

# The Jacobsburg Record

May, 1976

Vol. IV No. 1

## JUBILATE PBC-O!

Now if that doesn't make sense, perhaps this will: State Representative James F. Prendergast, Esq., has announced to the Northampton County Commissioners that the Jacobsburg Historical Society will receive a grant of \$11,460.00 from the Pennsylvania Bicentennial Commission to be used in archaeological studies. The Society has received no direct notification of this grant, but discreet inquiries have served to verify it. According to information received the money will probably become available in ~~annual~~ amounts of three to four thousand dollars, to be used strictly for archaeological studies, excavating, researching and possibly catalogueing. Any reconstruction or restoration, 'bricks, mortar, lath and plaster' is proscribed.

For the fruitful work done in presenting our case to the Bicentennial Commission, our warm thanks go out to Representative Prendergast and to all who added their pleas in support of our application for funds. We must have done that one right! This is not a windfall, but a well-deserved recognition of the work we have been doing and the further work which we can now plan for in the secure knowledge that funds will be available for it.

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## OUR MOST SUCCESSFUL OPEN HOUSE

Saturday, May 8, was a beautiful Spring day, a beautiful clear day — just a beautiful day all around, because from one o'clock until four our Homestead House (the Henry Homestead) was host to over two hundred (about 225, to be more exact) interested and admiring pilgrims who came to study and enjoy the results of the hard work and intelligent planning of the people of the Society who contributed to the day's success.

Our guests saw the Homestead almost as it must have been when it was the seat of the Henry gunmakers, when guns were still being made in quantity at Boulton; they enjoyed the beautifully restored natural gardens which Lorraine Mineo and her helpers brought to blooming perfection, the herb garden, the various exhibits of early tools and artifacts, (and the refreshments).

The kitchen, historically speaking, was by way of being a masterpiece, furnished almost entirely with our own museum pieces: utensils, clock, spinning wheel and wool wheel, to mention a few of the more impressive furnishings, largely from the anonymous donor whose generosity also provided us with many of the old-time tools and utensils which were displayed as a separate exhibit. All of the items exhibited had been scrubbed, scoured and reconditioned until in appearance they came close, surely, to what they must have been like when new.

A full measure of credit should go to those who had charge of readying the Homestead and its environs, and to those unnamed helpers who assisted them:

General Chairman — Mary DeRaymond

Refreshments — Peggy Shuttleworth and Anne (~~Mrs. Jones~~) Davis

Exhibit of Early Tools — Albert Toth and Claude Jones (who made a fun-game of it)

Exhibit of Artifacts — Joseph Lopresti (from 'The Dig')

Exhibit of Surplus Articles (for Sale) — Virginia Lopresti and Margaret Stocker

Herb Garden — Dianne Warner

Natural Garden — Lorraine Mineo

Our sincere thanks to all who took part in any way.

## WE MEET WITH THE 'TOP BRASS'

We have been concerned for quite a while about what impact the final planning stages of the Jacobsburg State Park might have on the historic sites and structures intended for preservation and restoration and, more recently, what damage to the terrain might be caused by the installation of the impending collector trunk of the Bushkill-Lower Lehigh Joint Sewer System. Our inquiries with the Delta Group, in charge of designing the physical layout of the park, while cordially received, were not too informative — not through any lack of cooperation on their part, but because no-one seemed to know exactly what the final outcome would be. The plans were still a little up in the air.

We were finally able to reach some of the top men, and on Friday, April 23, a pre-arranged meeting took place at the Jacobsburg Park site. In attendance were: Mr. John M. Dickey, AIA, consultant for the Society; Mr. Vance Packard, of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission in charge of historic preservation (also an archaeologist particularly interested in industrial archaeology); Mr. Joseph Edwards, of Gilbert Associates, project engineers for design of the Regional Sewer System; Mr. Wolfe, of the Regional Sewer Authority; Mrs. Lewis S. Beers, president of The Jacobsburg Historical Society; Mr. Joseph Lopresti, Archaeology Chairman of the Society, and Miss Mary Henry Stites, Board Member and oldest living descendant of the Henry family at Jacobsburg.

The purposes of the meeting were fourfold: to discuss the final plans as they will be handled by the Delta Group; to discuss the location of a base line bench mark with the archaeologists; to discuss the alignment of the sewer trunk with the design engineers and representatives of the Sewer Authority; and to discuss rehabilitation work on the old homestead buildings.

