The Jacobsburg Record

APRIL, 1977 Vol. V No. 3

OPEN HOUSE WILL BE DELAYED

Among the goodies which we have become accustomed to provide in return for your dues money (we hope you haven't overlooked it!) has been the Spring Open House at the Homestead, tentatively scheduled this year for early May, but now unavoidably detained. Reason for the postponement is the impossibility of having things ready in time. Work on the pond, while now practically completed, has left the old-fashioned garden, which borders it, in deplorable shape because of the caterpillars (treads, that is) of the heavy equipment which invaded it in the course of construction. We feel it should be given a little time to grow back.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR GARDENING WORK

And in direct line with the above, we urgently need volunteers to do the necessary grounds work as well as for light work required inside the homestead to bring it to showcase condition. If you are interested in running this flag up the pole, please call the President, or committee members Mary Henry Stites, Lorraine Mineo, or Mary DeRaymond.

CRAFT FAIR STILL NEEDS PARTICIPANTS

Have you filled in and returned the insert mailed you with last month's letter asking for your help at our coming Craft Fair? If you haven't, it would be nice if you did so now. The date is July 16, 10 to 4:00, and the place, the 4-H Center, Bushkill Center. There are still quite a few holes to be filled, and although the time may seem remote, you will sleep much better at night if you attach yourself to the program now, before it slips your mind.

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HISTORICAL RESEARCH

THE WOLLE BRANCHES OF THE HENRY DESCENDANTS

By Charles M. Sandwick, Sr.

Sabina Henry, sixth child and fourth daughter of William and Sabina (Schropp) Henry of Nazareth, married John Frederick Wolle, son of Peter and Anna Rosina (Geyer) Wolle, who were Moravian missionaries to the islands of St. Croix, St. Jan (St. John) and St. Thomas in the Danish West Indies.

We have found another error in the first of our present series of articles on the Henry Family, which appeared in the October/November 1976 issue, Vol. IV No. 5 of THE JACOBSBURG RECORD. On page 2, in the paragraph listing the family of William and Sabina (Schropp) Henry, we stated that John Frederick Wolle was born at St. Johns, Antigua, W.I., 20 Nov. 1785. The date is correct but the birthplace is wrong. He was born at Bethany on the island of St. Jan (St. John) in the Danish West Indies.

In 1809, the year of his marriage, John Frederick Wolle leased the Jacobsburg Inn property from Nathaniel Michler and bought the entire stock of goods in the general store which Michler had conducted at the Inn. The Wolle family lived in Jacobsburg and kept the store there nearly nine years. In 1818 they opened a store in Wardsburg, now in the southern part of Belfast. (The same neighborhood was known at various times and to different people as 'Wardsburg' and also as 'Tria'.) In 1821 they moved to Nazareth and not long afterward to Bethlehem, where Sabina and John Frederick died in 1859 and 1860, respectively.

About 1830, John Frederick Wolle became a silent partner with William Henry III and John Jordan, Jr., in the firm of Henry, Jordan & Co., iron manufacturers, at a location on the Analomink Creek, near Stroudsburg, Pa., and later at Oxford, N.J.

Peter Wolle, father of John Frederick, was born in Schwersens (or Sevarserez), Poland, 6 Nov. 1745. He moved to Herrnhut, Saxony, where he became actively involved in the Unitas Fratrum, or Moravian Church. He married, 21 July 1783, Anna Rosina Geyer, who was born in Otterheim (or Ottenhayn), near Herrnhut, 19 Jan. 1761, daughter of Christian and Anna Rosina (Wacheim) Geyer. Soon after their marriage they sailed for America where they settled in Nazareth, Pa. Peter died at Nazareth, 20 Nov. 1813. His widow died at Bethlehem 8 July 1845.

