffs, James Wright and Bob Newell, leading the way; also a day at the Opera. Further suggestions, anyone?

JACOBSBURG HISTORICAL SOCIETY 1985 COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

Acquisition - Mary Henry Stites	Boulton	759-4693
Annual and Spring Meetings - Janet A. Gum	Nazareth	759-1862
Archaeology - Joseph and Virginia Lopresti	Stockertown	759-1580
Corresponding Secretary - Joy A. Betz	Nazareth	759-3507
Craft Festival, Summer - Anne Marie Trbuza	Bath	837-9925
Hilton N. Rahn, Jr.	Bethlehem	868-1789
Editor, <u>The Jacobsburg Record</u> - C. Sayre	Easton	253-9516
Encampment - Matthew K. Morris	Boulton	759-0751
Homestead - Kathryn M. Schlamp	Nazareth	759-0302
Cataloguer: Elizabeth L. Morris	Boulton	759-0751
Curators: Contents - Dorothy Law	Bethlehem	866-7910
Gunnery - Robert N. Newell	Nazareth	759-5423
James A. Wright	Nazareth	759-9119
Exhibits - Virginia Lopresti	Stockertown	759-1580
Gardens - Bobbie DiGerlando	Wind Gap	759-7239
Mary Henry Stites	Boulton	759-4693
Hospitality - Althea Neuner	Boulton	759-1764
Maintenance - Ellis Neuner	Boulton	759-1764
Jacobsburg State Park - Dale W. Prinkey	Belfast	759-0967
Legal - Walter L. Peters	Nazareth	759-1530
Membership - Jessie R. Sandwick	Easton	252-1290
Photography - Reginald M. Banks, Jr.	Nazareth	759-6696
Publicity - Louise K. Young	Nazareth	759-4610
Research - Charles M. Sandwick, Sr.	Easton	252-1290

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS

ACQUISITION

Mary Henry Stites, Ch.
Donald Burley
Matthew K. Morris
Ellis Neuner
Robert R. Newell
James A. Wright
Louise K. Young

ANNUAL AND SPRING MEETINGS

Janet A. Gum, Ch.
Mary Banks
Betty Morris
Althea Neuner
Peggy Shuttleworth

ARCHAEOLOGY

Joseph Lopresti
Virginia Lopresti

CATALOGING

Elizabeth L. Morris, Ch.
Mary Banks

CRAFT FESTIVAL, SUMMER

Ann Marie Trbuza, Co-Ch.
Hilton N. Rahn, Jr. Co-Ch.
Mary Banks
Joy A. Betz
Janet A. Gum
Carolyn Hickernell
Elizabeth L. Morris

CURATORS

Dorothy Law, Ch.
Donald P. Burley
Albert M. Toth

ENCAMPMENT

Matthew K. Morris, Ch.
Donald Burley
George Dech
Joseph DiGerlando
Dorothy Law
Virginia Lopresti
Ellis Neuner
Dale Prinkey
Kathryn Schlamp

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS, CONTINUED

EXHIBITS

Virginia Lopresti, Ch.
Joseph Lopresti
Margaret Stocker

GARDENS

Bobbie DiGerlando, Ch.
Jane Gilbert
Peggy Pagni
Beatrice Pritchard
Mary Henry Stites

GUNNERY

Robert R. Newell, Ch.
Claude Jones
Mike Jones
Albert Toth
James A. Wright

HOMESTEAD

Kathryn Schlamp, Ch.
Lois Doyle
Shirley Frey
Janet A. Gum
Peggy Jarrett
Susan Krause
Kay Munger
Peggy Pagni
Marjorie Peters
Catherine Sigafos
Ann Marie Trbuza
Louise K. Young

HOSPITALITY

Althea Neuner, Ch.
Mary Banks
Peggy Shuttleworth

JACOBSBURG RECORD, THE

Charlotte C. Sayre

LEGAL

Walter L. Peters

MAINTENANCE

Ellis Neuner, Ch.
Jon Benfield
Claude Jones
Matthew K. Morris

MEMBERSHIP

Jessie R. Sandwick, Ch.
Reginald M. Banks, Jr.
Gladys Marhefka
Matthew K. Morris
Marjorie Peters

PHOTOGRAPHY

Reginald M. Banks, Jr.

PRINT AND BIND RESEARCH PAPERS
(ad hoc)

Hilton N. Rahn, Jr.
Walter L. Peters
Charles M. Sandwick, Sr.
Charlotte C. Sayre

PUBLICITY

Louise K. Young

RESEARCH

Charles M. Sandwick, Sr., Ch.
Donald P. Burley
Joseph G. DiGerlando
Dr. Leww Graver
Joseph Lopresti
Gladys Marhefka
Ellis Neuner
Robert R. Newell
Hilton N. Rahn, Jr.
Jessie R. Sandwick
Charlotte C. Sayre
Margaret Stocker
Albert M. Toth
James A. Wright
Louise Young

JACOBSBURG HISTORICAL SOCIETY

1985 Directory

OFFICERS

John J. Schlamp, President	Nazareth	759-9392
Hilton N. Rahn, Jr., 1st Vice President	Bethlehem	868-1789
Matthew K. Morris, 2nd Vice President	Boulton	759-0751
Elizabeth L. Morris, Secretary	Boulton	759-0751
Reginald M. Banks, Jr., Treasurer	Nazareth	759-6696

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

3-Year Term

Bobbie G. DiGerlando	Wind Gap	759-7239
Joseph A. Lopresti	Stockertown	759-1580
Elizabeth L. Morris	Boulton	759-0751
Charles M. Sandwick, Sr.	Easton	252-1290
Jessie Sandwick	Easton	252-1290
Charlotte C. Sayre	Easton	253-9516
John J. Schlamp	Nazareth	759-0302

2-Year Term

Reginald M. Banks Jr.	Nazareth	759-6696
Donald P. Burley	Nazareth	759-1086
Joseph T. 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

1-Year Term

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

EMERITA MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

Mary Henry Stites
Margaret H. Taylor

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FOR JACOBSBURG HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Student	\$2.50	Sustaining	\$10.00	Contributing	\$15.00
Individual	5.00	Family	12.50	Organizations	25.00

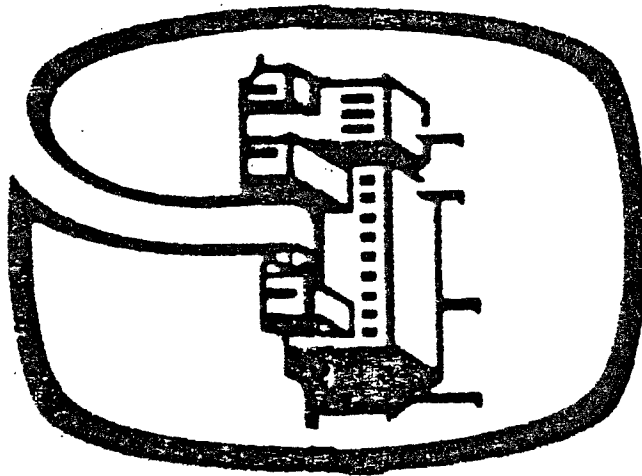
NAME CONTRIBUTIONS

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.



JACOBSBURG HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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