The discussions delved deeply into the problems involved and were, we consider, very productive. The following conclusions were reached:

1. Plans for the Park seem to be arranged in such a fashion as to do no known damage to the historical sites. The Society suggested that a parking lot be included at a location near the Homestead in the Boulton area.
2. Sewer lines seem well-placed to avoid destruction of historical sites and impairment of Henry's Woods.
3. Mr. Dickey inspected the work already done at the Homestead and found it excellent. He made some suggestions as to future work, among which were the restoration of the 1810 kitchen to its original condition, and the opening of small wall areas to disclose certain interesting structural features such as the log walls.

All in all, it was a good meeting.

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## LOOKING FORWARD TO COLONIAL CRAFT FAIR

The date to remember: July 17, 10 to 5; the place: 4H Center at Bushkill Center; the occasion: The Annual Colonial Craft Fair.

Arrangements are well under way. For entertainment there will be Hay Rides and Colonial Games for the children; The Bethany Bicentennial Dancers from Bethlehem; and for instruction, interesting crafts and exhibits, the main purpose, of course, of the Fair.

We still want to leave no stone unturned in our efforts to produce, in this Bicentennial Year, the best Craft Fair ever. We still will welcome more craft people — any craft, any number.

And we need volunteers to help run the fair, particularly: To make cookies — old-fashioned cookies to be baked on the premises; and to contribute baked goods toward meeting expenses; To park cars, to set up and take down exhibits — Men (but nothing herein shall be construed as indicating sexual discrimination).

Any volunteers who would be proud to help in the above areas, please call Bobbie DiGerlando, chairman, 759-7239; or, for baked goods or baking, Margaret Stocker, 258-0210.

## LABOR VS. MANAGEMENT - CIRCA 1835

Several months ago, while conducting an oral history taping session with Mr. Henry Hahn of Weaversville, we were told the following tale of Jacobsburg labor relations.

At the turn of the century Mr. Hahn had the good fortune to make the acquaintance of Mr. Henry Knecht, a grizzled ex-teamster and farmer, then in his early nineties and full of stories of his youth. Mr. Knecht drove four- and six-mule teams for the Jacobsburg iron works as far back as the 1830's, a considerable time prior to the advent of the forty-hour work week.

Twelve-hour work days were standard for Mr. Knecht and his fellow muleskinners. Their weekly duties included trips to Mount Bethel for sand, to Point Phillips for lumber and firewood, and at times even to Reading and Philadelphia. On Sundays, the boss in charge of the teamsters remembered the Sabbath by giving his men only one assignment. Four teams were to travel from Jacobsburg to Easton via Nazareth and return loaded with coal. The teamsters argued for a full day of rest, but to no avail.

Now it seems that this particular boss (who unfortunately is unknown) was a regular churchgoer at the Schoeneck Moravian church. The devout gentleman always gave the wagoners instructions to use the road that now forms a part of Rose Inn Avenue in order to avoid disturbing church services by taking the more direct route past Schoeneck.

One Sunday morning, after another fruitless argument for a day off, Henry Knecht and his fellow teamsters bumped and rattled their four empty wagons full-tilt past the church. The congregation was aghast, the minister angry, and the Jacobsburg boss was given a firm lecture on keeping the Sabbath. Mr. Knecht and his companions no longer worked on Sundays.

- Robert Newell

(Note: Somewhere in the dim years past we picked up the following 'Rate of Travel' in the days of four-legged propulsion: Team - In cold weather and good roads, seven miles per hour; muddy roads at a walk, three miles per hour. Mule - If unmolested, two and a half miles per hour; if urged, two miles per hour; if strongly urged, he may pause. Ed.)

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## THE BOULTON COOKBOOK

After so many rich recipes perhaps a change of pace is in order. Here is a dessert that can be adjusted to each family's taste, increased, decreased, sweetened, changed, in any way you like. It is particularly good after a holiday meal when everybody has eaten too much anyway and the very thought of pie a la mode is too uncomfortable even to contemplate.

## AMBROSIA

Peel and section oranges, the number adjusted to the number of servings required. Add a small amount of sugar to taste. Grate a fresh coconut - fresh is by far the best if your fingers can stand the grating and if you can face opening the coconut. My usual method is to go out on the back walk with coconut, hammer and a Boy Scout axe and go to work; of course, this way you lose the milk, but who wants that anyway. Then in your best cut glass dish put a layer of oranges, then a layer of coconut - continue until dish is full, ending with a layer of coconut. Chill until ready to serve.

Sliced bananas and sectioned grapefruit may be added if you wish, but we always used just the oranges - after all, why gild the lily!

