

The Jacobsburg Record

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER, 1977

Vol. V No. 6

COME AND BRING ALL YOUR FRIENDS AND RELATIONS

Do you remember Christopher Robin and how he always took along "all his friends and relations?" We hope you will do just that for our dinner meeting, October 20th. We are sure you will enjoy the food. You will find excellent home cooking, attractively served. We know you will find a warm friendly group. You will be able to see some of the "artifacts" from this year's digging at our archaeology site. Also we will have the slides of our Craft Fair on view.

We firmly believe you will find the main program-feature delightful. Mrs. Hilton Rahn, Sr., our speaker, is the mother of our Secretary, Hilton Rahn, Jr. She is a charming woman, born and raised in Berk's County and speaks Pennsylvania Dutch fluently. Over the past fifty years she has photographed barns, churches, old buildings, (some of them now gone) of rural Pennsylvania. In addition she has pictures of the early crafts and vocations of these rural people. You will find her talk lively and interesting and in English of course.

All members have received notices with details of this meeting. It is not too late to phone your reservation to Margaret Taylor, 252-1315 or send reservation to her at 733 Paxinosa Ave., Easton.

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A GLORIOUS OCCASION

The Open House and Tour held on September 11th has been highly praised by everyone "as a glorious occasion." We were pleased with the attendance and enthusiastic response. We hope you noticed our new flag-pole and flag. Albert Toth has furnished us with the following amusing account of the installation of the flag-pole.

"How" or "How not" to put up a flag-pole

It was a dreary Saturday morning when the Toth clan decided to put in the flag-pole at the Henry Homestead, Bud, Bill, James Trach and I. Bud drilled the holes, Bill dug the pit and Jim helped. The pipe measured 40 ft. and when we tried to raise it we found it was too long to hoist. Help was needed and I asked Robert Morris and his friend David Longley to assist. The only way to put this long pole up was for someone to climb the tall Hemlock, drop a line to be fastened with a Navy slip knot to the finial. David volunteered to climb the tree. We pulled and pushed and finally up went the pole. Now to get the drop line loose! The slip knot would not slip and there we were with 40 ft. of line at the top. I, a Navy man had

tied the knot!! With some shaking and tugging the line slipped to 20 ft. Not enough! Finally an 8 ft. ladder was set up and a knife fastened to a pole and we cut the slip knot. And just in time, for it began to rain. Moral: "It don't always work out the way you figure," so be ready with another idea.

Albert "Mickey" Toth

Another point of interest on September 11th was our newly restored pond. Lorraine Mineo has supplied us with an account of that project.

The Henry Homestead Pond

After a year of consideration, negotiation and reconstruction, the Society was happy to show the Homestead Pond of the Natural Garden in its full and beautiful form. Reconstruction was actually carried out by Mr. Paul Giroux of Wind Gap.

During the past winter, water from the spring was carried around the pond so the pond could be drained and cleaned. The stone walls, some of which were in sad disrepair, were removed and relaid so that all of the walls were of equal height. The walls on the dam-side half of the pond were prepared with clay behind the walls. The bottom of the pond was also lined with clay, then sprinkled with shale. In this way, "natural" edges and ledges were created as habitat areas for trout.

As further safeguards against pond leakage, another deep, narrow wall of clay was laid several feet beyond the breast-work; also in this area, but more directly behind the stone wall, chicken wire was planted to reinforce the pond against muskrat damage.

As in any reconstruction project - we are wiser by hindsight; there are some things we regret. It seems that the bottom of the pond was originally laid as a stone bottom. Mr. Lopresti expected something of this sort, but, we weren't certain until the pond was thoroughly cleaned - stone bottom and all. We also regret the loss of a beautiful pond-side hemlock. But, all things considered, the pond walls are now stabilized, and the pond water itself appears to be stabilized also. Ferns are again beginning to grow around the ponds edge and watercress was planted back in the pond after decades of its absence. And Mr. Unger has replanted vinca in the bare spots.

We, the Committee, Mary Henry Stites, Kay Beers, Joe Lopresti and I are grateful for the assistance of: Roslyn Kahler, Lee and Virginia Graver, "Bill" Mineo, Terry Hannold, the cooperation of all other board members and the interest of Society members.

Sincerely,

Lorraine Mineo, Chairman
Pond Reconstruction Committee

We are grateful to all the people who worked so hard to have the

grounds and house in order for the day: Mary Henry Stites, who planted the chrysanthemums and had the yard cleaned up generally; Diane Warner for her work in the herb garden; Claude Jones and Mickey Toth who arranged the tools for display; Mary De. Raymond, Kitty Fluck, Janet Gum, Virginia Lopresti for arranging and cleaning the house; Mr. Robert Wendler for displaying his charming models of the early buildings; and July Sandercock, Anne Davis, Peggy Shuttleworth, Margaret Taylor for refreshments.

