

The Jacobsburg Record

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HISTORICAL RESEARCH:

WILLIAM HENRY THE THIRD, FOUNDER OF SCRANTON

By Charles M. Sandwick, Sr.

William Henry III was born at Nazareth, Pa., 15 August, 1794. He was the seventh child and third son of William and Sabina (Schropp) Henry. In the two previous articles on the Henry family we have seen that he resided in the homestead at Boulton and managed the gun factory from 1813 to 1822. At the risk of some repetition, a review of his early years is in order.

In October, 1799, at the age of five, he began his studies at Nazareth Hall where he continued as a pupil until June 1807. In November 1810 his father sent him to Philadelphia to learn the gunsmith trade under his older brother, John Joseph Henry. In April 1812 he moved to Boulton to assist his father in building the gun factory as part of the enterprise which William and John Joseph were to operate as partners until 1822.

Young William was a militia volunteer for about twelve years, serving as Lieutenant and Captain. He discontinued his military affiliation in May 1823.

On 23 March 1817 he married Mary Barbara Albright of Shippensburg, Pa., daughter of Henry and Anna Barbara (Hubley) Albright. They had six children, of whom the first two were born at the homestead in Boulton: (1) Reuben Albright, b. ca. 1818; said to have lived in Jersey City, N.J.; m. Esther Perkins, b. 1832; dau. of John and Eunice (Miller) Perkins. (2) Ellen Clarissa, b. 2 March 1821; d. Oxford, N.J., 29 December 1897; m. 3 September 1839, Selden T. Scranton, b. Madison, Ct., 14 October 1814; d. Oxford, N.J., 23 November 1891; son of Theophilus and Elizabeth (Warner) Scranton. (3) Jane Anna, b. Wind Gap, Pa., 12 December 1823; d. 29 July 1909; m. Col. Charles Scranton, b. Madison, Ct., 23 June 1822; d. Oxford 16 March 1888; son of Theophilus and Elizabeth (Warner) Scranton. (4) Eugene Thomas, b. Tria, Pa., 14 November 1826; d. Oxford 2 October 1883; m. 7 January 1862, Emma Elizabeth Walter, b. Nazareth, Pa., 5 January 1842; d. Middletown, Ct., 19 April 1928; dau. of Doctor Philip and Rachel B. Walter. (5) Col. William, b. Stroudsburg, Pa., 15 Dec. 1830; d. Fort Worth, Tex., 16 March, 1889; served entire Civil War in 1st Regt., N.J. Volunteers. (6) Capt. Joseph J., b. Oxford, 15 December, 1834; died in battle at Roanoke Island, N.C., 8 February, 1862, while in command of Co. H, 9th Regt., N.J. Vols., Civil War.

Mary Barbara (Albright) Henry died at Hyde Park in the vicinity of present-day Scranton, Pa., 5 March 1842, and in April of that year William moved to what he called Mill Hollow, also in the Scranton locality.

On 26 September 1842 William Henry married second Sarah Atherton, who was born 21 October, 1814, daughter of Elisha and Zibia (Perkins) Atherton. She bore him three children: (7) Elisha Atherton born ca. 1845, who died young. (8) Lydia Atherton, born 19 July 1849; d. 20 January 1911; m. 20 June 1874, Rev. Winfield Scott Stites, b. Cape May, N.J., 9 August 1847; d. 1921; son of John K. F. and Harriet (Marcy) Stites. (9) Thomas Atherton, b. Kingston Twp., Luzerne County, Pa., 14 July 1853; d. 30 May 1923; m. 7 October 1880, Melanie Parke, dau. of Rev. N. G. Parke, D.D., of Pittston. The name of Thomas Atherton Henry was changed to Thomas Henry Atherton by Act of Legislature of Pennsylvania, 15 March 1871.

In November 1842 William and Sarah (Atherton) Henry moved to Plymouth, Pa. In 1845 they made their home at Sunny Hill, the Atherton homestead on the outskirts of Wyoming. They were of the Presbyterian denomination. William Henry died near Wyoming, Pa., 23 May 1878. Sarah (Atherton) Henry died there 23 July 1895. Among their descendants are several members of the Jacobsburg Historical Society: Gen. Thomas Henry Atherton, Wilkes-Barre, Pa.; Charles Henry Atherton, Washington, D.C.; William Henry Atherton, West Haven, Ct.; Mrs. Charles

Frantz (nee Mary Atherton), Shavertown, Pa.; Mr. John Dickey and Mrs. John Dickey, West Chester, Pa., and Miss Mary Henry Stites, of Boulton, a member of our Board of Directors.

The factors which brought about the dissolution of the partnership of William and John Joseph Henry are not clear. We know only that William sold his share to John Joseph at a loss and that he forfeited his own \$3,000 inheritance from his father in the liquidation of debts. In November 1822 he left Boulton to conduct a general store at Wind Gap, operating with borrowed money and a stock of goods bought on credit. Four years later he moved to Tria, now the southern part of Belfast, where he also conducted a store. He seems to have been moderately successful at this business, for he accumulated assets which enabled him to attain a net worth of \$5,000 by 1828.

