

JACOBSBURG
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

Winter 2006

The Jacobsburg Record

Volume 33, Issue 1

Jacobsburg — Where History Lives!

Eagles Over Jacobsburg Presentation at the Annual Membership Dinner



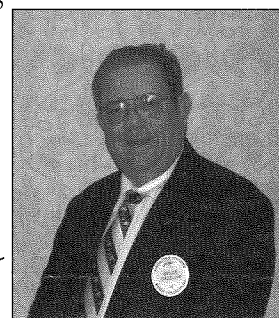
Entertaining and interesting describe this year's JHS dinner held October 20. Approximately 60 members and guests attended this annual event hosted by the Holy Family Club in Nazareth.

Attendees were treated to excellent food and spirits as well as to a post-dinner slide presentation by noted author and speaker, Bruce Bazelon, of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission. Mr. Bazelon enlightened all with his in-depth overview of American Bald Eagle symbolism. Did you know, for example, that Benjamin Franklin thought the bald eagle was a bird of bad moral character and suggested (tongue in cheek) that the wild turkey might be a better representative of the nation? During the presentation Mr. Bazelon blended facts with humor as he traced the evolution of our symbolic national bird.

Prior to the lecture, JHS President Bob Sadler led a brief business meeting, which included recognizing several member volunteers and past presidents, highlighting significant JHS accomplishments during the past year, and presenting nominations for

the Board of Directors.

We were pleased to have several special guests in attendance. Among them were Harold Eisenhower, who has contributed his significant financial services to JHS over the years, and his wife, Jean; as well as Delaware and Lehigh National Heritage Corridor representative, Sherry Acevedo, and her husband, Alex. Ms. Acevedo, who is spearheading the Lehigh Valley Greenway initiative, presented President Bob Sadler with a matching grant contract for \$20,000 to be earmarked for restoration of the John Joseph Henry House.

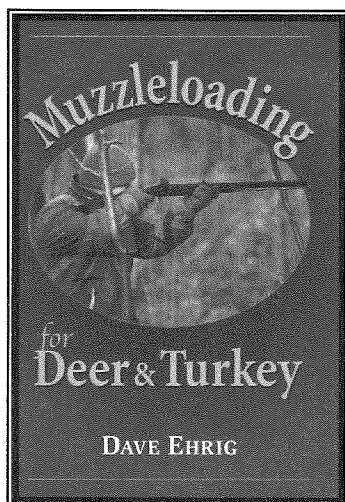


Speaker Bruce Bazelon

This is the first Greenway initiative matching grant to be presented to any of the participating organizations.

Plans are currently underway for our next annual membership dinner. We hope you will join us then for another enjoyable evening.

—Rich Steiner



New for Black-Powder Hunters

Just in time for muzzleloader season, JHS board member and black-powder expert, Dave Ehrig, has written *Muzzleloading for Deer and Turkey* (Stackpole Books). An award-winning author of six outdoor books, Dave's pursuits with muzzleloading guns have taken him on hunts and photographic and journalistic endeavors throughout all the states and provinces in North America.

In his new in-depth and definitive handbook, Ehrig covers a vast array of guns, powder, ammunition and accessories and explains how to get started, hone your skills, and stay safe. He offers expert guidance on the best weapons and techniques suited for hunting deer and turkey. Whether you're looking to extend your hunting season or just want to make the hunt more interesting, everything you need to know is here.

Copies of Dave's book may be obtained by mail from JHS by sending a check for \$29.95 plus \$2 for shipping to Jacobsburg Historical Society, P.O. Box 345, Nazareth, PA 18064.

Jacobsburg Historical Society

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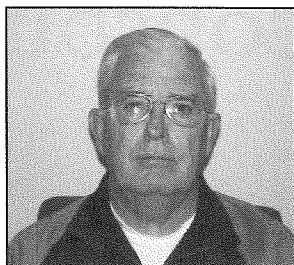
Earl Van Norman

Howie White

The *Jacobsburg Historical Society* is a member-supported nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving and presenting the art and industry of making early American firearms, and the character of the individuals and community that created and sustained that enterprise.