Peter and Anna Rosina (Geyer) Wolle had five children, all born in the Danish West Indies: (1) John Frederick, born at Bethany, St. Jan., 20 Nov. 1785, who married Sabina Henry: we shall return to them presently. (2) Christian Jacob (or Jacob Christian), born in Bethany, St Jan, 12 Sept. 1788; died at Bethlehem, Pa., 17 Apr. 1863; married first in 1816, Mary Magdalene Luch, born at Christianspring, 1797; died at Bethlehem, 1817, daughter of Jacob Luch; married second in 1819, Eliza Horsfield, born in 1792; died at Hope, Indiana, in 1867; daughter of Joseph Horsfield. Christian Jacob Wolle managed the Sun Inn until 1824, afterwards became a Justice of the Peace.

(3) Peter, born in New Herrnhut, St. Thomas, 5 Jan. 1792; died at Bethlehem, 14 Nov. 1871; married Maria Theresa Shober, born in Salem, N.C., 3 June 1799; died at Lititz, Pa., 8 Apr. 1853; daughter of Gottlieb and Mary Magdalena (Transue) Shober. Rt. Rev. Peter Wolle was appointed Bishop of the Unitas Fratrum. He served on the Provincial Board of the Moravian Church until 1854. They had five sons and one daughter.

(4) Joanna Sophia, the only daughter of Peter and Anna Rosina, was born 21 Apr. 1797 and died 24 Apr. 1797. (5) Samuel Henry, Born in Bethany, St. Jan, 27 Jan. 1799; died at Christiana Furnace, near Middletown, Pa., 7 Nov. 1835; married first at Schoeneck, Pa., 11 Mar. 1821, Maria Henry, who was born at Lancaster, Pa., 2 Dec. 1796, and died in Bushkill Township, 10 Jan. 1823, daughter of Abraham and Elisabeth (Martin) Henry; married second at Nazareth, 5 Feb. 1824, Lisetta (or Lucetta) Ritter, who was born in Philadelphia, 22 Feb. 1804, and died at Lititz, 28 May 1867.

It is interesting to note that Maria Henry, the first wife of Samuel Henry Wolle, was the sister of Ann Catherine Henry, the first wife of Matthew S. Henry. She was also the first cousin of Sabina (Henry) Wolle, her sister-in-law.

John Frederick Wolle was born at Bethany on the island of St. Jan in the Danish West Indies, 20 Nov. 1785. He left home and sailed to America several years before his parents. On 28 Sept. 1809 he married Sabina Henry who was born in Nazareth 4 Aug. 1792, daughter of William and Sabina (Schropp) Henry. John Frederick Wolle died at Bethlehem 24 Apr. 1860. Sabina (Henry) Wolle died there 22 Mar. 1859. They were the parents of ten children, the first five of whom were born in the Inn at Jacobsburg.

(1) William Henry Wolle, first child of John Frederick and Sabina (Henry) Wolle, was born 19 Dec. 1810 and died at Bethlehem 25 July 1853. He married Eleanor Hamner. They had no children. (2) Edwin Peter Wolle, born 22 Oct 1812; died in West Bethlehem, 2 Feb. 1889; married 18 Apr. 1839, Maria Louise Kummer, daughter of Jacob Kummer, of Bethlehem. They had seven children: Anna Rosina, born 3 Jan. 1841, died 24 May 1842; John David, born 10 Sept. 1842, lived in Bethlehem; Edwin Benezet, born 21 Apr. 1845, died 24 Nov. 1847; Herbert William, born 2 Sept. 1848, lived in Bethlehem; Irene Maria, born 22 Mar. 1851, died 20 Aug. 1853; Benjamin Franklin, born 29 Nov. 1853, died 8 Oct. 1862; Ella Maria Louisa, born 15 Oct. 1856, married at Bethlehem 19 Sept. 1883 Banjamin B. Nostrand, of Sand's Point, Long Island.

