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SPRING MEETING, APRIL 22

We have all received letters concerning the Jacobsburg Historical Society Spring Membership Meeting, Date: 4th Tuesday, April 22, 7:30 p.m., College Hill Presbyterian Church. All members (and guests): reserve the date to enjoy the show-and-tell slide program by Claude Jones, narrator, and Reggie Banks, cameraman.

Jan Russell, Easton, expert in historical weaving practices, will demonstrate spinning on the Jones-restored walking wheel.

Perhaps 20 minutes will cover this year's restoration of the walking wheel, the big spinning wheel often on display in the log cabin room of the Homestead. The rest of the program will show the Jones-restored 6-ft. bellows that Virginia Lopresti picked up several years ago, along with a hand forge.

The presentation as outlined in the letter is a unique one that has delighted other groups. Don't miss it. Learn how Claude used acid to make nails rust overnight to make them look antique. They hold the big wheel rim to the spokes—and there are many of them! New wood pieces had to be made and antiqued. Cotton snap cord has been used for over 100 years, and is still used, to make the driving band. Flax can't be used because it is too slippery. Hear Claude explain how cord must be spliced, then sewn together. The splice is made hard to see (desired aesthetically) by actually chewing the ends. Claude estimates he worked at least 30 hours on the spinning wheel restoration alone. Come to see both the wheel in demonstration and the 6-ft. bellows.

Refreshments!

P.S.: We're happy to know Molly Jones is recovering—she who put the little gray play mouse in a knot hole in the log cabin room. Have you noticed?

Sunday, April 27, is the first Open House date of the 1986 season. Kathryn Schlamp would appreciate help in getting the House ready for guests. Margaret Peters and Betty Morris report that Bill Shimer of the Canvasback, Bethlehem, will show needlepoint. Time: 2-5 p.m. George Dech will have rifles on hand for discussion.

Other Open House dates, same time, are: May 25, June 22, July 27, August 24, September 28, October 26. Christmas party is December 7, 1-4 p.m.

The Quality Box Co., Nazareth, donated and delivered to the Carriage House 6288 gem-size boxes (actual count) for storage of artifacts. It is a gift highly prized by Virginia Lopresti, and we say thank you much. Hope Luhman, working on her archaeology doctorate at Muhlenberg has been hired by the Center to oversee cataloging, beginning May 15.

BENADE HAUS REPORT Earl Van Norman

The winter doldrums are about over. We haven't had our "onion" snow yet, but spring is right around the corner. If you leave the warmth of our fire in the springhouse and step outside for a moment, you will see the grass turning green and hear the newly arrived redwing blackbirds. A few minutes of patience will reward you with the clattering rattle of our resident kingfisher as he wings his way along the creek. Another of our residents has returned to his house, immediately in front of the springhouse. His vivid blue plumage and red breast make this fellow an always welcome sight. We hope he is able to stay out of the way of that low flying Northern harrier that suddenly swoops through the park.

The groundhogs are all up now, wiping the sleepers from their eyes and looking for something to eat, and then it's off to look for a girl-friend or boyfriend.

Of course, more folks are coming out now to join their more hardy brethren. We also added another country to our list. A couple with a noticeable European accent visited us one day, and the ensuing conversation revealed that they came from Czechoslovakia and that they were Moravians. We said that's really nice and introduced them to a Moravian pastor, who also was visiting with us. After a few moments, it became clear that they weren't Moravian by faith but that they simply lived in Moravia. They were actually Catholics. After we cleared up that matter, we had a most enjoyable chat.

I was fortunate enough to obtain the services of two men who work with me at Jersey Central Power & Light Co. to come and survey the area around the Benade House. Paul Batson and Ernie Meshach spent four hours one Sunday morning, with the help of our good friend Ray Rush, doing a survey that will result in a site plan of the Benade complex. It will show all our existing facilities, trees, paths, location of the forge, race and any other historical buildings that we can document. I solicit the help of any Society member that can show me where the original buildings were.

Work is begun on the inside door leading downstairs in the spring house. It should be done in the next couple of weeks. At that point, we will begin the outside door. Here again, I solicit your help to obtain 18th century, German-style locks and hinges. I will accept a gift of an authentic one or the loan of it to reproduce another, or at least the opportunity to examine, measure, and photograph an original.

Incidentally, the door leading downstairs to the spring features a wooden latch and latchspring of the period and it serves as a reminder that "the latchstring is always out" for Society members to join us as visitors or volunteers.

Upcoming events include an outing by the Northamptowne Militia on April 5th and 6th to work out the winter kinks and train new recruits. This is their show, but visitors are always welcome to observe and learn how our forefathers did things during the Revolutionary War.

We have also scheduled an event for one of the local Cub Scout packs. They will come up on the 17th of May with about 60 Scouts and parents, tour the park, and then stop at the Benade House for an historical interpretation.

Here's looking forward to seeing you.

INTRODUCING THE BEITEL FAMILY

By Charles M. Sandwick, Sr.

