

# The Jacobsburg Record

January/February, 1977

Vol. V No. 1

## MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

Membership renewal forms have been mailed. You will also find a membership application with this newsletter. We are making an 'all-out' drive to double our membership. If each of us could enroll just one new member the Society would benefit greatly. Make it a point to see that neighbor whom you haven't seen all winter — call that friend you have been meaning to call — and mention that you just happen to have an extra Jacobsburg membership application. The Society needs your support!

Janet L. Gum  
for the Membership Committee

\* \* \* \* \*

## EXCITING PLANS IN THE MAKING

Early this Fall the Board of Directors asked John Dickey, our consultant, to draw up plans for restoration of the building we speak of as the Homestead. The Society has already spent a good deal of time and money on the building and grounds. Insulation has been applied, new wiring and an electrical system added, a new water heater has been purchased and put in, and a new porch built to replace the old one. Grounds have been improved by the restoration of the natural gardens, re-pairing of the pond, re-establishment of the old lawn and shrubbery, re-opening the old driveway and rebuilding the bridge. Now we want to turn our attention to the interior of the building, to make it suitable for our use and to be open to the public. Mr. Dickey, our consultant, gave us some wonderful ideas which the Board and a special committee of the Board considered carefully and at length.

\* \* \* \* \*

## JACOBSBURG HISTORICAL SOCIETY OPEN MEETING

The above-mentioned plans will be presented to the membership and their guests at our meeting on Thursday, March 17, at 8 P. M. at the College Hill Presbyterian Church, Monroe and Brodhead Streets, Easton.

John Dickey is well known in Pennsylvania, and in the State of New Jersey as well, for his work in the restoring and rehabilitation of historical sites. He is a member of the Pennsylvania Historic Commission. At the March 17th meeting he will tell us about some of the restorations he has supervised, and in particular will talk about the possibilities which exist for us at Jacobsburg and Boulton. Do come for an interesting evening and bring a guest or prospective member.

\* \* \* \* \*

## DATES TO REMEMBER

Monday, February 21 — Research Committee meeting at the home of Charles and Jessie Sandwick, 819 Spring Garden St., Easton, 7:30 P. M. New members are being sought.

Wednesday, March 2 — 8 P. M. Meeting of the Board of Directors at home of the President.

Thursday, March 17 — 8 P. M. General Meeting of the Jacobsburg Historical Society, College Hill Presbyterian Church, Monroe and Brodhead Streets, Easton. John M. Dickey, speaker.

Saturday, July 16 — Annual Craft Fair at the 4-H Center, Bushkill Center, Pa.

\* \* \* \* \*

Note from President: The complete and final report of our summer's work in archaeology was sent to the Bicentennial Commission of Pennsylvania in December. I was very proud of it, for it was a very professional and interesting report. Since then we have received our final payment from the Commission. Everything is complete except for the base-maps which are still to arrive from the University of Pennsylvania. We are very appreciative to the archaeology workers for the extremely efficient and profitable way in which the monies were administered for the best results. Joe and Virginia Lopresti deserve special words of commendation . . .

HISTORICAL RESEARCH:

## MORE ABOUT THE HENRY FAMILY

By Charles M. Sandwick, Sr.

(With embarrassment I confess to a blunder in the last paragraph of the previous article on The Henry Family. The first sentence of that paragraph should read, 'William Henry died at Philadelphia April 21, 1821.' The date I gave was actually his marriage date. Please correct this date on your copy of the 'Record' for October/November, 1976, Vol. IV No. 5., second paragraph on page 3. — C.M.S.)

The question has been asked, 'Why did the Henrys give the name Boulton to the site of the gun factory?' William Henry of Lancaster, father of William of Nazareth, visited James Watt in England in 1761 and was permitted to see the latter's experiments in harnessing the power of steam. Henry had already, as early as 1760, designed an engine to use the power of steam to propel a boat, antedating Robert Fulton's achievement by many years.

Watt's invention was perfected in partnership with Matthew Boulton (1728-1809), English engineer and manufacturer, who committed his entire capital to the venture, risking bankruptcy until 1787, when the corner was turned and the manufacture of steam engines became a profitable enterprise.

Tradition in the Henry family has it that William Henry of Lancaster was a friend and admirer of Matthew Boulton and that the location of the gun factory was named in his honor.

