

The Jacobsburg Record

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 1986

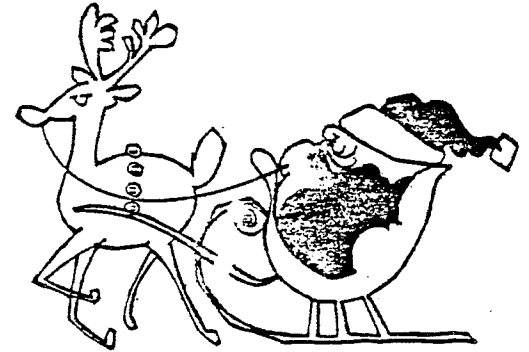
VOL. XIV, NO. 6

CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE PARTY, HENRY HOMESTEAD

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7, 1-4 P.M.

Come to the Henry Homestead for a reminder of things past and to get into the spirit of Christmas 1986.

William Gold will have his model steam train running, Phyllis Bechtold will have more of her dolls on exhibit, Eva Smith will show her cornhusk dolls versions, small toys, too, will be on hand. We will hear Christmas carols on the 27-in. disc antique Regina music box, courtesy of Mr. and Mrs. Mills of Montgomeryville. Bob Newell and Jim Wright will show Henry rifles. A traditional Christmas putz will be fashioned by Mary Peters and Warren Gulick with Bill Atherton and Matt Morris scrounging the moss, and Earl Van Norman has offered his antique rail fence. The House will be decorated for the occasion by Kathryn Schlamp, and candles will be in the windows to welcome everyone.



Charles M. Sandwick, Sr., is always pleased to autograph copies of our first published book, "Jacobsburg--a Pennsylvania Community and Its People." Price, \$25.18. The book makes a fine gift for area families, and almost half the print run have been sold.

Refreshments presided over by Mary Banks and Betty Morris will include cookies and the Jacobsburg Brew. Come to enjoy the first Christmas party of the 1986 season. Members, guests, and friends are welcome. The latchkey is out! Merry Christmas!

MARGARET H. TAYLOR

In the midst of all our Christmas plans, we have been saddened by the death of Margaret H. Taylor, who along with the late Cay Beers was one of the originators in the formation of the Jacobsburg Historical Society. Margaret was the Society's first treasurer, serving from 1972-1983 when she was made our second Directress Emerita, the first being Mary Henry Stites. Many were the early collaborations, discussions, and meetings among those three.

Margaret had been ill for months, but prior to her illness many remember affectionately her activities, not only as treasurer but as a willing supporter in all endeavors, making fudge, cookies, sandwiches, always ready to throw open her home for meetings.

Several of us fondly recall the sessions in Margaret's kitchen addressing, stapling, and sorting for mailing issues of The Jacobsburg Record. And oh, her love of ice cream! Margaret's was a life of willing accommodation and service to others. Hers was altogether a civil, urbane personality. A trump. We have missed Margaret H. Taylor and will continue to miss her.

BENADE HAUS REPORT

EARL VAN NORMAN

Walt Disney was a man whom I respected for his many skills and contributions to the motion picture industry (that has to be the understatement of the year), but by being so talented, he has done a great disservice to the American public. I'm speaking of his penchant for ascribing human characteristics to animals, both in cartoons and wildlife series, thus providing what has become known as the "Bambi Syndrome." He converted the whitetail deer into "Bambi" and the eastern cottontail rabbit into "Thumper." He has shown by skillful photography, film editing, and scriptwriting that all the wild animals in the world are really just different kinds of friendly, cuddly people with fur, hair, scales, feathers, and teeth....long teeth. He has influenced us, perhaps unwittingly, perhaps intentionally, into believing so many misconceptions about man's relationship to wildlife that it will take many years for Dale and his people to undo them. So as a word of advice, the next time you're at Yellowstone, please don't try to convince some grizzly that you only want to share half your lunch with him. And don't call him Yogi or Boo Boo.