In the series of articles about the Steiner family, two intermarriages were mentioned between the families of Steiner and Beitel. On page 3 of the September-October 1985 issue of The Jacobsburg Record, we said that Anna Louisa Steiner, born 12 Mar 1803, daughter of John and Magdalena (Giering) Steiner and granddaughter of Abraham Gottlieb and Salome (Buerstler) Steiner, was married by 1826 to Jacob Beitel, lockfiler, of Filetown. On page 4 of the November-December 1985 issue we told that Emilie Lisette Steiner, born 14 Mar 1823, daughter of Peter and Anna Salome (Clewell) Steiner and granddaughter of Friedrich Heinrich and Susanna (Volz) Steiner, married first at Schoeneck 25 Apr 1841 Friedrich Wilhelm Beitel (1818-1853), son of Friedrich Wilhelm and Maria Magdalena (Frey) Beitel. Our appetite was whetted for more information about the Beitel family.

The earliest member of this family of whom we know is Heinrich Beutel, also called Henry Beitel, who was born in Neundorf, Upper Silesia, 18 Jan 1711 and died in Herrnhut, Saxony, 4 Dec 1763. He married Elisabeth Paschke who was born at Steindorf, Upper Silesia, 23 Jan 1714 and died at Herrnhut 10 Aug 1783. They served the Moravian Church for twenty-three years as missionaries to the Arawak Indians near the Rio de Berbice in Surinam, Guiana, South America. Of their children, we know of only four, all of whom were born at Pilgerruh, near the Rio de Berbice.

The first child of Heinrich and Elisabeth (Paschke) Beutel was (1) Johannes (John), who was born 20 Dec 1740 and died in Nazareth 27 Sep 1840, lacking only 84 days of having reached the age of 100 years. When he was about five years old he was brought to this country by furloughed missionaries, and in 1746 was enrolled in the Moravian School in Frederick Township, near Philadelphia, in what later became Montgomery County. About 1750 he went to Emmaus; in 1752 to Bethlehem; in 1756 to Christian's Spring, and was thereafter at various times in Bethlehem, Nazareth, and there on 7 Feb 1779 he married Juliana Schmidt, who was born in Nazareth 3 Jan 1751 and died there 15 Feb 1824; daughter of Melchior and Catharina Margaretha (Fischer) Schmidt.

John and Juliana (Schmidt) Beitel had four children, all born in Nazareth. (i) Christian Friedrich was born 23 Jan 1780. (ii) Johannes (John) was born 18 Jul 1782 and died in Nazareth 1 Aug 1870. He married first 23 Apr 1810 Anna Magdalena Romig, who was born 22 Feb 1792 and died 7 Aug 1849, daughter of John Frederick and Elisabeth (Knauss) Romig of Emmaus. He married second 11 Oct 1850 the widow Lydia (Bauer) Hasselberger. (iii) Rosina was born 5 Mar 1786. Except that she married, we know nothing else about her. (iv) Anna Elisabeth was born 2 Dec 1789 and died at Nazareth 4 Apr 1859. She married 11 Nov 1810 Johan Georg Ricksecker, who was born at Lititz 14 Dec 1782 and died at Nazareth 2 May 1834, son of Peter and Barbara (Hoeneisen) Ricksecker.

The second child of Heinrich and Elisabeth (Paschke) Beitel of whom we have any knowledge was (2) Anna Magdalena, who was born 20 Nov 1743 and died in Herrnhut, Saxony, 29 Jan 1811. The third child of Heinrich and Elisabeth of whom we know was (3) Christian Friedrich, who was born

9 Jul 1752, was married twice, and had at least eleven children. We shall return to him presently. The fourth and last child of Heinrich and Elisabeth of whom we have any information was (4) David, who was born 2 Mar 1755 and died at Bethlehem 29 Dec 1825. He was unmarried. As David Beutel, he left a will, dated 27 Apr 1825 and proved 2 Jan 1826, in which he mentioned his brothers Frederick and John. (Northampton County Will Book 5, page 107; file no. 3713.)

Christian Friedrich Beutel (Christian Frederick Beitel) was born at Pilgerruh, near Rio de Berbice, Surinam, South America, 9 Jul 1752, and died at Nazareth 3 Jun 1833, son of Heinrich and Elisabeth (Paschke) Beutel. His first marriage was at Bethlehem, 14 May 1781, to Maria Salome Fetter (or Vetter) who was born at Lancaster 21 May 1753 and died at Bethlehem 24 Feb 1796. They had charge of the Bethlehem Farm, a component of the Moravian economy. They had seven children, all born at Bethlehem.

The first two children of Christian Frederick and Maria Salome (Fetter) Beitel died in their childhood. (1) Friedrich Christian, born 30 Dec 1781, died 21 Apr 1783. (2) Maria Dorothea, born 4 Mar 1784, died 21 Sep 1789.