The *Jacobsburg Record* is published by the Jacobsburg Historical Society, 441 Henry Road, Nazareth, Pennsylvania 18064, 610-746-2809, and is mailed to Society members and supporters.

Jan S. Ballard, newsletter editor



Message from the President

As I reflect over my final Board meeting as your president I think of the large number of people required for a successful term of office. While each president has their own leadership traits to offer, the heart and soul of the Society is the volunteer base.

As we moved from the major renovations of the museum and John Joseph Henry House, we began again to involve the volunteer base with numerous projects and displays. Hundreds of volunteer hours were donated and someone always filled in as needed. Many thanks to:

- The museum committee for the professional displays and continued organization
- The docents and volunteers for the many tours and the weekly museum openings
- The instructors and organizers for our gunmaker classes
- The Rifle Frolic and Fur Trade Rendezvous organizers and participants
- The food committee and their creative menus and service
- The 100-plus participants in our spring and fall clean-up campaigns
- The buildings and grounds committee for their constant vigilance and major project direction including:
 - Flood repairs on the Stone House
 - Oil tank removals at the Stone House and John Joseph Henry House
 - Facility restoration at the Farm property
 - Major roof and site repairs throughout
- Our Attorney and CPA for their guidance and leadership
- The professional staff and volunteers working with our artifacts and curatorial items
- And our officers and Board members who were always there when needed!

This year we have a new slate of officers and they, too, will have projects to complete and events to man. Your continued support is highly valued.

Again, thanks to each of you for making my term in office meaningful and enjoyable.

—Bob Sadler

Save the Date!

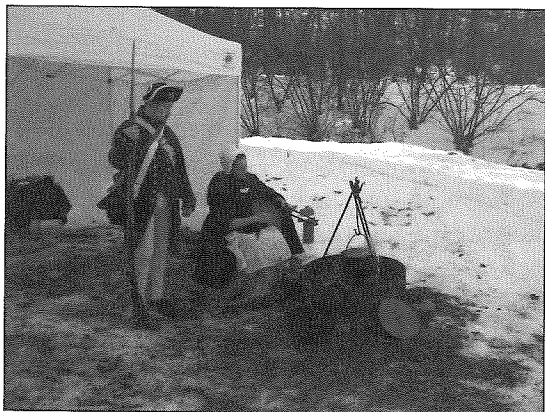
JHS continues its legacy of events with a strong 2006 program schedule. As in 2005, we expect to impact between 100,000 and 125,000 people through the combination of Boulton-based and community outreach programming.

Our strong and dedicated volunteer staff is committed to providing an array of educational programming sure to catch your interest.

For example, did you ever consider building an Henry longrifle replica, walking back in time to experience the sights and sounds of an 18th/19th century frontier encampment or just enjoying the ambience of touring an 1832 Philadelphia home?

Whether you visit us during one of our Boulton events or stop to see us at one of our many festival-based participations, we're certain that you'll find the spirit of JHS entertaining, fun and exciting. You'll also learn something about an important history that took place right here in your backyard.

Mark your calendar. We're looking forward to seeing you during one of our upcoming 2006 events.

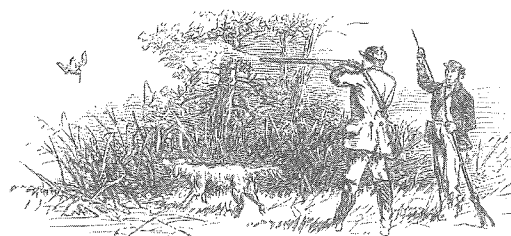


JHS volunteer teams at Colonial Christmas event (above) and American Fur Trade Rendezvous (below).



Calendar of Events

2006



March 8 — Spring Gunmakers Class. Wednesdays through April 26, 7pm-10pm at the Pennsylvania Longrifle Museum, Boulton. Advanced gunsmithing class.

April 1 — Spring Buildings and Grounds Cleanup. 9am-2pm, Boulton.

April 8 — Spring Fling Trade Blanket Event. 10am-3pm, Henry Homestead, Boulton. Purchase a blanket space; buy, sell or trade your historical, antique, or old neat things.

