

THE JACOBSTURG RECORD

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LET'S ALL PLANT A TREE

There is the tale often told of the priest who once passed through a field in which he noticed an old man planting an acorn in the ground.

"Why are you planting that acorn?" said he. "You certainly don't expect to live long enough to see the acorn grow into an Oak tree?"

"Ah," replied the old man, "my ancestors planted trees not for themselves, but for us in order that we might enjoy their shade and their fruit. I am doing likewise for those who will come after me."

We in the Jacobsburg Historical Society have it in our power to plant such a tree, which, instead of fruit may provide an endless fleet of vessels in which our ancestors can sail forth into history at the Henry plantation.

As our Society continues to grow in size and prestige, it is demanding "nothing less than the best," from each of its officers and members. The stern challenge to perfection applies at every level in our organization.

This marks the end of my second year as your president. As outgoing president, I want to thank all the officers and directors who served with me, the committee chairmen and their committees, the past presidents, all the volunteers and all the members and spouses who have made these past two years the huge success they were.

I want to urge all of our members to support our new slate of officers who will take the reins in January, as they will need lots of cooperation if we are to continue to grow. I am confident they will give us an even better year, because many of them have indicated by past performance their dedication and involvement, the true projection of what to expect. We have a balanced mix of seasoned members along with newer members who will bring innovations with creativity.

ARE WE GOING TO PLANT A TREE?

“What do we plant, when we plant a tree:
We plant a ship, that will cross the sea,
We plant the mast to carry the sails,
We plant the planks to withstand the gales,
The Keel and the Keelson, beam and knee,
We plant a ship when we plant a tree.

Thanks again, to everyone, for two very productive and exciting years. Let's all prepare to sail into the future next year with our new slate of officers. If you have offered your services in the past, offer them again, if you have not, now is a very good time to PLANT YOUR TREE.

RON GABEL

The Interpreter's Corner

By Jim Wilson

The Jacobsburg Historical Society's archives contain a wealth of photographic images that include original prints, negatives, slides and contact sheets dating from the late 1860's through the present time -- nearly 12,000 images in all! These images reflect the lives and times of many generations of the William Henry family and their Boulton Gun Works, as well as the Jacobsburg Historical Society's property holdings and its interpretive and educational programs. Many photographs contain images of historical people and places long-gone from the Jacobsburg landscape; including Henry family members, their factory workers and their Boulton Gun Works, one of the largest civilian firearms manufactories in 19th century America. These images are key components to the Society's interpretive and educational programming efforts. They help bring life to, and graphically interpret a Pennsylvania industrial community and its people. More and more, as the Society's program expands, these images are required for use in exhibits and publications. They are essential in facilitating the Society's mission of preserving and presenting the art and industry of making early American firearms, and the individuals and community that created and sustained that enterprise.

In general, the Society's photographic collections are well maintained and archived in a clean, secure room at the Boulton Visitor Center. However, while many of the images are properly preserved, many are not. Therefore, back in October, the Society met with a technical assistance consultant from the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission to map out a game plan for the proper, professional preservation of both its photographic and documentary collections. Following the consultant's recommendations, the Society recently applied for funding through the Commonwealth to purchase the necessary supplies to begin preserving its

The Interpreter's Corner (Cont'd.)

wealth of photographs. Properly preserved photographic collections will only increase the Society's professionalism and provide better interpretive, educational and archival services for the public.

Once the Society's photographic collections are properly preserved, they will be made available for reproduction in various formats for use in the Society's exhibits and publications. Students and researchers will be able to study these images once they are properly preserved to better understand the architecture of early American industry and landscapes. This photographic preservation project will benefit the public for generations to come by properly preserving an invaluable collection of photographs that reflect one of America's earliest family of firearms manufacturers and the people, places and products associated with the enterprise.

For over 100 years, the Henry family's Boulton Gun Works and surrounding industrial plantation was a lively, thriving community. Today the Boulton landscape is a quiet, serene, green space of second growth forest. The Henry's Boulton Gun Works and many outbuildings are forever gone. By preserving the Jacobsburg Historical Society's wealth of photographic images of that bygone era, the story of the Henry family and their early American industries at Boulton can be made to come alive once again for today's - and tomorrow's - public, and graphically answer many of the questions visitors have about how Boulton appeared in its heyday.

At our Annual Dinner and Business meeting on October 18th, the following Society members were elected to the Board of Directors for terms of three years:

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

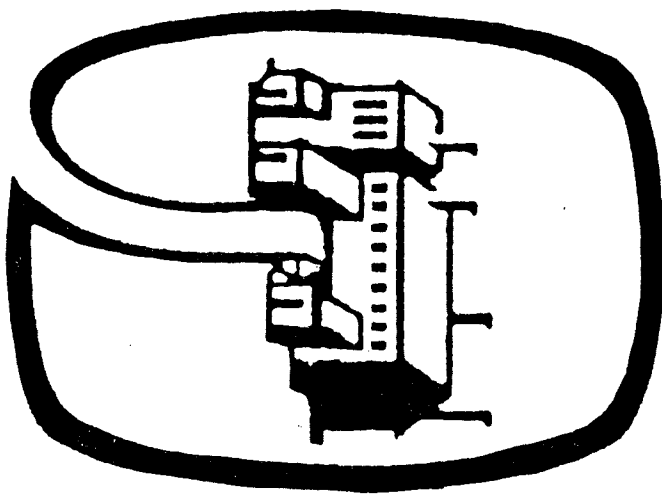
Fall Cleanup Day, November 3rd

Our Fall Cleanup Day was not as successful as we had anticipated - only six members turned out to participate for this outdoor event. They spent a busy day working at cleaning up the grounds of the J.J.House and quite a bit was accomplished for the number who showed up. A date has not been set for Spring Cleanup of 2002 but it will be published as soon as possible so that you can mark your calendars. Your help is necessary to keep the grounds of the Plantation in good condition. We appreciate our Volunteers.

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HAPPY NEW YEAR!

JACOBSBURG
HISTORICAL
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