The tour bus and guides were arranged for by Joe DiGerlando. The Reverend Forest Miller again gave generously of his time to drive the bus, Molly Santee was the guide on the bus. Joe and Virginia Lopresti were at the archaeology site along with Harold and Margaret Stocker. Margaret displayed her beautiful models of buildings of the area. Two interesting visitors at the "dig" were Hannah Jones Smith, a direct descendant of Jacob Hubler, and Charles Unangst from whose families properties, iron was sold to the forges at Jacobsburg. Guides in the woods were Charles Sandwick, Jr., Robert Newell and Bob Wright.

We are grateful to all these people and many more whom we have not named.

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FROM OUR ARCHAEOLOGISTS' NOTE BOOK

Spring 1977

The Spring of 1977 was a lonely one in Jacobsburg. Not a single volunteer showed up to assist in the digging. We were anxious to start on our new-found building "F." On top of what seemed to be two different occupation levels, there was still a foot of rocks and clay in the southern half of the building. And over the northern half there were four feet of rocks and clay, material that had been piled there when we worked in the tannery. We had had no idea that this building existed until we used a back-hoe late last summer. Then we had dug a trench from the west wall of the tannery towards the spring. Twenty feet from that wall we unearthed another wall. We also had used the back-hoe to investigate along the south wall of the tannery toward the south-west corner. Another wall extending southward from the outer edge of that corner was revealed. Saturday morning digs revealed the extent of this wall.

Early Summer 1977

We applied for workers from the Federally funded Lehigh Valley Manpower Commission. On July 5th one girl and one boy came to work. The following Monday another girl and another boy joined us. Unfortunately the girls did not adapt well to the heavy work of shovelling. So they

soon left us. But two more boys were sent to us. Now we had four boys and a new wheelbarrow and the work really progressed. The stones and clay were hauled closer to the creek. The sound of metal hitting rocks was music to our ears.

Very few artifacts were found in the center of the upper level of our building which we had designated "F". Along the 20 inch wide western wall we found small pieces of very thin window pane glass. Our only worthwhile find was a large, copper, one-cent coin date 1826. Our main object was to reach the area of the back-hoe trench. Three weeks of hard work resulted in the clearing of the upper level except for a tree outside the southwest corner of the tannery.

With shovels and hand hoes we made a new trench to the wall of the tannery. The last six inches were dug with trowels so that we would not miss or harm what we were looking for - a beveled wooden trough which we are quite sure carried water into the tannery. With this accomplished we decided to shift to unexplored areas east of the tannery. The lower or original floor level of "F" will have to wait for Saturdays in September and October. We know it contains much "forge" debris.

July 25th We start on Building "H"

In the winter of 1975-76, Joe Lopresti and I had walked over a pile of rocks to the east of the tannery designated "H". It was an area very overgrown with brush and liberally sprinkled with twentieth Century discards. We could not help but wonder about its past as former residents seemed to be unaware of it. In the fall of 1976 the archaeology supervisor directed the rented back-hoe into the area and managed to dig a trench on the outside of a building 50 feet by 24 feet. Also by a stroke of luck, several loads of debris were removed from the east side of an inside wall at right angles to the north line of stones. Due to the size of the building and the fact that two harness rings were found, we thought that we might have a stable. Vance Packard on visiting the site and surveying the five foot by five foot stone foundation in the center of the building thought we might have forge base. With the aid of the Fall Archaeology class at Lafayette College we had discovered in front of the stone structure a brick hearth. Behind it, in the two foot area between it and the north wall, we had pulled out a considerable number of bricks, some of them with a heavy coating of soot. A Saturday morning in November provided a frost covering to the area. It was decided to wait for spring.

On Monday, July 25th our crew of now five Manpower boys started along the west wall of the twenty-four foot wide structure. Summer had encouraged many bushes and briars to blossom in the dark humus atop the fallen walls. Some were cut with shovels, others pulled out by the roots. Rocks were visible everywhere, each had to be turned over with a shovel or hoe before it was picked up and tossed on the outside of the wall. After lowering the inside area about two feet, the material between the rocks turned to yellow clay mixed with lime. We soon decided this material

had lined the inside walls, and were definite about it when we found formed pieces as they had fallen from the laid up stones. As we worked toward the center of the building our progress was impeded by the roots of a large tree in front of our stone fireplace. On the north side of the floor (hard packed clay) we found about a dozen pieces of slipware and redware. Near the stone foundation, we found shell edged ceramics, some pieces of hand-painted ceramics. Many bits of Staffordshire ware was found, the transfer pattern being in rose, black, olive green, blue, and mulberry dots. A half dozen pieces of clear glass containing lead could be Boston Sandwich glass but have not been positively identified as yet. These artifacts prove to us this was the home of a well to do family, perhaps that of Henry Spoonheimer.

