

# The Jacobsburg Record

July/August, 1976

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## ARCHAEOLOGY

In anticipation of receiving our Bi-Centennial Grant, Jacobsburg archaeologists made plans for a really busy summer.

Our consultant, Mr. John Dickey, and archaeological directors, Mr. and Mrs. Jeff Kenyon, were on the scene of our past digs on June 25th and 26th. The past history of Jacobsburg was outlined to them and the story of our excavations was explained in detail. Boxes of artifacts were examined. The area was toured on foot with the intent of formulating plans to make the most out of our grant. It was decided to do some exploring with a back-hoe.

Mr. Kenyon, archaeologist from the University of Pennsylvania, returned to the scene on July 12th. The crew of students was already assembled. Only two of them had any previous digging experience. After we had given them a brief history of the late eighteenth century/early nineteenth century village of Jacobsburg, Jeff instructed them in methods of digging, record keeping and on the importance of what we hope to accomplish.

Actual digging started on that first day (July 12) at the building which we have been referring to as the forge. But by the end of the week we were convinced that it had never been used as such. A 1913 map of the area marked this building as 'the old tannery'. Two elderly former residents always referred to the building as the tannery storage shed. One even remembered some hides left behind. (He attended the Jacobsburg school in 1900.) These former residents insist there was a wooden floor in the building, and that 'prohibition' refreshments had been stored beneath the boards.

After excavating all four walls on the inside of the building, and a trench up the middle, we found some charcoal in the southeast corner, and an occasional blob through the center. Since we know how floorboards were laid by early artisans to fit so beautifully, this fact lends credence to the storage shed theory. From our research of other blast furnaces we know that charcoal must be kept absolutely dry. Damp charcoal will cause explosions inside the furnace, causing financial loss and even loss of lives. We conclude that the floorboards and beams were removed for use elsewhere. There was no sign of rotted wood and hardly a nail was found.

The exterior of the building on the east, south and west sides was also exposed. Evidence of the material used for the mortar was uncovered on both the inside and the outside of the walls. Many small flat rocks, used to fill the cracks were tossed down the hill. Many stones had been carried away. Many were also left inside when the City of Easton bulldozed the edifices remaining in Jacobsburg sometime after 1913.

Excavation revealed that the east and west walls were slightly less than two feet in width and of a length of thirty-five feet. The north and south walls were seventy-six feet long, the north wall being twenty-four inches in thickness and the south wall thirty inches wide. There was a doorway four feet eight inches wide in the east wall, which had no stone sill. The width corresponded to the known width of the tannery doorway.

Two artifacts left by 'pre-Jacobsburg' inhabitants were excavated in the center of the building site, i.e., a worked piece of Vera Cruz period jasper and a well-used hammerstone.

Outside of the east wall a deposit of charcoal was found, from six to twelve inches thick, and heavily concentrated near the door. This concentration ran at least seventy feet outward from the wall. There must have been a doorway in the north wall also, but it could not be pinpointed because of the destruction caused by the 1913 bulldozing.

The inside of the 'shed' had apparently been a convenient receptacle for local (and

non-local) residents for trash disposal. We collected many five-gallon cans-full of the debris - thousands of pieces of glass and ceramics have been cleaned and washed by our crew. Many pieces have still to be tagged and identified.

'Our gang' consists of twelve students. The schools they attend are: Cornell University, University of Akron, Lehigh University, Washington and Lee College, Penn State University, Northampton County Community College, Philadelphia School for Fine Arts, and local high schools.

There have been many visitors to the site, coming from New Jersey, Ohio, Florida and Kentucky. We would (and do) welcome all visitors. We are on the job from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, until August 20th.

- Joseph and Virginia Lopresti,  
Society Supervisors.

(And, by way of comment, some sort of special recognition should, and does go to Joe and Virginia Lopresti who, since the inception of this project (and for more than three years) have dedicatedly given of their time and experience to this archaeological work of discovery. For a long time, alone, they painstakingly uncovered the physical remainders of a completely vanished past; and in the winter months, when excavation was precluded; gave in addition their time and know-how to the tracing of the land records which are so vital to our understanding of the Jacobsburg heritage. It is hard to escape the conclusion that they were 'sent' to us at the exact time and place where their talents and interest in the past would prove most valuable to the preservation of our remote past. Joe and Virginia, you are appreciated! - Ed.)