William was dissatisfied with the life of a storekeeper, however, and in 1828 he sold his business and moved to Stroudsburg, Pa. In partnership with his nephew, John Jordan, Jr., son of John and Elizabeth (Henry) Jordan, and later with his brother-in-law John Frederick Wolle as a silent partner, he established a forge on Analomink Creek for the manufacture of bar iron. Pig iron for this venture was to be supplied by William's brother, Matthew S. Henry, of Jacobsburg. Adequate supplies of pig iron from the Catherine Furnace were not forthcoming, however; so in 1832 Henry, Jordan & Company leased Oxford Furnace in Warren County, N.J.

In April 1832 William and his family moved from Stroudsburg to Belvidere, N.J., and a year later to Oxford, leaving Jordan in charge of the forge at Analomink. William rebuilt the stack of the Oxford Furnace, made other improvements, and discovered a new ore mine. As told before, in 1835; using charcoal as a fuel, he was credited with the first successful use of the hot blast in America in the smelting of iron.

In 1834 Chapman Warner, a prominent businessman of Belvidere; introduced his nephew, Selden T. Scranton, to William Henry. William offered Selden a job which eventually led the young man to the position of superintendant of the furnace and manager of the company store. In 1839 Selden T. Scranton became William Henry's son-in-law by marrying William's daughter, Ellen Clarissa. Later on, Selden's younger brother, Charles, married Ellen's younger sister, Jane Anna.

In 1837, William Henry and his family moved back to Stroudsburg, leaving Selden Scranton in charge at Oxford. The Analomink end of the operation had fallen upon hard times due to Jordan's ill health, some unfortunate fires and floods, and depressed prices for iron bars due to the Panic of 1837. In 1839 Henry, Jordan & Company sold their Oxford interests to Selden T. Scranton and his older brother George Whitefield Scranton. The following year William Henry began liquidating his interests in order to pursue a dream which had obsessed him since the early 1830's.

In 1830 the Legislature of Pennsylvania authorized the survey of a proposed transportation route from Delaware Water Gap to Pittston, on the north branch of the Susquehanna River. William Henry was one of the nine commissioners appointed to conduct the survey. In 1832 he became treasurer of a company which proposed to link the two rivers by canal and railroad. In seeking investors for this project, he pointed out that the region contained rich supplies of anthracite as well as quantities of iron ore and limestone.

Henry became especially interested in the Slocum's Hollow tract, where Roaring Brook flows into the Lackawanna River, which has since become the site of the city of Scranton. Here he proposed to erect a hot-blast furnace, utilizing anthracite in smelting iron and a rolling mill to manufacture iron rails and other products. The failures and frustrations that beset him in the pursuit of his dream are too long a story for the present article. Suffice it to say that he had to turn to his son-in-law, Selden T. Scranton, for help. Selden and George both responded to his appeal but their own financial resources were not enough, so they induced their cousins,

Erastus C. and Joseph H. Scranton, of Augusta, Georgia, to invest in the venture. Other investors had to be drawn in, some of the earlier of whom were Sanford Grant, of Belvidere, and Philip H. Mattes, of Easton. Charles Scranton, who married Jane Anna Henry, also became involved. William Henry lived to see others reap fortunes from the ultimate realization of his dream, while he himself was virtually relegated to the role of a bystander.

William Henry foresaw that the hamlet of Slocum's Hollow would someday become a sizeable town. In 1840 he drew a map of the future city as he envisioned it, and named it Harrison. A few years later the name was changed to Scranton and finally to Scranton. If only one person were to be proclaimed the founder of Pennsylvania's third largest city, that person must surely be William Henry.

(Editorial Note: There are other members of the Henry family, not descended from William Henry III, who belong to the Jacobsburg Historical Society. Where the wife's designation is parenthesized it indicates that she is a member, though not a descendent: Mr. (and Mrs.) James E. Henry, of Coral Gables, Fla., descended from John Joseph, brother of William III; Mr. (and Mrs.) William B. Henry, of Greenwich, Conn., also descended from John Joseph. Miss Eleanor Nitzschke and Miss Grace Nitzschke, of Staten Island, N.Y., descended from Sabina, a sister of William III, who married John Frederick Wolle; Mr. (and Mrs.) Aubrey Wolle, of Chapqua, N.Y., Mr. Peter Wolle and Miss Elizabeth Wolle, of Bedford, N.Y., all are descended from Sabina. Miss Mary Henry Stites, whom Mr. Sandwick identifies as a descendent of William III, is also a direct descendent of John Joseph. —C.S.B.)

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ARCHAEOLOGY:

IT'S TIME AGAIN TO BRING OUT THE SHOVELS!