In the area in front of our 5 x 5 stone supports, there was a brick floor, part of which was formed by Moravian roofing tiles. The area appeared to be very hard packed. About twelve feet on either side of the fireplace whole and crumbled bricks were very much in evidence of a brick chimney. In front of the brick hearth (that is to the south) stones seem to be placed on a 1 foot lower level of the floor. Clay with lime is packed around the rocks. In this hard packed material a one inch redware pipe bowl with a glaze on the outside was unearthed. The same day a corn cob pipe bowl was found along the east wall and a white kaolin pipe bowl was found along the south wall. An expert on antiques thought the brown glaze pipe was a child's bubble pipe because of the size and the fact that it had never been smoked. After subduing a swarm of bees among the rocks in the northwest corner of the structure and removing a small tree, work continued. About this time four students from the Philadelphia School for the Deaf joined our work force. The area became a little crowded but we were soon ready to move onto other discoveries. But before we did, a new treasure was found among the rocks and clay directly against the north wall about thirteen feet from the northeast corner. It proved to be a Calabash Flask with a fisherman in a tall hat and tail coat pressed into the glass on one side, opposite was a hunter similarly garbed. The bottle was made by the Whitney Glass Company in Glassboro, New Jersey in 1858.

Random Thoughts at the End of the Summer

The weather this past summer has been unbelievable. At first it was so hot we had to give our crew a ten minute break every hour. Even then the digging progressed very slowly. Then came the rain. And then the mud thanks to a park project. Our crew did not adapt themselves to the tedious indoor archaeological work of cleaning and sorting artifacts. We ended up digging in the rain and resorting to our dining tent during the downpours. Quite a few hours of work remain to mark and catalogue our summers harvest of artifacts. Any volunteers/? weather permitting we will continue digging on Saturdays on two unfinished projects. We investigated the field where a picnic area and parking lot are being built by the State Park quite near our Archaeological Digs. We were rather



Well

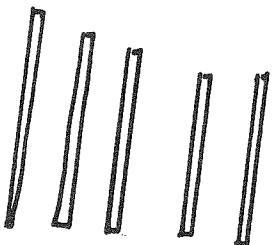
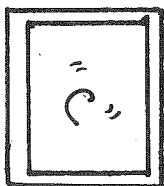
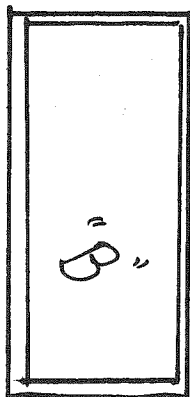


To new picnic Area

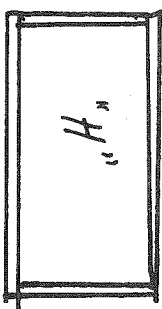
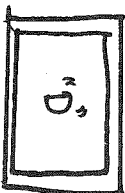
North

Not drawn to Scale
10-5-77

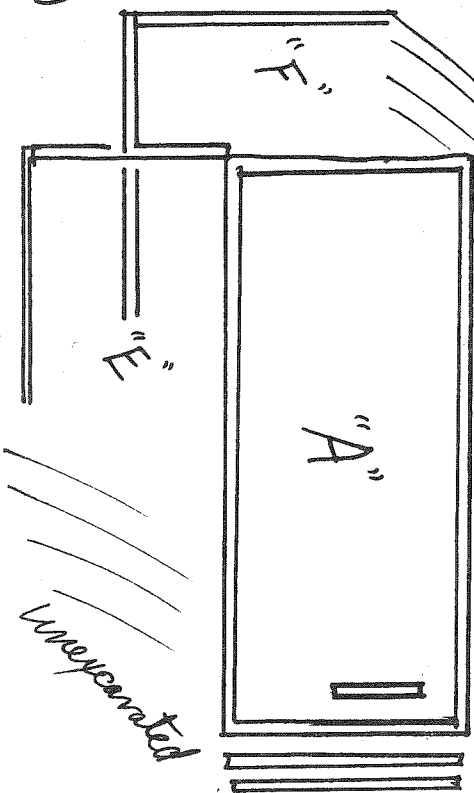
To State Park Rd



G



- A. Tannery
- B. Storage Shed
- C. Home
- D. Smoke Shed
- E. Casting Area
- F. Forge Room.
- G. Bridge Supports
- H. Home - (Spoonheimer?)
- I. M.S. Henry Office
- J. M.S. Henry Home
- K.