Having said that, I would like to tell you that Jeremiah, our resident bullfrog, who resides in our spring at the springhouse, bade us "good night" a few weeks back. One evening as I opened the door of the springhouse to show it to some folks from Wisconsin, I was greeted with this basso profundo voice coming from underneath the floor. I knew instantly it was Jeremiah. He was telling us that he was going to sleep now and that he would wake up again next spring to send his melodious (and sexy) song reverberating against the stone walls of his cathedral.

It was not but a week later, as I was preparing the springhouse for visitors, that a huge flock of birds stopped on their way south to bid me farewell. They were all perched in the walnuts out front, making it appear as though the trees were in leaf again. There were several varieties of warblers, waxwings, flycatchers, phoebes, four bluebirds, and brown things. They were all trying to talk at once to tell me how eager they were to get moving, but they wouldn't leave without saying good-bye. One pine siskin even flew into the house for a personal farewell. I cupped him carefully in my hands and released him outside. As he left, he said, "Winter well, my friend."

Since the last report, we have enjoyed talking with some visitors from India and a couple of mid-western states. It's when we start telling these folks about what we have and do here, that we realize how fortunate we are to have the Center and all the history that abounds in Pennsylvania and the eastern seacoast. Of course, we don't have the Taj Mahal, but we can't fit everything into the Center, can we? Some of the other visitors included several Cub Scout and Girl Scout troops. Let's hope that there are some future naturalists and historians in the bunch.

Don Graves and Mike Colby came by recently to present one of their usual excellent flax demonstrations. They enjoy coming to Jacobsburg as much as we enjoy having them. They also acquired a great schnitzelbank that is a cut above your average. They have agreed to let me make one

MORE ABOUT THE BASSLER FAMILY

By Charles M. Sandwick, Sr.

Three generations of the Bassler family were discussed in the previous article, beginning with the immigration of Michael Bassler in 1753. Michael and Gertrude Bassler had at least one son, Jacob (1758-1799), and possibly other children. Jacob and Maria (Rothrock) Bassler had eight children, the first of whom, Michael, was born 4 Dec 1782. Michael and Maria (Steiner) Bassler had eight children, the fourth of whom was Gideon (1813-1855), of whom more will follow, but first there is more to be told about his grandfather Jacob.

JACOB BASSLER'S REVOLUTIONARY WAR SERVICE

We neglected to tell about the service of Jacob Bassler (1758-1799) as a soldier in the American Revolution. (In the military records his surname was usually spelled Basler.) In a muster roll of Captain Jacob Heller's Company in the Second Battalion of Northampton County Militia, dated 16 May 1780, Jacob Bassler was listed as a corporal. In class rolls of the same company (third company, second battalion) for the years 1781 and 1782, Jacob Bassler was listed each time as a corporal.

In July 1782 a company of militiamen of Plainfield Township, commanded by Captain Lewis Stacker, was drawn from various companies for a two-month tour of active duty (24 Jul to 23 Sep) with the Continental Line. Most of the draftees were from class 4 of their respective companies. Many of the men drawn for this service sent substitutes, but Corporal Jacob Bassler served his own term, albeit with the rank and pay of a private. He also received "depreciation pay" for his Continental service.

Following a reorganization of the Northampton County Militia, Captain Jacob Heller's Company became the 4th Company in the 6th Battalion. In the class rolls of that company for 1784 and 1785, the name of Jacob Bassler appears as a private in the 4th class.

GIDEON AND MARY ANN (HELLER) BASSLER

Gideon Bassler was born 29 Sep 1813, was baptized 9 Feb 1814 in the German Evangelical Lutheran Congregation of Easton, and was confirmed in the Plainfield Reformed Church 15 Jun 1833 at the age of 19. He died in Filetown, Bushkill Township, 7 Jul 1855. He was the fourth child of Michael and Maria (Steiner) Bassler, and a grandson of Jacob and Maria (Rothrock) Bassler.