May 7 — Pennsylvania Longrifle Museum Open House. Sundays through October 29, 1pm-4pm, Boulton. Permanent display of Henry longrifle collection.

June 17-18 — Kentucky Rifle Frolic. 10am-4pm, Boulton. 18th and 19th century living history encampment. Highland games, working craftsman, lots of food and fun.

July 1-9 — Kutztown Pennsylvania-German Festival. 9am-6pm, Kutztown Fairgrounds. JHS display will feature the art of gunsmithing.

July 9 — Easton Heritage Days. 11am-5pm, Bachmann Publick House, Easton, Pennsylvania. JHS display will feature early Northampton County longrifles.

July 28, 29, 30 — Dixon's Gunmakers' Fair. Dixon's Gun Shop, Kempton, Pennsylvania. JHS display will feature early Lehigh and Northampton County longrifles.

August 4 — First Friday, in conjunction with the Northampton County Historical and Genealogical Society. Boulton. Tour and presentation about the Henry family by JHS members.

September 27 — Fall Gunsmithing Course. Wednesdays through November 15, 7pm-10pm. Pennsylvania Longrifle Museum, Boulton. Advanced gunsmithing course.

October 20 — Annual Membership Dinner. 6pm, Holy Family Club, Nazareth, Pennsylvania. Annual celebration dinner, guest speaker.

October 28-29 — American Fur Trade Rendezvous. 10am-4pm, Boulton. Living history encampment, blacksmithing, colonial cooking, black-powder shooting, Pennsylvania Longrifle Museum and John Joseph Henry House tours.

December 9 — Fall and Winter Buildings and Grounds Cleanup. 9am, Boulton.

December T.B.A — Colonial Christmas. Pennsylvania Longrifle Museum. Christmas at Boulton; colonial games, displays, and food.

From the Archives...

In the Steps of Gelelemend: John Henry Kilbuck

As the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission-funded project archivist for JHS, I have just completed cataloging the Society's photograph collection of over 1,000 original-process prints, most of which date from the 1850s through the 1970s. The collection preserves an astonishingly complete pictorial record of the immediate and extended family of James Henry, as well as of the environs of Henry's Woods.

Among the more intriguing photographs I discovered are Indian portraits, several of which are identified as members of the John Henry Kilbuck family. Like many newcomers to JHS, one of the first Henry family legends I learned was the tale of Kill buck (Gelelemend), the Delaware chief whose life was saved by Major William Henry during the French and Indian War. What I did not realize was that the Henry-Kilbuck families maintained close ties into the 20th century. John Henry Kilbuck was part of the first Moravian mission team to Alaska, and his story forms an interesting addendum to the Henry family legend.

John Henry Kilbuck was born in 1861, the great-grandson of Chief Gelelemend. His mother was Mohican. He spent his earliest years at New Westfield, a Moravian mission on a Delaware reservation near Independence, Kansas. The missionaries found John to be very intelligent, and knowing that he was in a direct line to inherit tribal leadership and power, they encouraged him to pursue a Moravian education in Pennsylvania.

Though a long way from home, Kilbuck found that he loved the rolling hills of eastern Pennsylvania, especially the wild areas around the Bushkill at Boulton. He attended Nazareth Hall and, later, Moravian College and Theological Seminary, where he gained special recognition for his athletic abilities, particularly in archery, running and high jump. He captained Moravian College's

football team, and his baseball team, "Kilbuck's Nine," was said to have never lost a game.

John Henry Kilbuck graduated from Moravian Theological Seminary in 1884 with a B.D. degree, having successfully completed the full classical and theological course of study. Central Moravian Church, Bethlehem, ordained

him a deacon—the first Delaware Indian ever to receive ordination by the Moravian Church. Upon hearing a favorable report on the prospects of establishing a Moravian mission in Alaska, Kilbuck expressed his desire to serve there. His application was accepted, and he began his formal career as a Moravian missionary.