By Virginia Lopresti

Again the winter has passed more quickly than we could have thought possible; the tasks we had left for the colder months are mostly undone. Nevertheless it is time to start digging again. The bitter cold winter was very kind to our excavations. Part of the wall in the storage shed tumbled down and the wall at the entranceway to the tannery yielded to the pressure of rocks and dirt behind it. People have been less kind and have left beer cans, bottles, etc., in various heaps. The rushing Bushkill Creek is heading for the tannery and leaving mounds of sand on the opposite shore.

In preparation for the '77 dig, we have accumulated a few more deeds. Maps have been completed by the Museum Research Center. Last summer's artifacts have been relegated to the shelves, the artifact cards filed in brand new cabinets. Paper bags are stamped and ready to be filled with goodies. We called on the Manpower Commission to provide us with some help. The boys and girls who were fortunate enough to get paid for last summer's work would be most welcome volunteers this summer. And if or when we receive additional aid, they will be the first to be hired. One young lady has already contributed hours to the cause. We expect to be at the dig every Saturday in April; and we will go on Sundays or any weekday if we have company. We will welcome members who are interested as diggers or as spectators. We are very anxious to find more about our fifty-foot long building and the building attached to the west wall of the tannery. For further information call 1-215-759-1580.

ANALYSIS OF ARTIFACTS FOUND AT JACOBSTOWN

The following is a digest of the report on artifacts turned up in 1976. The report was made by the University of Pennsylvania: Summary of comments by Museum Historic Research Center, J. L. Kenyon, Director.

During the 1976 session of excavation at Jacobstown there were 4,495 artifacts analyzed, in the following categories: Ceramic 1,801; Glass 1,621; Metal 713; Leather 103; Bone 53; Other 204.

The largest percentage of the ceramics dates from the second half of the nineteenth century. However, several excavation units contain older sherds, notably pearlware. Production of pearlware began in Staffordshire, England, around 1790, and was possibly the most widely used tableware, mass-produced, until 1820. The Jacobsburg examples are of the usual type, with a feathered edge impressed around the rim and decorated with a hand painted green or blue. There are also two sherds of transfer-printed pearlware which was not in use until the end of the eighteenth century. The earliest English examples appear sometime after 1792. A hand painted piece of pearlware, produced between 1790 and 1810, was found on the hill just above the small house, along with a rim of annular ware of a type popular between 1795 and 1815. Annular ware is distinguished by bands of brown, green, black, and in this case blue, and is the second most common type of pearlware found on sites dating from the first half of the nineteenth century. A large quantity of ironstone was recovered at Jacobsburg; also stoneware which appears to be of local manufacture, produced for utilitarian purposes. The majority of sherds are from cream, brown and gray storage vessels and jugs. The red and buff earthenware, both lead and manganese glazed, are all but undateable because of their ubiquity and length of manufacture.

The glass artifacts seem to be mostly domestic utilitarian and rather inexpensive. Canning jars, apothecary bottles, tumblers, and the base of a hurricane lamp. The vats produced a fine example of an embossed clear glass bottle reading 'Van Buskirk's Fragrant Sozodont'. Ninety-three samples of leather were retrieved from the vats and represent pieces of heels, soles and uppers, and one complete boot in six pieces. There were over 150 pieces of flat window glass of varying thicknesses. Fourteen pieces of Moravian roofing tile were recovered near the tannery. (In the Fall three times that many pieces were found.) The summer of 1976 produced an odd assortment of nails, bolts, rods and spikes.

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INSTITUTE OF PENNSYLVANIA RURAL LIFE AND CULTURE AND OTHER NOTES OF INTEREST TO OUR MEMBERS

We are in receipt of an advance announcement of the 21st Annual Institute of Pennsylvania Rural Life and Culture, to be held at the Pennsylvania Farm Museum, near Lancaster on June 21-24. The institute's general theme, "Reflections on Our Cultural Development," will be pursued through a series of six seminars; and traditional crafts will be exemplified by six workshops on as many early Pennsylvania crafts. A detailed brochure will be sent out sometime in March, which will contain instructions for registering. Should any of our members wish further information they should communicate with: Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission Institute, P.O. Box 1026, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120.

Our own Craft Fair will be held on July 16. Please do not fail to read the important insert placed just inside the cover of this newsletter, asking for volunteers. Your help is needed!

OTHER DATES TO REMEMBER:

SATURDAY, MAY 14, from 9:30 to 11:30 A.M. — Diane Warner, a Jacobsburg Historical Society member, creator and keeper of the herb garden at the Homestead, and exhibitor at our Craft Fair, will conduct a demonstration and discussion of soap making, including scent, colors and natural additives at the Northampton County Area Community College on Saturday, May 14 from 9:30 to 11:30 A.M. in Room HP 400. The fee for registration is \$3.00. For information call Registrar's Office, 865-5351 Extension 370.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 6, 8:00 P. M. — Board Meeting at the home of JANET GUM, 247 North Liberty Street, Nazareth, Pa.

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Because of the unusual (but commendable) length of the articles on Historical Research and Archaeology, and the Craft Fair insert, quite a bit of material had to be saved for our next issue, so as not to risk overweight mailing at our bulk rate. See you then.

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Student -- \$2.50

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