

# THE JACOBSTOWN RECORD

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## **“THIS DAY WE SAILED ON, COURSE WSW”**

Christopher Columbus

This was the entry which, day after day, Columbus put down in the private log of his first voyage across the uncharted North Atlantic. He must have written it in a spirit alternating between blind hope and quiet despair.

Conditions were about as adverse as possible. Storms had done considerable damage; the Pinta had lost her rudder, the crews of all three vessels were threatening mutiny; and probably Columbus' own confidence in what seemed an insane enterprise was wavering. But he had set his course in the direction which his own intuition and logical intelligence led him to believe was the right one, and with determination and courage he kept going.

During times of doubt we may be well inspired by the words of the great navigator. **“This day we sailed on”**.

Well, our historical society is setting its course for still another year. Now we must continue to sail on toward our destination. From time to time seas have become choppy and weather has turned stormy, but so far we have stuck to our course.

This may not be the year we complete our journey, but storm clouds are parting. We have received a sufficient number of grants to begin some serious work on the Henry Homestead to restore the building to a safe and secure condition and to turn its first floor into a first class museum.

Visit us often, keep up your wonderful support, and sail with us into the future of the Boulton Plantation and the legacy of the Henry family. I have no doubt that together we, like Columbus, will someday successfully complete our journey.

**RON GABEL, PRESIDENT**

## JACOBSBURG HISTORICAL SOCIETY OFFICERS FOR THE YEAR 2001

At the January 25, 2001 meeting of the Board of Directors, the following officers were elected for the year 2001:

President	Ronald Gabel
1st Vice President	Mary Ann Van Norman
2nd Vice President	Howard White
3rd Vice President	Robert Sadler
Secretary	A. James Shedlauskas
Treasurer	Wendy Totani

Also at this meeting, President Ron Gabel appointed Robert Engelbrecht to fill a Board vacancy for a period of one year.

### 2001 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- March 1-4** Allentown Outdoor Expo - Ag Hall, Allentown, Pa. \*
- March 7** Start, Advanced Longrifle Gunsmithing Course - 8 weeks. 7-10 PM
- March 17** Display - Sportsman Show, Slatington 9AM - 2 PM \*
- April 7** Spring-Cleaning 9AM. Rain Date - 21.
- May 19-20** Oxford Furnace Heritage Event. Oxford, N.J. \*
- June 15 - 17** Rifle Frolic & Primitive Rendezvous Camp
- July 25-27** Annual Youth History Camp - Junior Historians 9AM to Noon
- August** Tea Party in the Garden. Penn State Master Gardener Program  
(Date to be announced)
- Sept. 26** Start Basic Longrifle Gunsmithing Course - 8 weeks. 7-10 PM.
- Sept. 29-30** Civil War Event - Civil War Display, Reenactment, & Camp.
- Oct. 18** Annual Fall Dinner & Meeting
- Oct. 26-28** American Fur Trade & Halloween Rendezvous
- Nov. 3** Fall Cleanup 9 AM. Rain date Nov. 17.

\* = Denotes events on the road

*The Interpreter's Corner*  
by Jim Wilson

Almost 140 years after it ended, the American Civil War is one of the most popular topics of historical interest in our culture today. Roundtable groups meet regularly across the country to discuss the history of the Civil War. And last year, the most well attended community program at the Henry Homestead was a Commonwealth Speaker presentation entitled, *The Role of Pennsylvania in the Civil War*.

The Henry family played both commercial and personal roles in the American Civil War. When war broke out in 1861, the Boulton Gun Works was under the management of James Henry and his eldest son, Granville. Early in the conflict, the Henry gunmakers produced military arms at Boulton for a government contractor in Philadelphia. The Henrys also made military arms of their own at Boulton for local militia units, including groups in nearby Catasauqua and Bethlehem. Civilian guns made by the Henrys were used in the Civil War as well. Many firearms that had been shipped to southern dealers for years prior to the outbreak of war saw service early in the conflict, when there was a great shortage of military arms in the South. Henry-made civilian guns also helped equip Colonel J.W. Birge's Missouri Sharpshooter Regiment and Colonel Hiram Birdan's marksmen in the eastern theatre of war.

During the Confederate invasion of Pennsylvania in June 1863, Granville Henry enlisted for three months in Company D of the 34th Pennsylvania Militia Regiment out of Bethlehem. Granville's younger brother, Edward Henry, enlisted in both the Union Army and Navy during the Civil War, serving as a machinist with Admiral Farragut's fleet in Southern waters during the later war years. Both Granville and Edward Henry survived the war unscathed. This was not the case for another pair of Henry brothers.

William Henry, Jr. and Joseph James Henry were the youngest sons of William Henry III and Mary Albright Henry. Their father, William Henry, III supervised construction of the Boulton Gun Works in 1812. William Henry, Jr. served during the entire Civil War in the 1st Regiment of New Jersey Volunteers, attaining the rank of Colonel. He was wounded in the Battle of Cold Harbor, Virginia, on June 1st, 1864. Colonel Henry's younger brother, Joseph James Henry, enlisted as a Captain in the 9th Regiment of the New Jersey Volunteers. Captain Henry paid the ultimate price of war. He was killed in action at the Battle of Roanoke Island, North Carolina on February 8th, 1862 at the age of 27. Joseph James Henry was the first volunteer from his hometown of Oxford, New Jersey to enlist for army service during the Civil War. And tragically, he was the first New Jersey officer to be killed in action.