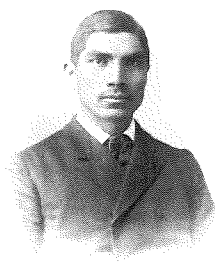
Kilbuck returned to his home in New Westfield, Kansas, in December 1884 and prepared to go to Alaska. There he met 19-year-old Edith Romig, who was teaching in the mission school. Fascinated by his plans for mission work in Alaska, the adventurous Edith agreed to be John's wife and accompany him there. (As a romantic aside, both John, at age 4, and Edith, an infant, were baptized on the same day at New Westfield by Rev. Joseph Romig, Edith's father. Twenty years later, he performed their wedding ceremony in the same chapel.)

In 1885, the Kilbucks and three other missionaries arrived in Alaska and established Bethel, their mission located near the mouth of the Kuskokwim River in southwestern Alaska. From this base, John traveled an average of 1,000 miles each year, ministering to the Yu'pik Eskimos living all along the river.

John's and Edith's experiences of life in Alaska are primarily recorded in journals that the two kept for one another during John's frequent long absences. These journals, along with superb ethnographic descriptions and numerous letters and photographs, are in the collections of the Moravian Archives, Northern Province (Bethlehem, PA).



The first mission team to Alaska, 1885. Left to right, John Henry Kilbuck, Hans Torgersen, Edith Romig Kilbuck, Caroline Yost Weinland, and William Weinland. (JHS Collections)



John Henry
and Edith
Romig Kilbuck.
(JHS Collec-
tions)



Edith Romig Kilbuck with
her daughter, Katie
Henry. The photo was
taken by a portrait pho-
tographer in Independ-
ence, Kansas. (JHS Col-
lections)



William Henry "Harry" Kilbuck, son of Edith and John, in Euro-
pean-style clothing and dressed as a Yu'pik Eskimo. Both Katie
and Harry died before their 20th birthday. The Kilbucks had
two other children, Ruth and Joe. (JHS Collections)



The Jacobsburg Historical Society holds a few Kilbuck family letters in its manuscript collections. The most interesting is a letter from John Henry Kilbuck to Granville Henry, dated 14 July 1890. The purpose of the letter is to acknowledge a fine gun sent to him by Granville.

"Permit me to thank you," Kilbuck writes, "for your most useful and also ornamental gift. A gun is one of the necessities of life in a country like this, and a good gun is a double prize."

Kilbuck continues with a list of animals that provide for "good shooting" in his part of Alaska, i.e., geese and ducks, ptarmigan, and spruce grouse. Interestingly, Kilbuck also includes bear in his list. However, in his journals Kilbuck notes that an Eskimo does not use a gun to hunt a bear because of the difficulty of killing it with a single shot, thus risking the bear's running away wounded and dangerously angry. Spears rather than guns were used for bear. According to Kilbuck, the Yu'pik would wait for the approaching bear, and "when the bear is near enough, and ready to fold the intrepid hunter in his tender embraces, the hunter jumps up and at the same time plunges his spear right into the bruin's heart."

Kilbuck closes his letter by noting that he is "compelled to make a long journey up the river this summer." In July 1890, John Kilbuck embarked on his first major mission trip through Alaska. In addition to his missionary duties, Kilbuck worked as a federal census taker throughout the entire territory of the Kuskokwim drainage, as well as the coastal region from Cape Smith to Cape Newenham. Between July 1890 and February 1891, Kilbuck covered an estimated 1,000 miles by boat and another 1,560 by dog team. Unfortunately, the 1890 census schedules were lost to fire in 1921, and few records of Kilbuck's work on this trip, save what is written in his journal, survive.

John and Edith Kilbuck served in Alaska for about 30 years. The mission was a success, in part, because of the empathy John felt and elicited from the Yu'pik because of his own Native roots. John Henry Kilbuck died in Bethel, Alaska, in 1922.

—Jan Ballard

Sources: *The Yu'pik Eskimos as described in the travel journals of John & Edith Kilbuck, 1885-1900* edited by Ann Fienup-Riordan (Ontario: Limestone Press, 1988); *The Real People and the Children of Thunder* by Ann Fienup-Riordan (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1991).