(3) Frederick Wolle, born 21 Sept. 1814; died at Nazareth, 7 Mar. 1844; married 16 Oct. 1836, Caroline Lucinda Helwig, born at Bethlehem, 19 Mar. 1815; died at Bethlehem 2 Aug. 1854; daughter of Gideon and Elisabeth (Meyer) Helwig. They had four children: Maria Elisabeth, born 5 Oct. 1837, died in South Wales 2 Dec. 1906, married (as second wife) 16 Oct. 1866, Bishop Benjamin Romig, born 7 Mar. 1834, died 31 May 1903, son of Samuel and Elisabeth (Minnich) Romig; Sabina, born 10 Nov. 1839; Cornelia Louisa, born 4 Oct. 1841, died 22 Feb. 1865, married (as first wife) 20 May 1858, Bishop Benjamin Romig; Lucien Frederick, born 12 Mar. 1844, died 28 Jan. 1860.

(4) Sylvester Wolle, born 1 Mar. 1816; died at Bethlehem 29 Aug. 1873; married Sarah Caroline Rice, born in Bethlehem 29 Jan. 1820; died at Bethlehem, 18 May 1876; daughter of Jacob and Sarah Ann Rice. They had two childred: Ellen Cornelia, born 20 July 1842, married 15 Nov. 1870 Edmund Gideon Helwig, of Uhrichsville, Ohio; Mary Elisabeth, born 18 Oct. 1846, married Robert W Herbst.

(5) Francis Wolle ("preacher, educator, inventor and scientist"), born 17 Dec. 1817; died at Bethlehem, 10 Feb. 1893; married 6 July 1848, Caroline (Weiss) Seidel, who was born 27 May 1824, daughter of Jedediah and Mary (Stables) Weiss; widow of Henry F. Seidel. Francis and Elizabeth Caroline (Weiss) Wolle had seven children: Robert Henry, born 22 Apr. 1849; Laura Rebecca, born 13 June 1851, married in Bethlehem 12 Nov. 1868, Harry (or Henry) C. Jenkins; Helen Eugenia, born 6 June 1853, married in Bethlehem (as second wife) 11 May 1881, Prof. Charles L. Doolittle; Georgine Weiss, born 29 Jan. 1855, died 29 July 1856; Frances Elizabeth, born 11 Nov. 1856, died 27 Nov. 1860; Hartley Cornelius, born 23 Oct. 1857, married at Rochester, N.Y., 28 June 1887, Belle Robinson; John Frederick (of Bach Choir fame), born 4 Apr. 1863, married at Hackettstown, N.J., 21 July 1886, Jennie C. Stryker, daughter of Henry Polman and Mary Elizabeth (Creveling) Stryker.

(6) Maria Wolle, born in Wardsburg (now part of Belfast) 7 Nov. 1819; died at Bethlehem; married at Bethlehem, 11 June 1839, Rev. Emanuel Rondthaler, Jr., of Nazareth, born 28 June 1815; died 30 Nov. 1848. They had five children, all with middle name Wolle and surname Rondthaler: Maria, born 28 Oct 1840, died 6 Aug. 1858; Cornelia, born 23 June 1842, died 8 Mar. 1843; Elizabeth, born 14 Sept. 1844; Jane, born 11 July 1846; Esther, born 26 Feb. 1848.

(7) Augustus Wolle, born in Nazareth, 8 Sept. 1821; died at Bethlehem, 11 Aug. 1878; married in 1845 Cornelia Elizabeth Leinbach, of Salem, N.C., born 3 Feb. 1827, daughter of Traugott Leinbach. Augustus Wolle was a prominent merchant and industrialist. In 1860 he was one of the founders of the Bethlehem Iron Company, and in 1864 of the Chapman Slate Company and the Pennsylvania Slate Company. Augustus and Cornelia E. (Leinbach) Wolle had eleven children: Emily Theresa, born 17 Aug. 1846, married William S. Sieger; Francis Leinbach, born 5 Apr. 1848, married at Bethlehem 10 Dec. 1885, Emma M. Torrence; Clarence Augustus, born 14 Oct. 1849, married at Lancaster 19 Dec. 1890, Clara M. (King) Evans, daughter of Judge Stephen King, of Logan, Iowa; Edward Samuel, born 8 Feb. 1852, pastor (1894) Second Moravian Church of Philadelphia; Alice Cornelia, born 5 Dec. 1854, married Rev. John C. Clewell, principal (1894) Female Academy, Salem, N.C.; Mary Eugenia, born 17 Nov. 1857, married Rev. Frank P. Wilde, pastor (1894) in Bethabara, Jamaica, W.I.; Sarah Anna, born 10 Mar. 1859, died 27 Nov. 1860; Edith Sabina, born 22 Sept. 1860, married Edward D. Wessels, resided (1894) in New York City; Grace Agnes, born 23 Oct. 1862, head (1894) of cooking school, Female Academy, Salem, N.C.; George Henry, born 3 Dec. 1864, married at Galena, Ill., 17 Dec. 1891, Lena Clauer; Elizabeth L., born about 1866-7, resided (1894) in Bethlehem.