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### WHAT DO WE DO WHEN IT RAINS?

We have been asked what we do on a rainy day (of which there have been many, as we all know). This summer we really appreciated the fine working weather we had last summer. Our first Friday the weather was very wet. Most of our crew got soaked before lunch time trying to get our tools, notebooks, maps, etc., under cover. We then proceeded with our 'wet day' program back at the Henry Homestead in the basement kitchen. We found kindling and wood there for the fireplace. A fire was started and the crew ate their lunch on the carpet in front of the crackling fire. On that day the basement kitchen and laundry room were very gloomy, but since then Mr. (Mickey) Toth has installed electric lights (a new invention) for us.

The time at the homestead is spent (on rainy days) washing artifacts, spreading them out to dry, and then numbering them. Later the markings are coated with nail polish, and, finally, the artifacts are placed in marked bags, ready for our professional archaeologist to evaluate.

The first day fifty-seven bags of artifacts were processed. One day, to change the pace, several of the crew explored the homestead, measuring and investigating every nook and chimney of the old home.

- Virginia Lopresti

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### COMING EVENTS

We have 'used up' all previous 'coming events dates'. Now we start new (like TV). Wednesday, September 1 - 8:00 P.M. at (tentatively) the home of our president. This may be later changed (for important reasons) to a dinner meeting, of which board members will be advised, if there is any change. (This is the Board Meeting.)

Monday, September 20 - 7:30 P. M. (tentatively) at the home of Charles Sandwick. If any change committee members will be advised. All are welcome, but please check dates with committee chairman (Kay Beers and Charles Sandwick, Sr.) Research Committee.

## AUGUST

By Albert M. Toth

When the wind blows over the oats field  
And the harvest grain is shocked to stay  
We thank the Lord for its bountiful yield  
And we know that Summer is fading away.

While we were enjoying our lazy days  
Jack Frost was busy as a bee,  
Mixing paint with a musical sway  
And cleaning brushes with a glee.

For it won't be long before he starts  
His southward trip from up north  
To paint for us the beautiful scenes  
Of his masterpieces galore

As youngsters we think of school,  
To learn to read and write;  
We hope to keep the golden rule  
And worship God in his might.

The goldenrod is turning yellow;  
The fruit trees are bending down;  
We know the days grow shorter  
When August comes around.

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THIRD ANNUAL CRAFT FAIR A BIG SUCCESS

We did it again!!! We had the best Fair ever! This in spite of the many Bi-Centennial activities this summer, and the difficulty in reaching us because of roads blocked off that day as a result of the Palmer Township Parade. (Our patrons had to leave the Thoroughway as far west as the Newburgh Road interchange, or as far east as College Avenue to get north to our Fair area; no offense, but wasn't it too bad!).

We held our day-long fair on Saturday, July 17th, at the 4-H Club grounds on a beautiful, perfect summer day. We estimate about four hundred people turned out to see our demonstrations and exhibits. The crowd was very friendly and appreciative of the articles displayed for exhibit and sale. Our craftspeople were pleased with the response to their wares. The children enjoyed the marble shooting, hoop rolling and stilt walking. All were amazed at the skill required.

The highlight of the day was the presentation of a series of courtly colonial dances presented by the Bethany Bi-Centennial Belles and Beaux. The dances had been choreographed from handwritten directions of the period and the dancers had made their own authentic costumes.

Young and old alike enjoyed our good food. The funnel cakes made a big hit, as did our molasses sugar cookies and all of the treats at our refreshment stand. We sold all of our delicious baked goods and all of the plants so graciously donated by our members.

Thanks to the excellent attendance, the support of our patrons and the generous people who advertised in our program booklet we are able to report a profit of \$1,383.00. We think this is very splendid and are grateful to have this money for the reconstruction of the pond at the homestead.