As recorded at the First Reformed Church of Easton, Gideon Bassler married 20 Apr 1834 Mary Ann Heller. Anna Maria Heller (later called Mary Ann) was born 13 Jun 1815 and was baptized at the Plainfield Reformed Church 13 Aug 1815, daughter of John and Elizabeth (Siegel?) Heller. She died at Filetown 16 Feb 1899, and was buried (as Mary A. Kaske) in the Schoeneck Moravian Cemetery.

On 3 Jan 1863, at Schoeneck, the widow Mary Ann (Heller) Bassler married the Widower Christian Jacob Kaske, who was born in Nazareth Township 21 Apr 1803, died 12 Nov 1889, and was buried at Schoeneck; son of Johannes and Anna Maria (Schulz, nee Keiper) Kaske, and widower of

Elisabeth (Haupt) Kaske who died in 1860.

Gideon and Mary Ann (Heller) Bassler had two sons baptized at the Plainfield Reformed Church. (1) Emelius Samuel, born 10 Oct 1834, baptized 30 Nov 1834, of whom more will follow. (2) William Henry, born 15 Oct 1836, baptized 4 Dec 1836. By 1858 William was married to Maritta Jane, born about 1832-3, whose maiden surname is unknown to us. On 25 Dec 1858 they were witnesses at the baptism of their nephew, Willis Jacob Bassler, at the home of the child's parents, Emelius S. and Levina (Cope) Bassler, in Bushkill Township. A child, Edgar Henry, was born 17 Oct 1860 to William and Marella (sic) Bassler, and was baptized 12 May 1861 at the Forks Church. By 23 Dec 1862 William and Maritta had moved to Franklin Grove, Lee County, Illinois. William Bassler died 6 May 1886 in or near Ashton, Illinois.

EMELIUS AND LEVINA (COPE) BASSLER

The 1860 census of Bushkill Township lists two Bassler families, living near each other in the Filetown neighborhood. The first consisted of Mary Bassler, 43; William, 23, wheelwright; and Jane, 27; all born in Pennsylvania. Mary, of course, was the widow of Gideon, and Jane was Maritta Jane, the wife of William. The second family consisted of Emilius Bosler, 25, day laborer; Levina, 28; Milton, 3; Willis, 1; Mary Hixson, 11; and Charles Hixson, 8; all born in Pennsylvania. The Hixson children, both of whom attended school, were stepchildren of Emelius Bassler.

Among the nearest neighbors of the Basslers in 1860 were the families of Charles and Wilhelmina (Ihrie) Ochs; Thomas Alleman and his sisters Rebecca and Paulina; and Alexander and Clarinda (Schneider) Steiner; all residents of Filetown. In the 1870 census of Bushkill Township, Emelius Bassler was listed as a quarryman. In the 1880 census, same township, he was a farmer.

Emelius Samuel Bassler (often called Emil) was born in Bushkill Township 10 Oct 1834; was baptized 30 Nov 1834 at the Plainfield Reformed Church; died at Nazareth 4 Oct 1910, and was buried in the Schoeneck Moravian Cemetery; son of Gideon and Mary Ann (Heller) Bassler. He was married twice. He married first, 2 Feb 1856, Levina Cope, who was born in Bushkill Township 10 Oct 1827; was baptized 4 Feb 1828 in the Evangelical Congregation of Moorestown; died in Bushkill Township 3 Oct 1874, and was buried in the Schoeneck Moravian Cemetery; daughter of Jacob and Anna Catharine (Bruch) Cope.