From 1813 to 1822, the production of Henry guns was carried on by the partnership of John Joseph Henry and William Henry, Jr., sons of William Henry of Nazareth. The metal parts were manufactured at the Boulton works, managed by William, whose family lived nearby in the homestead. The parts were then shipped to Philadelphia for assembly and distribution, under the management of John Joseph, at their factory on the corner of Third and Noble Streets.

The War of 1812 insured a prosperous beginning for the Henry partnership but the end of the War in 1814 brought a slackening of the demand for military arms. In December, 1815, the brothers began advertising for the sale of the Boulton factory and its equipment. They also advertised for sale their tools and a stockpile of five hundred pistol barrels, ten inches in length, of various calibres. However, the advertisements were soon discontinued when the business took a turn for the better.

After their father's death, John Joseph Henry bought his brother's interest in the firm and by 1824 had moved to Boulton and combined all phases of the enterprise at that location.

William had left Boulton in 1822 and moved to Wind Gap, where he conducted a general store. In 1826 he moved to Tria, now a part of Belfast, where he also kept a store.

In 1828 William sold his business as a storekeeper and moved to a location on the Analomink Creek near Stroudsburg, Pa., where in partnership with his nephew, John Jordan, Jr., and later with John Frederick Wolle as a silent partner, he established a forge for making bar iron. In 1832 Henry, Jordan & Company leased Oxford Furnace in Warren County, New Jersey. With Jordan in charge of the forge in Analomink, William Henry went to Oxford, where he made improvements in the furnace, discovered a new mine, and in 1835 was credited with the first successful use of the hot blast in America in the smelting of iron. First used with charcoal as a fuel, this method opened the way for the successful use of anthracite in the production of pig iron.

We shall follow the career and family of William Henry from Oxford Furnace to the anthracite coal region and the founding of Scranton in a subsequent article.

John Joseph Henry was born at Nazareth 17 June 1786, the third child and eldest son of William and Sabina (Schropp) Henry. He married at Philadelphia, 19 Nov. 1808, Maria Rebecca Smith, who was born in Montgomery County, Pa., 22 Sept. 1785, daughter of Jacob and Deborah Smith. They moved from Philadelphia to Boulton no later than 1824, settling first in the homestead until 1832, when he built the large house which is now the home of Miss Mary Henry Stites.

John Joseph and Maria Rebecca had only one child, their son James who was born in Philadelphia. 13 Oct. 1809. They also had an adopted daughter, Elizabeth Susanna Vandergrift, born in Philadelphia 10 Mar. 1817, who married a Mr. Ewald if our information is correct.

John Joseph Henry died at Boulton 2 Dec. 1836. His wife died there 17 June 1871. Their son James, who had been in partnership with his father, continued to operate the gun factory until its management passed into the hands of his eldest son, Granville Henry.

James Henry married, 10 Sept. 1833, Mary Magdalena Sautter, who was born in St. John's, Antigua, W.I., 18 Oct. 1811, daughter of a Moravian missionary. The homestead in Boulton became their home. They had seven children, all born in Boulton: (1) Granville, b. 31 Aug. 1834; d. 30 June 1912; m. 16 Nov. 1869, Mary Elizabeth Krause, b. 4 Apr. 1844; d. Cresson, Pa., 2 Apr. 1934; daughter of Matthew and Adaline Amanda (Eggert) Krause. (2) John Joseph, b. 31 Jan. 1836; d. 23 Apr. 1850. (3) Sophia Louisa, b. 19 Oct. 1838; d. 27 Jan. 1933; unmarried. (4) Edward Theophilus, b. 22 May 1842; d. 10 Nov. 1925; m. 9 May 1871, Emily Elizabeth Lichtenthaeler, b. Lititz, Pa., 4 Feb. 1839; d. Nazareth, 30 July, 1926; daughter of Samuel and Catharine Lichtenthaeler. (5) Clara, b. 4 Mar. 1844; d. 21 July 1927; unmarried. (6) Robert William, b. 18 Dec. 1848; d. at Boulton, 20 Apr. 1921; m. 14 June 1883, Susan B. Munger, b. about 1859; d. Boulton 5 Feb. 1933. (7) Charles, b. 3 July 1854; d. 18 Sept. 1926; m. 27 May 1879, Amalinda Leibert, b. 1 June 1853; d. 29 Dec. 1903; dau. of John and Sarah Leibert.