(8) Lucien Wolle, born in Bethlehem 1 Sept. 1825; died 26 Oct. 1832. (9) Cornelia Wolle (twin of Elizabeth) born in Bethlehem 4 Oct. 1829; died 31 Oct. 1832; (10) Elizabeth Wolle (twin of Cornelia) born in Bethlehem 4 Oct. 1829; married in 1851 (as second wife) Rt. Rev. Henry A. Shultz, born in Hope, Surinam, South America, 7 Feb. 1806, died at Bethlehem 22 Oct. 1885, son of Rev. Theodore and Susan (Loesch) Shultz. They had four children surnamed Shultz: Frederick Theodore, born 21 Nov. 1852; Annie Rebecca, born 15 Nov. 1854; Gertrude Naomi, born 13 June 1857; Elizabeth Adelaide, born 10 Dec. 1861.

Among the prized possessions of the Jacobsburg Historical Society is one which was given by Aubrey C. Wolle, of Chappaqua, N.Y. It is a large printed chart entitled along the bottom edge, "MEMORIAL OF AN EXCURSION/Made by the Descendants of John Frederick and Sabina Wolle, from Bethlehem and Nazareth to Jacobsburg and Boulton, Bushkill Twp., Northampton County, Pa., July 20, 1866." In the middle portion of the chart, at the top, is an excellent picture of the Inn, captioned "The Home at Jacobsburg./A.D. 1809 to 1818./The building was erected A.D. 1780-1785, by Jacob Hubler; subsequently owned by Nathaniel Michler." Below is a picture of a group of forty-five persons standing in front of the Henry Homestead.

Printed below the picture in positions corresponding to the figures is a row of forty-five small and capital letters, and below that the caption, "The gathering on the Lawn in front of the residence of James Henry, Boulton, July 20, 1866./Photographed in the rain at 4 o'clock P.M./ Letters refer to the names in the Record and indicate the persons in the order of arrangement."

The record referred to above consists of two columns of information entitled "Family Record," one at the left and one at the right of the pictures. The record begins with the ancestors of John Frederick and Sabina. Next are the names and birth dates of their ten children and the death dates of four who had died. Next are the family records of the eight children who grew to maturity and married, with the birth dates and some death dates of the grandchildren who were born prior to July, 1866.

Following the family records is this comment: "Of the above, thirty-six (whose names appear in small capitals) partook of a dinner prepared by E. Kostenbader, the present occupant of the house at Jacobsburg. Besides these there were also present the following relatives, viz:" and there follows a list of eight more names in small capitals, accompanied by dates of birth.

The account continues: "In the afternoon the whole party proceeded to Tria and thence to Boulton. Here, in consequence of a rain, instead of a picnic on the banks of the Bushkill, as contemplated, all partook of a collation on the piazza in front of the residence of James Henry. About four o'clock the company was gathered on the lawn, and amid the dropping of the rain an attempt was made at a photographic view. The adjoining is the result.

"Here the following relatives united with the company, viz:" and six more names in small capitals are listed with birth dates, bringing to forty-nine the number of relatives who participated in the Wolle family reunion on that memorable day.