9th Annual American Fur Trade Rendezvous

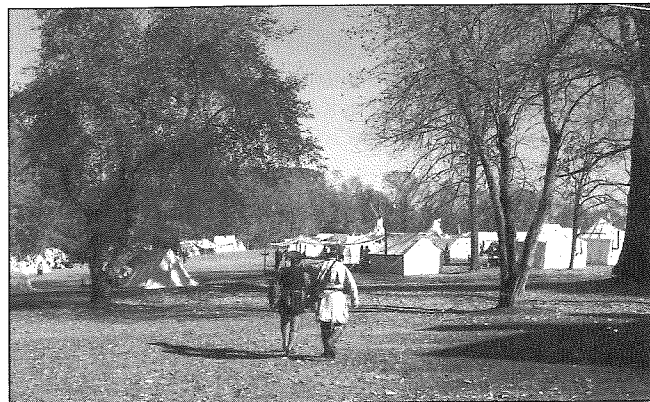
The JHS American Fur Trade Rendezvous, held October 29 and 30, started with an unexpected event—no water. The water pump, which normally supplies water for Rendezvous participants and the food tent, stopped working. However, thanks to quick thinking by volunteers Phil and Barb Schroeder and Paul Lopresti, the water system was creatively repaired.

With this 21st century problem solved, the Rendezvous settled into its pre-1840s-style living history encampment, complete with primitive fishing, archery events, knife- and tomahawk-throwing competitions, and, of course, black-powder shooting. Craftsmen in period dress plied their trades, and hearth cooking was done in the summer kitchen.

Additionally, the recently improved Pennsylvania Longrifle Museum at the Henry Homestead was open with its wonderful collection of Henry firearms and related family history displays. Special exhibits for the weekend featured fur-trade era rifles, period powder cans, and various traps.

Tours of the John Joseph Henry House were given all weekend, and Scottish Highland games were featured on Sunday. All-in-all it was a very successful event thanks to the great effort by all the JHS members who volunteered their time and effort.

—Joe Flemish



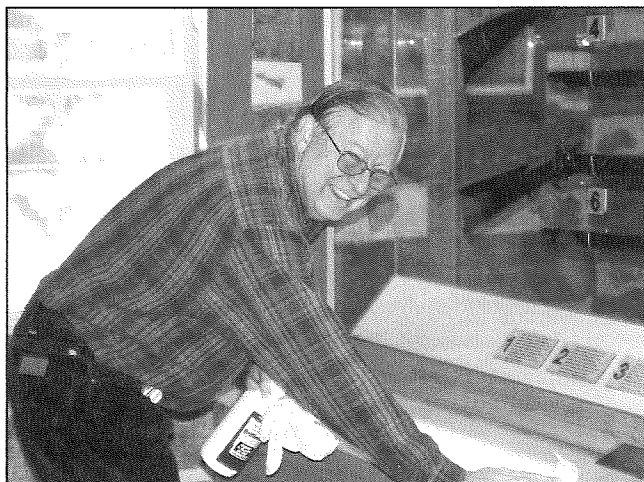
Living history encampment at the 9th Annual American Fur Trade Rendezvous.



JHS volunteer docents offer tours of the John Joseph Henry House (above) and the summer kitchen (right).



Boulton Elbow Grease Applied by Volunteers at Fall/Winter Cleaning Day



In spite of chilly weather, there was a nice turnout for the fall/winter clean-up. Thirteen people cleaned and prepared the Pennsylvania Longrifle Museum for the Colonial Christmas Celebration planned for the following Saturday. Volunteers also cleaned the John Joseph Henry House and decorated the windows for Christmas. We began work around 9am and wrapped things up around 2pm after a fun and talkative pizza pie lunch in the Museum's meeting room.

Thanks to all who made this a successful day.

—Bob Sadler

Ron Gabel, JHS treasurer, polishes exhibit cases at the Pennsylvania Longrifle Museum.