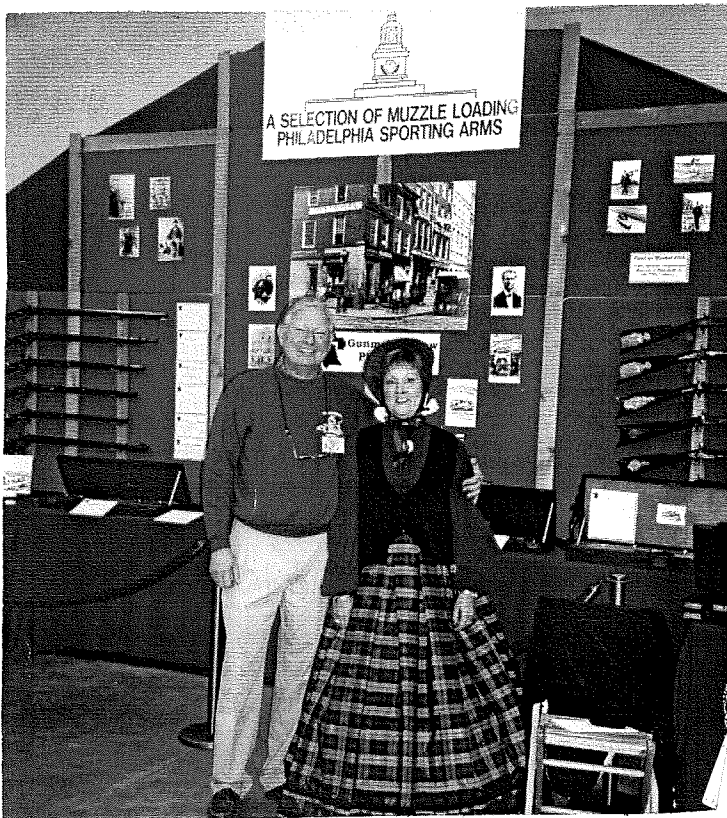
All but forgotten today, the Grand Army of the Republic, that historical veterans group with the glorious-sounding name, was made up of the men who served the Union during the Civil War. And in Belvidere, New Jersey, the local G.A.R. unit was named the Captain Henry Post.

## ANTIQUE GUN DISPLAY BENEFITS SOCIETY

The Forks of the Delaware Antique Weapons Association holds gun shows at Agriculture Hall in the Allentown Fairgrounds several times a year. At these shows displays of rare and historical weapons are encouraged and winning displays are awarded cash prizes.

At the winter show held December 9-10, 2000, Ron Gabel, the current President of the Jacobsburg Historical Society, presented a large and impressive forty-two foot display of Muzzle Loading Philadelphia Sporting Arms. These guns represented a small portion of Ron's personal collection of historical arms.

A number of JHS members helped make this display a success. Past President Tim Lubenesky produced signs for each of the 50 guns included in the display and provided backdrop display boards for the exhibit. JHS member Rich Hujsa helped in providing descriptive material for use on the many signs, and used his creative artistic skills to neatly arrange the many exhibits. JHS Vice President Joe Flemish, Jr. and member Bill Cooke helped haul material and aided in policing the display. Many additional Society members stopped by over the weekend to visit and help watch the display.



*Ron and Elaine Gabel*

Elaine Gabel and Terri Lubenesky added the final touch to the display by dressing up in period clothing with hoop skirts and bonnets and by greeting visitors to the display area.

Due to existing rules regarding the maximum size of competing displays, the Philadelphia display was much too large to enter into normal competition. Ron Gabel advised the show management that, due to the overwhelming support of Jacobsburg Historical Society members, he would like any remuneration for the display to be treated as a donation to the Society.

All who helped with the truly remarkable display were encouraged by the many positive comments received. One gentleman who noted he had been doing gun shows across the country for over forty years said he had never before seen such a fine display.

Everyone was even more encouraged by the fact that when awards were handed out Sunday afternoon the Society was presented with a **\$2500.00** donation for their efforts.

## 2000 VOLUNTEERS

Jacobsburg Historical Society is pleased to report that our Volunteers have given 1,937 recorded hours of their time to further the aims of the Society. While we commend our Volunteers, and appreciate every one of them, we must also note that the number of hours given for 2000 is approximately 1000 hours less than 1999. One reason for this difference is that there are many volunteer hours served that are never recorded. Volunteer books are located at the Homestead, the Visitor Center, the J.J.House, and the Shop.

When you are working at JHS or spending time at home, or elsewhere, on JHS business, please keep track of your hours and enter them in one of the books.

## 2000 ANNUAL PROGRAM REPORT

The following is an account of all community and school programs that were coordinated through JHS & JEEC Partnership Heritage Program Office at the Boulton Visitor Center in 2000.

### **Comunity Programs:**

<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Attendance</u>
Winter Harvest at Jacobsburg	March 18	33
Henry Heritage & Benjamin West	April 29	20
Moravian Culture on the Colonial Frontier	May 5	25
Delawares on the Bushkill	June 3	44
Junior Conservation School	July 17	45
Junior Historians	July 26-28	45
Role of Pennsylvania in the Civil War	September 15	68
Autumn Art Exhibit & Artists' Reception	November 19	60
	<b>Sub-total:</b>	<b>340</b>

### **School Programs (Henry Heritage)**

<u>School &amp; Grade Level</u>		
Broughal Middle School - 8th	May 30	32
Lehigh Elementary - 4th	June 5	120
Northeast Middle School - 8th	June 13	110
Regional Summer School - 4th-7th	July 12-13	90
South Mountain Middle School - 6th	October 3-4	316
East Hills Middle School	October 11	58
Broughal Middle School- 6th-8th	October 30	30
	<b>Sub-total:</b>	<b>756</b>

**Community & School Programs Combined Total: 1,096**