The record concludes with the following observations:"At Jacobsburg, Nathaniel Ahry, an old neighbor, and often a help in the family, in days of yore, now 82 years of age, was also present.

"H. P. Osborne & Son, of Bethlehem, attended the excursion as Photographers. Clouds and rain prevented much of the work desired."

A photographic copy of this document, measuring approximately eleven by fourteen inches, slightly smaller than the original, has been given to the Jacobsburg Historical Society by J. Richard Thorne, of Easton.

(Note: Nathaniel Ahry. Matthew S. Henry, in his "History of the Lehigh Valley," speaks of Tan Ahrey as a source of early local lore, and Peter Fritts in his 1877 history of Northampton County, has this to say: "Tan Ahrey, an old man of the Arandack race, who died in 1875 at the age of ninety-one years, was long looked upon by the inhabitants of Bushkill as authority in matters pertaining to the early history and traditions of the township." He was a black, had reputedly taken an Indian wife, and was a trusted retainer of the Henrys of his day. The Arandacks were an aboriginal Australian nomadic tribe, and if our informant is correct in his statement, it is mystifying to account for his presence at Jacobsburg. But there he was. — Ed.)

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THE HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE OF THE HOMESTEAD

From time to time we have made reference, in what is perhaps best termed our 'progress notes' regarding the Henry Homestead, to various site improvements on the land — the herb garden, the perennial garden, the pond, the springhouse — but rarely has mention been made of the slowly developing plans for restoration of the homestead building itself. On at least two occasions the house was opened to the public in 'as is' condition; in fact, a current showing had been discussed by the Board, tentatively set for early May, but now held off until a later date.

The reasons for the apparent reticence to enter into any detailed discussion of plans for

the Homestead itself are many and varied. Perhaps the most significant reason is that we are not ourselves quite sure of what the ultimate plans for restoration will be: we know what we would like to do, but what we will be able to do and when we will be able to do it hinges on the all-important matter of funding. Granted ample financing, restoration probably could be completed by 1979. To date the possibilities for such fast financing are not encouraging, and we are restricted to such restoration and repair as can be financed from our own rather modest funds. (The recently announced Federal grant of $1.139 million, to be matched by a similar grant from the State, applies only to the recreational facilities of the larger State Park and is not available for use in any of the Jacobsburg Historical Society projects.)

Late last October we received from our architectural consultant John M. Dickey, A.I.A., (a Henry descendant) a comprehensive Restoration Study of The Henry Homestead. Mr. Dickey conceives of the restoration as occurring in three phases, the first two being concerned with the interior, and the final phase with the exterior, each phase being accompanied by architectural sketches. In Mr. Dickey's own words, "The restoration is contemplated as a gradual process, to be accomplished as funding is available and to accommodate future changes in program." To quote him further, "No attempt has been made in these sketches to restore the house to its eighteenth century condition. The significance of the Henry family at Boulton lies in the nineteenth century, and it is considered appropriate to restore their homestead to that period, retaining the essentially rural domestic scale and character that they then enjoyed." (The original part of the structure, which consisted of a two-room log farmhouse, was presumably built by Jacob Hubler, possibly as early as 1740.)

Practically all the money spent on the Homestead thus far should be classified as repair work, rather than restoration: re-wiring, porch and railing repairs, water heater installation, roof repairs, etc. The single most important exception is the restoration of the spring-fed pond, which has now been practically completed under supervision of the special committee headed by Mrs. Isidore C. Mineo.