Their third child was (3) Friedrich Wilhelm (called Fritz), who was born 8 Mar 1786 and died at Ephrata (the neighborhood of the Whitefield House), Nazareth, 1 Mar 1842. He was a blacksmith. By 1810 he was married to Maria Magdalena Frey, who was born two miles from Schoeneck, 7 Mar 1788, daughter of Johan Martin and Maria Magdalena (Kaesterline) Frey. They had at least seven children: (i) Heinrich David, b Forks Tp 27 Nov 1810. (ii) Friederica Louisa, b Bushkill Tp 30 Dec 1813. (iii) Joseph Edwin, b Bushkill Tp 11 Mar 1815. (iv) Friedrich Wilhelm (called William), b Christian's Spring 12 Jun 1818; d Schoeneck 8 Aug 1853; m Schoeneck 25 Apr 1841 Emilie Lisette Steiner (also called Amelia, b 14 Mar 1823, dau of Peter and Anna Salome (Clewell) Steiner. A later article will give details of their family. (v) Lisette Cornelia, b Christian's Spring 13 Feb 1820. (vi) Sara Antoinette, b 3 Jul 1823. (vii) Carl Benjamin, b 16 Jul 1826; d 4 Nov 1826.

The fourth child of Christian Frederick and Maria Salome (Fetter) Beitel was (4) Christian Heinrich (Christian Henry), who was born 22 Sep 1788 and died at Nazareth 16 Sep 1847. He was a farmer. He married at Nazareth 4 Apr 1811 Rosina Miksch, who was born at Christian's Spring 2 Aug 1791 and died at Nazareth 17 Apr 1851, daughter of Johan Christian and Anna Philippine (Loesch) Miksch. They had four daughters.

The fifth child of Christian Frederick and Maria Salome (Fetter) Beitel was (5) Maria Salome, who was born 29 Sep 1790 and died at Nazareth 7 Jan 1864. On 17 Nov 1811 she married, at Nazareth, Johan Jacob Brunner, a house carpenter, who was born in Old Nazareth 10 Dec 1786 and died at Nazareth 7 Aug 1838, son of Heinrich and Rosina (Hartman) Brunner. They had a son and three daughters.

The sixth child of the Christian Frederick Beitels was (6) Elisabeth, who was born 1 Mar 1793. In Bushkill Township, on 24 Apr 1817, she married Johannes Krause, who was born in Bethlehem 3 Dec 1794, son of Gottlieb and Anna Johanna (Stoll) Krause. The seventh child of Christian Frederick and Maria Salome was (7) Benjamin, born 12 Feb 1796, who died 22 Feb 1796, two days before the death of his mother.

At Bethlehem, on 25 Sep 1796, the widower Christian Frederick Beitel married second Catharine Leibert, who was born in Salisbury Township 25 Dec 1761 and died at Schoeneck 17 Dec 1831, daughter of George and Elisabeth (Ehrenhardt) Leibert. Of this second marriage, we have records of only four children.

The first child of Christian Frederick and Catharine (Leibert) Beitel was (8) Anna Justina, who was born at Bethlehem 28 Jul 1797. She married in Bushkill Township, 2 Apr 1815, Samuel Ricksecker, a shoemaker near Schoeneck. At present we have no other information about them.

The next child of Christian Frederick and Catharine was (9) George Leibert Beitel, who was born in Bethlehem 12 Mar 1800 and died at Schoeneck 11 Feb 1876. At various times he was called a plumber, tinsmith locksmith, tinker and farmer. He married at Nazareth 21 Aug 1823 Anna Stotz, who was born 24 May 1800, daughter of Joseph and Anna Juliana (Eigenbrodt) Stotz. Their first child was born in Bushkill Township, but ten more were born at Schoeneck. The family of George L. and Anna (Stotz) Leibert will be presented in another article.

The third child of Christian Frederick and Catharine (Leibert) Beitel was (10) Jacob, who was born at Christian's Spring 12 Oct 1803 and died in Bushkill Township 6 Mar 1885. He was married twice. His first wife was Anna Louise Steiner, whom he married on 12 Mar 1826 at Schoeneck. Anna Louise was born in Plainfield (now Bushkill) Township 12 Mar 1803 and died in Bushkill Township 14 Aug 1853, daughter of John and Magdalena (Giering) Steiner. He married second at Schoeneck 17 Jun 1854 the widow Susanna (Keller) Haesely. Of his two marriages, Jacob Beitel had sixteen children, eight by each of his wives. The first child was born in 1826, and the sixteenth in 1868! Jacob's two families will be covered in a forthcoming article in The Jacobsburg Record.

The fourth and last child of Christian Frederick and Catharine (Leibert) Beitel was (11) Ernst Ludwig, who was born at Nazareth 11 Sep 1807, died 29 Apr 1818, and was buried at Schoeneck.

JACOBSBURG ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTER

The following committee from the Society has been appointed to work out a cooperative agreement for Historical Education and Environmental Education Center: Matthew K. Morris, Walter L. Peters, Hilton N. Rahn, Jr., Dallam Blandy, Reggie Banks. Matt has announced the following members and others will be called on as resource persons to contribute input: John J. Schlamp, Joseph DiGerlando, Virginia and Joseph Lopresti, Mary Ann Vincent, Earl Van Norman, and Robert Frick.

Incidentally about 20 Society members on March 12 enjoyed the hospitality of the Nolde Center near Reading. The group was impressed and pleased by the number and variety of outreach programs promoted by Lou Ritrovato, the day's host, and his staff.

JACOBSBURG CHAIRPERSONS AND COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS, 1986

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