Our deepest appreciation goes to all the many people who worked to make this Fair a success. Until you have helped in the arrangements for such an event you have no idea how much work is involved. We thank you one and all. Particular thanks must go to our co-chairmen, Joe and Bobbie DiGerlando. It was Joe who put together the beautiful and informative Fair Booklet and secured the advertising for it, without which our financial return would have been much less. Of course, Bobbie, as general chairman, deserves great credit for a job superbly done. She produced the Fair, and it was a wonderful Fair, a wonderful day for everyone.

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### HISTORICAL RESEARCH

The following obituary appeared in the American Eagle, Easton, Pa., May 15, 1800:

"DIED — On Sunday, the 11th day of May instant at Nazareth, Jacob Eyerly Esq. in the 44th year of his age, and his remains were interred on Tuesday following in the burying ground at Nazareth.

"Mr. Eyerly was an affectionate husband, a good father, and much respected and esteemed among his numerous circle of friends; he had served his country in a variety of stations, in all of which he shewed much activity and firmness.

"It is true, there were many who attempted to defame and detract him, because he dared to think freely, others carried their blind fury so far as to hate and persecute, without being able to assign any other reason for their conduct, than what arose from a difference of opinion: at the same time lavishing praises on perfidious and hypocritical wretches, who possessed no other worth than that of thinking as they did."

This strange obituary is indicative of the bitterness of political competition at that time. Mr. Eyerly was active in politics and had served as a representative in the General Assembly.

Our interest in Jacob Eyerly, Esq., stems from the fact that as Jacob Eyerly, Jr., he held a one-third interest in the partnership which purchased from the heirs of Jacob Hubler about four hundred acres of what later became known as the Jacobsburg Tract. The other partners were William Henry and Jacob Christ.

Johann Jacob Eyerly, Jr., was born in Old Nazareth, Pa., 6 January 1757, and died in Nazareth, 11 May 1800, the only son of Johann Jacob and Christina Elisabeth (Schwarz) Eyerly. He married at Nazareth, 13 January 1786, Anna Maria Frey, who was born at Lititz, Pa., 8 April 1759, and died in Nazareth, 16 November 1837, daughter of Henry and Ann Maria (Boerstler) Frey.

The widow of Jacob Eyerly, Jr., married second, 15 August 1804, Matthaeus Hanke, widower, a shoemaker then residing in Hope, N.J.

Johann Jacob and Anna Maria (Frey) Eyerly had five children, all of whom were born in Nazareth.

Elisabeth Eyerly was born 15 December 1786 and died in York, Pa., in 1827. She married in September 1820 Rev. Johann Peter Kluge, who was born in Gumbinnen, Prussia, 3 October 1768, and died in Bethlehem 30 January 1849.

Jacob Eyerly was born 23 June 1789. He died in Bloomsburg, Pa. He married and had descendants living in Columbia and Montour Counties, Pa. He was appointed by Governor George Wolf to serve as prothonotary of Columbia County, an office which he continued to hold for about thirty-five years.

Anna Maria Eyerly, known as Polly, was born 12 April 1792. She was married some time before April, 1813, to Johannes Seyfried, of Nazareth, son of Nicholas Seyfried.

Johannes Eyerly was born 31 January 1794. We have no further information concerning him at this time.

Susanna Theodora Eyerly was born 17 December 1796 and died in Lititz, Pa., 21 September 1826. She was married in Bethlehem 14 February 1819, to Rev. Samuel Reincke, who was born in Lancaster, Pa. 12 August 1791 and died in Bethlehem, 21 January 1875, son of Rev. Abraham and Maria Sophia (Rudolph) Reincke.

— Charles Sandwick, Sr.

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### MEMOIR FOR MISS HARRIET LOUISE HENRY

Harriet Louise Henry, a charter member of our Society and one of the last living descendants, of her generation, of progenitor William Henry, passed away August 1, 1976, at the age of eighty-six. Through the courtesy of Miss Mary Henry Stites, we have been provided with a copy of the remarks delivered by the Reverend Dr. Edwin Sawyer at her funeral services. We know of no better way to memorialize her passing than to repeat them, in great part, here:

A lovely life, full of cheerfulness, faithfulness and good deeds, came to a close this past Sunday morning, August 1, at six o'clock. Miss Harriet Louise Henry was a warm friend of many of you, a favorite aunt of Niece Ruth and Nephew John, and the beloved younger sister of Mrs. Ruth Henry Clewell, her nearest survivor.