Emelius and Levina (Cope) Bassler had eleven children, the baptisms of all of whom were recorded in the registers of the Schoeneck Moravian Church. (1) Amanda Jane was born 12 Jun 1856; was baptized the same day in the home of her grandmother Mary Bassler at Filetown; died 13 Jun 1856, and was buried at Schoeneck. (2) Milton Henry was born at Jacobsburg 27 Jun 1857 and was baptized 7 Jul 1857 at home. The remaining children were born in Filetown, and most (or perhaps all) were baptized at home. (3) Willis Jacob was born 20 Aug 1858 and died at Lincoln, Nebraska, in 1911. He married Friedericka G. Burlow. (4) Evan Franklin was born 5 Aug 1860, died at Wilkes-Barre 20 Mar 1913, and was buried at Dallas, Pa. (5) Anna Olivia was born 23 Jun 1861. She resided in 1880 with the family of Herman and Mary C. (Hixson) Bruch in Easton.

The sixth child of Emelius and Levina (Cope) Bassler was (6) Robert Luther Gideon, who was born 2 Dec 1862, and died at Lincoln, Nebraska, 30 Jul 1928. He married at Lincoln 3 Aug 1883 Hattie Taylor Gulick. (7) Harley Emelius (called Harry) was born 15 Dec 1863, died 12 Feb 1943, and was buried at Forty-Fort. He married, at Parsons, Pa., 6 May 1886, Sarah James. Their grandson, Edwin J. Bassler, formerly of Summit, New Jersey, and more recently of Wellesley, Mass., is a member of the Jacobsburg Historical Society. (8) Cora Louisa was born 5 Feb 1865, died 15 Mar 1865, and was buried at Schoeneck.

The ninth child of Emelius and Levina was (9) Herman James (called James H.) who was born 28 Oct 1866, and died at Wilkes-Barre 16 Mar 1944, He married Sarah Rebecca Nunnemacher. (10) Laura Levina was born 23 Mar 1870, died 14 Aug 1870, and was buried at Schoeneck. (11) Walter Thomas was born 9 Mar 1872, died 24 Mar 1872, and was buried at Schoeneck.

EMELIUS AND SARAH (HECKMAN) BASSLER

About 1875 the widower Emelius S. Bassler married second the widow Sarah Anna (Heckman) Hoch, who was born 21 Jan 1837; was baptized 19 Feb 1837 by Rev. Neudsen; died 17 Jan 1907, and was buried at Schoeneck. She was a daughter of Jesse and Eva (Meyers) Heckman, and the widow of Samuel Hoch. By this marriage Emelius Bassler acquired at least four step-children surnamed Hoch: Maria, born about 1858; Emma, born about 1865; Lovinia, born about 1868; and Wiland, born about 1872.

By his second wife, Sarah, nee Heckman, Emelius Bassler had three more children, all born in Filetown: (12) Camilla Louisa was born 26 Feb 1876, died 2 Apr 1879, and was buried at Schoeneck. (13) Mary Vestilla was born 4 Jan 1879. In 1910, as Mary V. Savitz, she was named administratrix of her father's estate. (14) An infant son was born and died 30 Oct 1880, and was buried at Schoeneck.

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NOTES AND NEWS

Congratulations to Dale Prinkey and the Society as well. Dale's account of our activities, relationships to the public and community, and publications has won a Pennsylvania State award in the 1986 Take pride in America Campaign. A special ceremony will be held in Harrisburg in 1987, as well as a national recognition ceremony also in 1987 for those that qualify. Stay tuned for word from National. Congratulations, again, Dale.

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Peter Wolle has offered a stove for the Homestead and will deliver it as well. Indeed the donation is gratefully accepted, and the Board expresses its appreciation.

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Outside groups have expressed a desire to tour the Homestead, and we can report on two that have: The Pocono Herb Club and the Guides from the Moravian Museum in Bethlehem. We are delighted and proud to welcome all such organizations.

(Continued from page 2)

like it. And I will, too. Just as soon as I finish my longrifle, work bench, bellows, pistol, doughbox, toolbox, saw horses, wheelbarrow, and the floor for the springhouse.

Readers of the December 1986 issue of "Early American Life" will be delighted to see a fine article by Don Graves. It's about Bethlehem and Christmas traditions and is accompanied by some good photography. If you buy the special Christmas Edition, also put out by "Early American Life," you will see an article and pictures about Putzs (putzii?), one of which belongs to our own Bob Frick. It certainly is nice to have our people recognized.