And it is well that we proceed with care in both the planning and the execution of the Homestead restoration, for it is in this area that perhaps the most important historical significance lies. Not only is the Homestead a living example of the style and architecture of its period, particularly from 1815 on, but it has, since 1809, been the home of successive generations of the Henry family; and, of even more significance historically than either of the first two, it served as the wellhead of the forces which knit together the varied, but interrelated, industrial life of the Jacobsburg/Boulton valley. Could we but overlook the implication of size usually associated with the word 'empire', that word would perhaps best describe the scope of the Henry operations here in their heyday. It was an industrial empire in miniature, almost entirely self-sufficient; it was paternalistic and complete. In his address before our annual meeting last October 26, Jeff (Dr.) Kenyon, of the Museum Historic Research Center of the University of Pennsylvania, recognized this historical significance when he said (to paraphrase), "Jacobsburg is unique in the sense that it is an example of early nineteenth century industrialism, left virtually untouched. It was an entire community where people worked and lived, and the material objects and fragments – things left in the ground – while fragmentary and often tantalizing – are invaluable as a means of learning more about people of that day through information not available from any other sources."

When completely restored the old Henry Homestead will become the museum of the vanished industrial empire and the repository of its artifacts. To what more fitting use could it possibly be put?

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IS THERE A DOUBLE-SEVEN IN YOUR LIFE?

Look at your mailing address on the outside cover (the mailing side) of this newsletter. If your name is followed by the numerals '77' it means that you have paid this year's dues and can sleep nights. If no numerals appear, why haven't you renewed your membership?

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

At the last Board meeting our Membership Chairman, Janet Gum (at whose home the meeting was held) reported that she had received dues from nineteen new members. She estimated the total paid-up membership at that time to be about 150 to 160 – somewhat below last year's figure, but showing signs that this year's membership should at least equal last year's.

In the May, 1976 issue of the 'Record' we reported that eighty-five members had not yet paid their 1976 dues. Eventually practically all of them did pay. Let's see what next month's report will bring out. For a while yet, all last year's paid-up members will be kept on the mailing list. You were interested enough in the Jacobsburg survival effort to lend your financial support in the past; we want to show our gratitude by continuing to keep you informed, whether or not you have remembered to continue your support.

Please, if you haven't already done so, take care of this important little matter today – important to the Society because our dues plus the voluntary assistance of our more dedicated members are the only dependable sources we have at the present time for the means to accomplish the many tasks that face us at Jacobsburg.

The question has frequently been asked whether we have any sort of membership card which can be given to paid-up members. The answer is, yes, we do have such cards. But getting them to you presents a little problem: our bulk mailing permit does not allow the sending of any matter which pertains specifically to the addressee. All contents must be alike to all recipients. A card identified with its recipient alone, such as a membership card, would not comply, and it is felt that to send each paid-up member his card by first-class mail would in the present circumstances be prohibitive.

HOWEVER, if when sending in your 1977 dues money you enclose a stamped self-addressed envelope requesting such membership card, our treasurer will be happy to send you one.

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DATES TO REMEMBER

SPECIAL BOARD MEETING to consult with John Dickey about plans for restoration of the Homestead – THURSDAY, APRIL 28, 7:30 promptly at the home of Mary Henry Stites

REGULAR BOARD MEETING – WEDNESDAY, MAY 4, 1977, 8:00 o'clock at the home of the President.

ANNUAL OPEN HOUSE at the Homestead – POSTPONED.

CRAFT FAIR – Saturday, July 16 – 4-H Club Center, Bushkill Center. Still time to volunteer your help, and we need it!

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Albert ('Mickey') Toth, one of our 'ambassadors-at-large', on March 17 , at the seventh annual banquet of the Northampton County Conservation District, presented a talk on the Jacobsburg Historical Society work, using slides and local historical artifacts. Our 'sphere of influence' is expanding.

DIRECTORY

Catherine S. Beers – President	Easton (253-4547)
Joseph DiGerlando – Vice President	Jacobsburg (759-7239)
Hilton Rahn – Secretary	Bethlehem (868-1789)
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COMMITTEES:

Bobbie DiGerlando – Craft Fair	Jacobsburg (759-7239)
Virginia Lopresti – Archaeology	Stockertown (759-1580)
Judy Sandercock – Hospitality	Easton (258-3806)
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John M. Dickey, A.I.A. – Consultant	Media, Pa.
Dr. Lee Graver – Archivist	Nazareth (759-3132)

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 _____

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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.