Miss Harriet was born on August 15, 1890, at Boulton, along the Bushkill Creek above Nazareth, the youngest daughter of Robert W. and Susan Munger Henry. She represented the sixth generation of a famous American family stemming from William Henry of Revolutionary times. He it was who invented the screw auger and constructed the first steamboat built in the United States. The generation after him established the historic gun works at Boulton and continued production of the famous Henry rifle.

Miss Harriet spent most of her life in the two family homes at Boulton and loved all the tall stately trees that grace the properties and give them a sense of enduring quiet and composure. After the death of her parents, she shared life with her late sister, Helen, with winters spent at the House of Nain in Bethlehem.

Her parents were members of the Nazareth Moravian Church, and so she was baptized on October 16, 1890, by Bishop Paul de Schweinitz at the home of her grandmother.

A happy childhood for Miss Henry was followed by school days at Linden Hall in Lititz, where she was graduated in 1908. She then went on for training in business at the Pierce School of Business in Philadelphia. This equipped her for a number of positions, one as secretary to Dr. A. D. Thaeler, headmaster of Nazareth Hall until its closing in 1929, later working as Executive Secretary of the Larger Life Foundation of the Moravian Church, and, during the Second World War teaching a one-room school.

She became a member of the international order of King's Daughters sixty-one years ago, helping to found the Silver Cross Circle of the Nazareth Moravian Church and also holding membership in the His Own Circle in Bethlehem. She was a member of the W.C.T.U.; of the Moravian Historical Society; the Jacobsburg Historical Society; and of the board of the Bethlehem Council of Girl Scouts. She taught Sunday School here, made Moravian mints with the King's Daughters, and performed a tremendous service for this and other churches by moulding thousands of beeswax candles over a long period of years.

She was retiring in nature; did not want to feature herself; had a splendidly independent spirit and a crisp sense of humor. Her hearty laugh was always a good tonic, and it was evident even when the burdens of life increased, as she helped to take care, first of two elderly aunts, and then of her sister, Helen.

As the twilight began to set in, her sight became impaired. She had to curtail some of her special little pleasures: gardening, going berry picking, taking excursions to the Pocono Mountains. But she stayed alert to her surroundings and to the news of the day, right down to the end. She had the joy of a family outing just two days before her death. She never lost her compassion for animals, and rescued many abandoned pets.

Her end came quietly and easily on Sunday morning at the Belvedere Convalescent Home in Chester, not far from the Clewell home in Swarthmore, where she had spent her last two years.

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### GOODIES FROM THE FAIR

So many people who attended the Fair enjoyed the ginger cookies baked on the premises, and the barbecues, so much that they have asked for the recipes: so here they are. The cookie recipe comes from Mrs. Hilton Rahn, Sr., of Phillipsburg, mother of our Secretary, Hilton, Jr.

#### Molasses Sugar Cookies

1-1/2 cups margarine  
2 cups sugar  
1/2 cup Brer Rabbit molasses (Green Label)  
3 eggs  
4 cups flour  
4 teaspoons soda  
2 teaspoons cinnamon  
1 tsp. each ginger, cloves, nutmeg and salt

1. Melt the shortening. Cool.
2. Add sugar, molasses and eggs. Mix well.
3. Sift flour, soda, spices and salt together. Add to first mixture. Mix well.
4. Chill overnight.
5. Form into 1-inch balls and roll in granulated sugar.
6. Place on greased cookie sheet and bake for 8 to 10 minutes at 375°.

The barbecue recipe comes to us through the courtesy of Peg Johnson (Mrs. Barbara Johnson), who was chairman of our Fair the first year we held it.

#### BEEF (Wow!) Barbecue

4 lbs. ground beef (chuck)  
4 - 14-oz. bottles Ketchup  
1/4 cup prepared mustard  
1/2 cup sugar  
1/2 cup vinegar  
1 tsp. salt  
4 small green peppers  
3 celery stalks  
3 medium onions

1. Cook together everything except beef and onions for one hour; 2. Brown beef and onions in large skillet; 3. Add to first mixture and cook slowly one hour longer, stirring occasionally. Makes about four quarts.

## DIRECTORY

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.