The year is winding down now. The harvest moon has done its job. The brilliant reds, oranges, and yellows of fall have been reduced to an almost homogeneous buckskin tan. Only the evergreens remain to remind us that soon they will become a very special part of our life. The skies seem to be different also. The leaden clouds that drift by now seem to compliment the drab colored landscape. It was during one of my late evening walks through the Center that the sky played a very important role in something that...well, perhaps I should explain.

It was at the end of October when Mary Ann and I were enjoying the exhilarating but at the same time melancholy, sights, smells, and feelings of autumn. The sun had gone down behind the hill but was dark. The zenith was a dark cyan that graduated in lightness as it progressed toward the western horizon where it culminated in a thin band of white that ended just above the treetops. Below the white band the sun cast its light to make a spectrum of bright yellow to deep dark orange background. It was while we were enjoying this array of colors that we felt a chill come upon us unlike any breeze I had ever felt. It made the hair stand up on the back of my neck. Mary a leaf moved nor did a sound I hear. Then just as suddenly, a new silhouette silently appeared against the sky, dodged a few trees, and was gone. Mary Ann and I looked at each other in wide-eyed amazement. Long moments passed before Mary Ann was able to ask in a hushed but high pitched voice..."What was it?" I swallowed and cleared my throat a little before I answered..."I don't know."

"Maybe it was an owl," she said.

"No, too small...heron maybe," as I took her hand and hurriedly headed back toward the car.

As we were going down the highway, Mary Ann finally broke the silence by saying..."I think I didn't see a broom on that thing...did you?"

I said, "No, I thought I didn't see a broom too."

We're not going back next Halloween to verify it.

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DUES ARE DUE JANUARY 1!

We appreciate Lenora Vondercrone's response to our call for help. She will gladly do the stapling as necessary of The Jacobsburg Record, as well as prepare the issue for mailing. Thank you, Lenora--that is a real service, and we are happy to accept your offer.

At the same time we acknowledge the contribution of Lenora, we want to say a big thank you to Reggie Banks, our treasurer, who has been doubling as "stapler" and mailer and all the other extra duties that have gone with mailings--trips to the post office and so forth. Congratulations to Reggie for his camera work of the Moravian Star appearing in this year's Bethlehem Area Chamber of Commerce Christmas Seal. Sally Gillispie, the Chamber's Assistant Director, aided the project.

The Board is also happy to accept Hope Luhman's offer to volunteer her services to catalogue the Lopresti artifacts after her State internship ends November 30. You will remember the Board has given Hope permission to use her Jacobsburg experience as the subject of her doctoral thesis from Muhlenberg. It is a valuable boost for the Society to have catalogued by a trained person the thousands of items from the Lopresti Jacobsburg digs. We all say a big thank you!

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Bobbie, Joe, and the DiGerlando children removed moss and algae from the Homestead Pond. Margaret and Walter Peters have donated the services of Tony Unger's men to clear the entire pond area. Looks great, fellas, and thanks so much to the Peterses!

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Bobbie DiGerlando, chairperson of Gardens at the Homestead, reports that the herb garden is not doing well because the flourishing oak tree in the vicinity is casting too much shade. The Board voted at the October meeting that this tree should become the Catherine S. Beers Memorial Tree. Possibly the herb garden can be moved to a sunny spot not too far from its present location.

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Lester Fehnel has begun work on the Carriage House repairs, taking care of leaks, in particular, before the winter snows. The locust tree in the drainage field near the renewed sewage pipe has been felled on the Homestead property.

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Matt Morris, outgoing president of the Society, will undergo his second knee operation probably the second week in January. Good luck, Matt, and thanks for your official and unofficial leadership through the years. We continue to look to you for help and guidance.