James Henry died at Boulton, 14 June 1895, the year that the gun factory closed down. His wife, Mary Magdalena (Sautter) Henry, died at Boulton, 27 Aug. 1873. They are buried in the Moravian Cemetery at Schoeneck.

From the apprenticeship of the first William Henry to Matthew Roesser at Lancaster in 1744, to the closing of the Boulton works by Granville Henry in 1895, five generations of the Henry family had been engaged in gunmaking over a period of 151 years.

\* \* \* \* \*

## ARCHAEOLOGY FIELD REPORT

In order to distinguish between our foundations turned up in the last four years, we have designated the different areas as 'A', 'B', 'C', etc., 'A' being better known as the Tannery, and it being our first big project. The second was the little house, but it has ended up with the letter 'H'. 'B' is our large storage shed on the top of the hill. 'G' is our parallel foundation area, and, more specifically, the small stone foundation in the northeast corner of the area. 'D' is an area to the east of the tannery but on a level with our parallel walls. We knew of this scattering of stones among the walnut trees and overgrowth almost from the beginning of our excavations, but the only time we explored it was in the middle of the winter. There were the usual broken beer bottles, glasses, etc., on the surface.

The second day we had a backhoe at the site, Joe started on the outer edges of the rubble. By some uncanny means he had the operator dig a trench on the outside wall of a 50-foot by 24-foot structure. The boys did some cleaning with hand shovels and turned up quite a few samples of ceramics, glass, Moravian roofing tiles and two 2-inch rings, which were a beautiful shade of light blue and gave off a melodious ring when they came in contact with each other. The crew decided they were parts of a horse's harness. Thus Foundation 'D' was dubbed a stable. One Saturday in October, stones in the southwest corner of 'D' were moved to the outside. Small bits of window glass and a few hand-cut nails were uncovered in the mixture of clay mortar and rotted leaf mould found near the rocks. On the inside about six inches above ground level there appeared to be a very crude hard floor made of clay and lime mortar.

On November 12, 1976, the archaeology class from Lafayette College spent a short time at the Jacobsburg dig. The boys and girls were put to work on the inside north wall to the west of an inside trench made by the backhoe on its third trip to Jacobsburg. A laid-up stone wall starts about one and one-half feet from the north wall. Toward the center of the building, a floor of bricks appears to be arranged on top of the hard floor. Many pieces of Moravian roofing tile were found in

this area. A walnut tree is growing in the center of what looks like a fireplace. Vance Packard says it could be a small indoor forge foundation, when he visited us on November 30.

On the next attempt to dig in the area, much frost was encountered. Future revelations will have to wait until spring.

— Virginia Lopresti  
for the Archaeological Committee

\* \* \* \* \*

### A WARMING TREND IN THE WEATHER ! ! !

You may not believe that Spring and warmth are on their way, but they are! The longer daylight hours are proof of that. And this makes us look forward to a beautiful Summer day, July 16, when we will have another Craft Fair. All of our Fairs have been successful, especially last year. (In spite of stiff competition of Bicentennial events.) Our co-chairmen will again be Bobbie and Joe DiGerlando. But they will need help more than ever this year. Have you a craft to exhibit and demonstrate? Can you help with the refreshments? Will you volunteer to help set up and take down the Fair? Have you any new or novel ideas or suggestions? If you can help in any way, please let us know.

\* \* \* \* \*

### A NEW CHAIRMAN — (YOU LOSE ONE, YOU WIN ONE)

Words of appreciation are overdue to Joy Nathan, who handled the publicity for our Society during the year 1976. We profited by her experience in this field and regret that the pressures of her public relations job with the Easton Hospital make it impossible for her to continue with our work.

However, we are very fortunate to have Renée Peace (Mrs. Earl Peace) ready and willing to take on this important work. Renée and her husband Earl have been interested in the Jacobsburg Historical Society since its inception. Renée has given us valuable assistance in the past with our Fair and its publicity.

\* \* \* \* \*

### A TRIBUTE TO VIRGINIA LOPRESTI

We burst with pride when our Virginia Lopresti received the Service to Mankind Award from the Sertoma Club of Easton on January 18, 1977. Officers and members of the Jacobsburg Historical Society had the privilege of hearing Charles Sandwick give the presentation and hearing Virginia's acceptance. Charles said in part, "What is a registered nurse doing out in the woods with a shovel, digging for Indian artifacts or for evidence of a long vanished industry? How does the author of a village history provide useful summer employment for dozens of young people?"

