

# THE JACOBSTOWN RECORD

BOX 345

Nazareth, Pa. 18064

Society Office - 610-759-9029

---

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2001

VOL. XXVIII NO. 5

---

## ANNUAL FALL DINNER AND MEETING

Thursday, October 18, 2001

Our Annual Dinner and Meeting will be held this year on October 18th at the Holy Family Club, Mauch Chunk Street, Nazareth, Pa. Dinner will be served at 6:30 P.M.

A brief business meeting will be held at which time Directors for the Class of 2004 will be elected. The Nominating Committee, comprised of Richard Steiner, Chairman, Pam Repsher, and Roberta Steiner, has proposed the following slate of Directors for election:

Joseph DiGerlando                      Virginia Lopresti

John Molnar                              Donald Repsher

A. James Shedlauskas              Wendy Totani

Nominations will be accepted from the floor, however, before presenting a name for election, please be sure the person you are nominating is willing to serve.

For those of you who may not have received the recent dinner mailing, our speaker for the evening will be **Marcus Brandt** - an internationally recognized expert on traditional wood frame construction. The Morning Call recently featured Marcus in his latest project - the restoration - construction of a second barn at Burnside Plantation, Bethlehem. He also supervised the construction of their first barn in 1992. Marcus will also have a display of tools, pictures and other items of interest. **Marcus Brandt** was raised in the Easton area and now resides in Allentown.

**Don't miss this fascinating and enthusiastic historical craftsman.**

Please confirm your reservations no later than 10/12/2001 to Bobbie DiGerlando:  
by E-Mail - [ismdigerlando@enter.net](mailto:ismdigerlando@enter.net) or by phone (610) 759-7239

## DATES TO REMEMBER

Oct. 18	Annual Fall Dinner and Meeting
Oct. 26-28	American Fur Trade & Halloween Rendezvous
November 3	Fall Cleanup, 9 AM. Rain date Nov. 17. All volunteers are welcome.

# THE JACOBSTURG RECORD

BOX 345  
Nazareth, Pa. 18064  
Society Office - 610-759-9029

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2001

VOL. XXVIII NO. 5

## ANNUAL FALL DINNER AND MEETING

Thursday, October 18, 2001

Our Annual Dinner and Meeting will be held this year on October 18th at the Holy Family Club, Mauch Chunk Street, Nazareth, Pa. Dinner will be served at 6:30 P.M.

A brief business meeting will be held at which time Directors for the Class of 2004 will be elected. The Nominating Committee, comprised of Richard Steiner, Chairman, Pam Repsher, and Roberta Steiner, has proposed the following slate of Directors for election:

Joseph DiGerlando	Virginia Lopresti
John Molnar	Donald Repsher
A. James Shedlauskas	Wendy Totani

Nominations will be accepted from the floor, however, before presenting a name for election, please be sure the person you are nominating is willing to serve.

For those of you who may not have received the recent dinner mailing, our speaker for the evening will be **Marcus Brandt** - an internationally recognized expert on traditional wood frame construction. The Morning Call recently featured Marcus in his latest project - the restoration - construction of a second barn at Burnside Plantation, Bethlehem. He also supervised the construction of their first barn in 1992. Marcus will also have a display of tools, pictures and other items of interest. **Marcus Brandt** was raised in the Easton area and now resides in Allentown.

**Don't miss this fascinating and enthusiastic historical craftsman.**

Please confirm your reservations no later than 10/12/2001 to Bobbie DiGerlando:  
by E-Mail - [ismdigerlando@enter.net](mailto:ismdigerlando@enter.net) or by phone (610) 759-7239

## DATES TO REMEMBER

Oct. 18	Annual Fall Dinner and Meeting
Oct. 26-28	American Fur Trade & Halloween Rendezvous
November 3	Fall Cleanup, 9 AM. Rain date Nov. 17. All volunteers are welcome.

*The Interpreter's Corner*  
by Jim Wilson

If Jacobsburg had a Main Street, it would be the Bushkill Creek. Naturally it would be an alternate Main Street, since the Bushkill is not now - nor was it ever - a navigable artery. But like a Main Street, the Bushkill Creek has always connected the communities of Jacobsburg, Henry's Forge and Boulton. This natural corridor today connects upstream and downstream neighbors all along its 20-mile course, from the Blue Mountain to Easton, in a common concern: protection and celebration of their shared "green infrastructure." But once upon a time, this "Other Main Street" connected upstream and downstream neighbors at Jacobsburg in a far different common concern: industrial power.