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ANNUAL DINNER REPORT

Ninety members and friends enjoyed the annual meeting and dinner at the Stockertown Memorial Hall on October 23. The following members were elected to the Board of Directors to serve three years through 1989: Reginald M. Banks, Jr., Dallam E. Blandy, Joseph T. DiGerlando, Virginia Lopresti, Walter L. Peters, Hilton N. Rahn, Jr., James A. Wright. From the Board of 23, five officers will be elected at the January 1987 meeting.

(over)

The films depicting the 1779 encampment in Morristown, N.J., expanded our knowledge of and appreciation for the colonists' sacrifices at the founding of the country.

Interest was added by the period-dressed individuals who, with Earl Van Norman as spokesperson, were introduced as presiding over the Sunday activities of the Benade House and the Spring House areas of the Environmental and Education Center. Their women's and men's ensembles were much admired and made the rest of us realize we are missing a valuable weekly enterprising pursuit when we fail to show up. Activities continue, so do roam around there on a Sunday to check them out. Visitors are always welcome as you can tell from the entertaining and fine accounts by Earl in each issue of The Record.

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EDITOR CHANGE

This November/December issue of The Jacobsburg Record is the last under the editorship of Charlotte Sayre. This issue also is the last one to be printed by the Nazareth Area School District. The editor wishes to express personal thanks, as well as Board appreciation, for the cordiality of a rewarding relationship, particularly to Doris Yavorski, manager of the print shop.

In addition, ever since the first days of putting together a news sheet in 1972, Cay Beers had garnered the services of Muriel Miller in the Dean's Office at Lafayette. For all these years of volunteer service, we express a great big thank you to a very patient lady who graciously put up with outrageous typing and corrections. Thank you, to everyone!

What now, you ask?

In our September/October issue, we introduced Beatrice Schlamp as our new editor, and we all met her at the annual dinner. Bea will start off with a whole new setup--a new printer and a new "stapler" and mailer! The best news is that Bea will have a word processor available. Now the whole operation will really come into the 20th century!

This editorship has been a rewarding experience, and this editor is certain it will be for Bea as well. Bea can surely count on the ongoing cooperation from all her fellow members and particularly our contributors, Charles M. Sandwick, Sr., and Earl Van Norman. Off with the old, on with the new, and good luck to everyone!

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As we go to press, November 10, we learn Charles Sandwick, Sr., is in Easton Hospital for the placement of a pacemaker. We know our members and his many friends and colleagues in the Lehigh Valley wish him well and a speedy recovery.

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Still, we gather ourselves together to say:

Happy New Year 1987!

JACOBSBURG HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Officers and Board of Directors, 1986

OFFICERS

Matthew K. Morris, President	Nazareth	759-0751
Hilton N. Rahn, Jr., 1st Vice President	Bethlehem	868-1789
Dallam E. Blancy, 2nd Vice President	Bethlehem	867-6849
Elizabeth L. Morris, Secretary	Nazareth	759-0751
Reginald M. Banks, Jr., Treasurer	Nazareth	759-6696

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Term expires end of 1986

Reginald M. Banks, Jr.	Nazareth	759-6696
Dallam E. Blancy	Bethlehem	867-6849
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

Term expires end of 1987

Bobbie G. DiGerlando	Wind Gap	759-7239
Joseph A. Lopresti	Stockertown	759-1580
Elizabeth L. Morris	Nazareth	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

Term expires end of 1988

William Henry Atherton	Stockertown	759-7710
Janet A. Gum	Nazareth	759-1862
Matthew K. Morris	Nazareth	759-9751
Doris Kennedy	Nazareth	759-695
Ellis Neuner	Boulton	759-1764
Robert N. Newell	Nazareth	759-3423
Kathryn Schlamp	Nazareth	759-0302
Ann Marie Trbuza	Bath	837-9925
Earl Van Norman	Easton	252-6579

Emerita Members of the Board

Mary Henry Stites
Margaret E. 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.