Virginia has served with husband Joe on the Archaeology Committee of the Jacobsburg Historical Society since 1972 and was co-chairman of summer excavations the past four years. In 1974 and 1975 they provided employment at the Jacobsburg digs for many young Manpower workers.

In the summer of 1976 the Jacobsburg Historical Society was able to employ eighteen students, some of them archaeology majors, on the archaeological project through a grant from the Bicentennial Commission of \$11,460, because Joe and Virginia contributed their time as supervisors, for which the Society was able to take credit toward the \$3,600 in matching funds which the Society was required to contribute.

Virginia and Joe also serve on the Historical Research Committee of the Jacobsburg Society, putting in many hours at libraries and the courthouse, helping to reconstruct the history of the wilderness which was once a thriving industrial community.

"The Sertoma Club of Easton counts it a privilege to honor Virginia Lopresti for the energy, unselfishness and contagious enthusiasm with which so many of her interests are directed toward Service to Mankind."

## THOUGHTS

By Joe DiGerlando

As I write this, I glance at the calendar and see that there are already more than six weeks which have elapsed since the year 1976 slid into the past, and I think it is not too late, and is certainly appropriate to pause at this time to reflect on the accomplishments of our Society in the year that is past. We have been very fortunate to receive a grant to further our research in the archaeological aspects of Jacobsburg. We had a very successful summer program under the direction of Joe and Virginia Lopresti and Jeff Kenyon. Our Craft Fair was a great success in spite of the competition of all the Bicentennial events. The weather was very much in favor for our annual Walk in the Woods. Our first attempt at a Society Banquet was very well attended and enjoyed.

All in all, we have had a very good year. Maybe we didn't complete all the projects that we hoped for. Maybe we didn't get as many volunteers as we would have liked. Maybe our membership did not grow as much as we would have liked. Maybe we did not get as many donations as we could have used. BUT . . . we did complete many of our projects; we did get much volunteer help; we did get many new members; we did get many donations; we did get much more than we had any reason to hope for and have very much to be thankful for.

I know that I speak for all of our Board members in this, and we should now take a moment to reflect and give thanks to all those who have given of themselves to help further the goals of our Society. Nothing would have been accomplished without this.

(Note: The above was written by Joe just twenty-four days before Christmas, and was intended for our December issue, which was thereafter omitted. But the thoughts contained are so pertinent and so just that we felt it just had to be published. We gently re-wrote the opening sentence, which alluded to Christmas. And although his last sentences are now anachronistic, because the sentiments they gave expression to are, though belated, no less valid now, we beg leave to quote them, too. Ed.)

He closes: "I would also like to add best wishes from Bobbie and myself for a very joyous holiday time. P.S. Don't forget to include the Society in your New Year's Resolutions."

\* \* \* \* \*

Your Editor, who it seems bit off a little more than he could chew, early in January was sentenced to a short term in the hospital and could not attend to his duties in your behalf, for which he begs your tolerance. As a result the January issue of 'The Jacobsburg Record' was merged with February's. This issue was entirely edited and produced by our amazingly capable president, Cay Beers. We are now 'back on the job' again, full of appreciation and admiration for the work Catherine did on our behalf. (Ed.)

\* \* \* \* \*

Having some space to fill we are on the following page reproducing part of a two-page map which we have pirated from 'SEED', the Colonial Northampton Intermediate Work Book. We feel that many of our members are hazy about the locations of the various work sites and restoration areas about the Park, and this reproduction may help to clear away some of the foginess. Important numerically coded locations are: (8) Old dam site; (9) Millrace; (12) Boulton gun factory; (16) John Joseph Henry house; (17) Benade house; blast furnace; early slate quarry; (18) Master's House, Boarders' House, Jacobsburg blast furnace; (19) Tannery and barrel boring mill; (20) site of old Jacobsburg Hotel. Excavations (the 'digs') have so far been almost entirely confined to site 19. The John Joseph Henry house is mentioned in this issue in Charles Sandwick's article, 'More About The Henry Family.' Other sites have been referred to in previous issues, and will, undoubtedly be mentioned again in the future. (Of course, nothing in the way of elucidation can equal a visit in person to this fascinating relict of times past. The Fall 'Walk in the Woods,' with informed guides, is the best, but any time is a good time. Come out! You are more than welcome.)