In short, William Henry of Nazareth moved his gun manufacturing operations to Jacobsburg because of the Bushkill Creek. Industry of all kinds ran on water in early American times. And the Bushkill was one of the premier mill creeks of its day. As early as 1798, there were 11 mills and three tanneries along the Bushkill. As the 18th century drew to a close and the 19th century opened, the Henry family and others would add many more "water works" to the banks of the Bushkill Creek. Through a carefully engineered system of milldams, millponds, millraces and waterwheels, early industrialists could harness waterpower from nearby streams to run most any type of manufactory. In the 5-plus miles of waterways at Jacobsburg, water was harnessed to power grindstones in flour mills, saws in lumber mills, bellows in iron furnaces, and trip hammers in gun factories.

Water-powered technology is what defines the historical land use practices in the Jacobsburg reach of the Bushkill, and throughout the Bushkill Creek Watershed. In his 1860 publication, **History of the Lehigh Valley**, Matthew Henry states, "*Easton owes its original and continued prosperity, in a great measure, to the water powers of the Bushkill Creek.*" And the industrial and commercial significance of the rural Bushkill is further evident in an early 19th century broadside for the J. Joseph Henry Gun & Rifle Manufactory, in which the Boulton Gun Works was then billed as. Part of the advertising broadside reads, "*Having the advantage of a water power, and being situated in the country, he flatters himself that he can manufacture articles in his line on as low terms as any one in the trade.*"

The Jacobsburg Historical Society and the Jacobsburg Environmental Education Center Partnership is presently developing an educational program that will introduce school students to the historical and present-day land use practices throughout our reach of the Bushkill Creek. Through hands-on, interactive investigations, the program will focus on the people, places and processes of early land use practices at Jacobsburg. In the end, students will understand the historical, industrial and cultural significance of, among other things, Main Street Jacobsburg, a.k.a., the Bushkill Creek.



## **The Jacobsburg Historical Society**

Presents an A Historical Reenactment of the

# **American Fur Trade Era Encampment**

**"A SPECIAL HALLOWEEN at BOULTON"**

## **October 27 & 28, 2001**

**At the Boulton Plantation – Belfast Exit off of Route 33**

**Go West to 402 Henry Road, Belfast, PA.**

**Sat. 10AM to 5 PM & Sunday 10 AM to 3 PM**

### **The Rendezvous**

**A Pre-1840 Primitive Living History Camp is in the Program Area.**

**They portray Camp Life along with demonstrations of Knife & Tomahawk throwing, Primitive Archery, Black Powder Shooting, Primitive Fishing, and Baking Contest as well as Crafts, Trades and Traders of the Fur Trade Period.**

### **Pennsylvania Longrifle Museum**

**On Display will be Rifles, Pistols & Smoothbores of the American Fur Trade, Accouterments of the Fur Trapper & Traders plus Trade Goods of all description.**

### **John Joseph Henry House**

**Tour our 1832 Philadelphia Style Townhouse. All the collections, furnishings, books, paintings, house wares, etc. are ALL Henry Family Possessions. Take the Tour & see how an affluent 19<sup>th</sup> Century Family lived in Rural Pennsylvania.**

### **The Gunsmith Shop**

**Observe our Master Craftsmen & their Apprentices Recreating the Henry Longrifles & Half-stock rifles of the Fur Trade Period. Bring along your family Heirloom rifle and have our experts tell you all about it and appraise it FREE.**

### **The Blacksmith Shop**

**Hear the Ring of the Blacksmiths Hammer at work producing ironware for the Boulton Plantation and for YOU our Friends and Supporters. ( see: the Gift Shop )**

### **The Summer Kitchen**

**See our 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> Century Hearth Cooks in Action preparing Authentic dishes of early America. Maybe pick up a new Receipt (Recipe).**

### **Gardens**

**Visit our 19<sup>th</sup> Century Gardens, both Formal Flower & Herb Gardens. Sit and enjoy.**

### **Come Walk in Henry's Woods**

**View our 160+ year old English Elms, Oaks & Hemlocks along the Bushkill. Hike the 12.5-Miles of Trail in the adjoining Park in this beautiful Fall Season. Stop in at our New Boulton Visitors Center and say Hello to Jim Wilson.**

**Admission \$ 3.00 Adults  
Children under 12 – Free  
J.H.S. Members are always FREE**

**For Information Call: Mr. Jim Wilson  
Boulton Visitors Center at 610-746-2809  
[email-jacobsburg@fast.net](mailto:email-jacobsburg@fast.net)  
Website – [jacobsburg.com](http://jacobsburg.com)**