- Mary Henry Stites

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The Mercer Museum at Doylestown has a large collection of hats made by Jacob Christ, the Nazareth hatmaker, who participated in William Henry's first land purchase at Jacobsburg. How they ever got them is a mystery, but they are there.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

June 2 — Wednesday, 7:30 P.M. — Board meeting at the home of Mary Henry Stites.

(Note early time, 7:30)

June 21 — Monday, 7:30 P.M. — Research Committee at the home of Charles Sandwick

June 29, 30, July 1 and 2 — Stockertown Bicentennial Celebration

July 17 — Saturday, 10 to 5 — Third Annual Craft Fair, 4-H Center, Bushkill Center.

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## MEMBERSHIP

There are still (or were at our last Board meeting) eighty-five members who have not paid their 1976 dues. Where else, at today's environmentalized prices, could you get so much — a whole year's feeling of pride and satisfaction in the knowledge that you have helped out in a laudable work — for so little? (Bankamerica, Master Charge and American Express cards can be discussed.)

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## STOCKERTOWN BICEN. CELEBRATION

Our own Virginia Lopresti is chief engineer in charge of the broad-based program of Stockertown's proud contribution to the local picture on the Bicentennial scene. Their celebration will be held in connection with the Annual Firemen's Carnival on June 29 and 30 and July 1 and 2.

One of the more important events will be the passing of the Oregon Wagon Train on June 30. The exact time of its arrival cannot be pinpointed, but some time during that day, June 30, it will pass through the Borough on Route 33, traveling at eight miles per hour.

Other featured events are a Flower Show (June 29), Antique Show (June 30), Costume Contest (July 1), and the Homecoming Celebration (July 2). Full details, prize amounts and exhibit rules are available.

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## VISITORS BY THE BUSLOAD

On Thursday, May 6, the Senior Group from St. Mark's United Church of Christ, on a bus tour of Northampton County, made a long stop at the Jacobsburg Historical site. They were met by Joe Lopresti who guided them through the Park, answering their many questions on its historical background.

Such groups are welcomed and their visits are encouraged, though it is best if we know beforehand so that a guide may be provided. So much has been uncovered and so much background information has become available that the full enjoyment of a walk through the park is missed unless someone is present who knows the story.

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## IT'S A FUNNY THING

Tradition has it that the young fry up around Jacobsburg used (years ago) to celebrate the glorious Fourth by shooting off a small cannon which was kept at the gun works for just such occasions, and in the loading intervals the boys would bang on a large and resonant anvil with a heavy sledge-hammer so as not to interrupt the clamor. At length, on one final occasion, the noise became so overpowering that Mrs. Kostenbader, a nearby victim, crashed the sound barrier and herself exploded. The kids were chased away, and the cannon, anvil and hammer were buried along the fencerow between the Kostenbader and Henry properties. Joe Lopresti is going ape trying to locate them, but metal detectors have failed to locate anything but a metal sign, bedsprings and such, and an old-time cultivator disc. We are still hoping, though.

## D I R E C T O R Y

Catherine S. Beers - President

Joseph DiGerlando - Vice President

Hilton Rahn - Secretary

Margaret Taylor - Treasurer

Easton (253-4547)

Jacobsburg (759-7239)

Bethlehem (868-1789)

Easton (252-1315)

### Directors:

Mary DeRaymond - Open House

Catherine Fluck - Membership

Joseph Lopresti - Archaeology

Lorraine Mineo - Natural Garden

Charles Sandwick, Sr. - Research

Martin A. Smith - Editor, The Jacobsburg Record

Albert Toth - Maintenance and Repairs

Mary Henry Stites - Homestead Grounds

Nazareth (759-2820)

Easton (253-1146)

Stockertown (759-1580)

Nazareth (759-0867)

Easton (252-1290)

Easton (253-2293)

Belfast (759-2153)

Boulton (759-4693)

### Committees:

Bobbie DiGerlando - Craft Fair

Virginia Lopresti - Archaeology

Peggy Shuttleworth - Hospitality

Joy Nathan - Publicity

John M. Dickey, AIA - Consultant

Dr. Lee Graver - Staff Archivist

Jacobsburg (759-7239)

Stockertown (759-1580)

Easton (252-4078)

Easton (253-7532)

Media, Pa.

Nazareth (759-3132)

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### MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION for JACOBSBURG HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Student - \$2.50

Individual - \$5.00

Sustaining - \$10.00

Family - \$12.50

Contributing - \$15.00

Organizations - \$25.00

Check Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone Number \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this application with your check made payable to Jacobsburg Historical Society, and mail to:

Miss Margaret H. Taylor, Treasurer  
733 Paxinosa Avenue  
Easton, Pa. 18042

All contributions are TAX DEDUCTABLE to the extent provided by law.