Colonial Christmas at Boulton



Sarah White, event coordinator

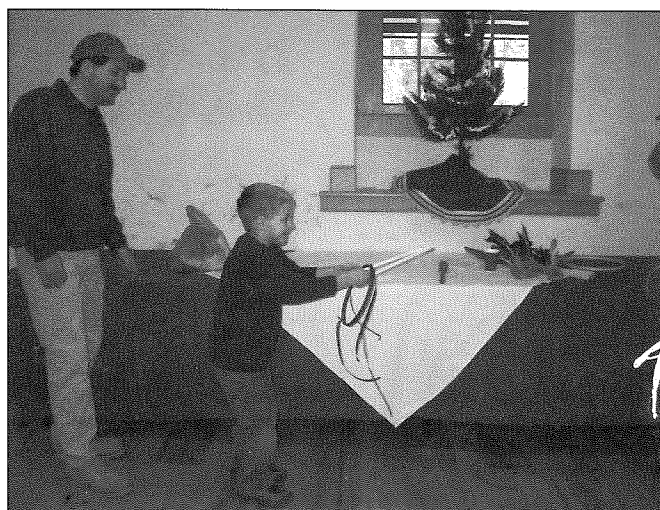
This past December saw the revival of a program that has not been on the JHS calendar of events in several years—a colonial Christmas at the Henry Homestead. The event featured games of corn cob feather toss and of cards played with a colonial-era deck. Children tried on colonial-style hats and dresses, and at a craft table they could decorate a birthday ledger.

Volunteers costumed in period clothing demonstrated the art of silhouetting and showed visitors how to fold paper Moravian star ornaments. Guests enjoyed tasty treats and warm beverages inside, while outside in the snow volunteers cooked applesauce and pea soup in an iron pot over an open fire.

The event was organized and run by Sarah White to fulfill the requirements for the Girl Scout Gold Award, the highest achievement a scout can earn. It is awarded for projects that demonstrate leadership skills, organizational skills, and a sense of community commitment. If the project involves organizing an event, the event should be something that people will want to continue. At the close of this year's Colonial Christmas, all agreed that such an enjoyable event should definitely continue.

"I did hope the project would restart the JHS Christmas event at the Henry Homestead," remarked Sarah, "since it hadn't been done in a while. Tim [Lubenesky] actually made me and my mom sort of 'in charge' for next year, so I'm guessing there is going to be another one."

Plan to brighten your 2006 Christmas season with a Colonial Christmas at JHS.



A young guest tries his hand at a Colonial-era game.

JHS Outdoors

Spring Fling Trade Blanket

April 8, 2006

(April 15th, rain date)

Join Jacobsburg Historical Society for a

Cabin Crazy Clean-Out of Stuff

Buy/Sell/Trade

Your Historical, Antique, and Old & Cool Items and Collectibles

\$15 for 10-foot space

\$10 for members

Bring your own tables or blankets.

7:30am Set-up

2:00pm Tear down

Contact DEhrig@aol.com

for reservations or questions.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

For Spring Cleanup Campaign

April 1, 2006, 9am-2pm

JHS buildings and grounds. Tools provided.

Pizza lunch and soft drinks included.

All JHS members and friends welcome.

AVOID THE DRAFT!

Jacobsburg Historical Society

Boulton Heritage Office

441 Henry Road

Nazareth, PA 18064

Phone: 610-746-2809

Fax: 610-746-5601

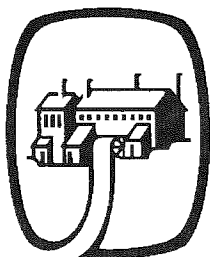
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The mission of the Jacobsburg Historical Society is to preserve and present the art and industry of making early American firearms and the character of the individuals and community that created and sustained that enterprise. The Society was founded in 1972 to save and interpret the historical Henry family estate and industrial properties, the family's gun and iron making heritage and to help establish the Jacobsburg National Historic District. In partnership with the Pennsylvania Bureau of State Parks, Jacobsburg Environmental Education Center, the Society also preserves and presents the cultural history and interconnected story of human life and land use in the Jacobsburg reach of the Bushkill Creek Watershed with interpretive and educational programming.

Membership Form

___ Renewal.....or.....___ New Member

Please check appropriate category

___ Student \$7.00

___ Individual \$10.00

___ Family \$20.00

___ Contributing \$25.00

___ Organization \$50.00

___ Apprentice \$75.00

___ Journeyman \$100.00

___ Master Craftsman \$250.00+

All contributions are tax deductible as provided by law.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip Code _____

Telephone _____

Please detach and mail, along with payment, to:

Jacobsburg Historical Society

Post Office Box 97

Slatington, PA 18080