Unexcavated

To creek

All double lines are
Stone Walls
Excavated by
Jacobsburg Hist. Soc

disappointed in not finding any Indian artifacts because we had been told that at one time many had been picked up in that area. We did discover another pile of stones that must be investigated further. Among the pictures taken this summer were some of the dam sites for the first Jacobsburg gun factory, mill race for the Furnace, Gristmill and Sawmill. Artifacts unearthed this summer will be displayed at our dinner meeting on October 20th.

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WE ARE SAD

We deeply regret that two of our Board members have found it necessary to resign. Lorraine Mineo is resigning because of the pressure of other duties - her house, husband and two small sons, her teaching in the Biology department, at Lafayette College, and the building of a new home. Lorraine has been a very valuable member of the Board, always helping and encouraging with her ideas and comments. Specifically, Lorraine was responsible for the construction of the new road at the Homestead, the cleaning out and replanting of the Natural Garden surrounding the pond, and the reconstruction of the pond. We have all enjoyed and admired these improvements.

Martin Smith is resigning because of ill-health. We cannot say how deeply we regret this and hope he will feel better soon. Those of you who have been faithful readers of our Jacobsburg Record and have repeatedly praised its style and content know how inimitably he writes and edits. He has been so conscientious and faithful that you can understand what a blow this has been to your President who has been forced to edit this edition. Our best wishes and deep gratitude to Lorraine and Martin.

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DATES TO REMEMBER

Oct. 17 - (Monday). Research Committee home of the Chairman, Charles Sandwich, 819 Spring Garden Street, Easton, at 7:30 P.M.
All members interested are very welcome.

Oct. 20 - Annual Dinner Meeting
6:30 P.M., Memorial Hall, Stockertown, Pa.

Nov. 2 - Board Meeting at the Homestead, 8:00 P.M.

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AN ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We thank Earl Peace for taking pictures at our Craft Fair, having

them developed and presenting the slides to the Soccity. They can be seen at our dinner meeting, October 20th.

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A SPECIAL MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

Since the Summer of 1972 I have served as your President, first as Chairman of the Steering Committee which formed the Jacobsburg Historical Society, and then as the elected President. It has been one of the richest, most rewarding experiences of my life. Were it not for serving you, I would never have met many of you dear, beautiful, and interesting people. There is no need to enumerate our achievements during these past years. They are very familiar to you through your participation and through reading our Jacobsburg Record. No President could have wished for better cooperation from both membership and Board. I deeply appreciate all of your interest and hard work which has made my task easier. To the Board, both past and present, and all Committee Chairmen, I can only say "Thank you" for your loyalty, diligence, support and enthusiasm.

Although we have made enormous strides in our plans there is still so very much to be done. Plans for our Society stretch far into the future and some of us may never see them accomplished. However, I am sure that the future is bright for "Jacobsburg."

I no longer feel able to assume the over-all responsibility for the work of the President or your Society. However, I shall remain on the Board working hard with your new President.

Since the dinner meeting on October 20th will be my last time as your President I especially hope that many of you will be able to attend.

Sincerely and with love to all

Catherine S. Beers

Catherine S. Beers

DIRECTORY

Catherine S. Beers — President Easton (253-4547)
Joseph DiGerlando — Vice President Jacobsburg (759-7239)
Hilton Rahn — Secretary Bethlehem (868-1789)
Margaret Taylor — Treasurer Easton (252-1315)

DIRECTORS:

Mary DeRaymond — Open House	Nazareth (759-2820)
Janet Gum — Membership	Nazareth (759-1862)
Joseph Lopresti — Archaeology	Stockertown (759-1580)
Lorraine Mineo — Natural Garden	Nazareth (759-0867)
Charles Sandwick, Sr. — Research	Easton (252-1290)
Martin A. Smith — Editor, The Jacobsburg Record	Easton (253-2293)
Mary Henry Stites — Homestead Grounds	Boulton (759-4693)
Albert Toth — Maintenance and Repairs	Belfast (759-2153)

COMMITTEES:

Bobbie DiGerlando — Craft Fair	Jacobsburg (759-7239)
Virginia Lopresti — Archaeology	Stockertown (759-1580)
Judy Sandercock — Hospitality	Easton (258-3806)
Joy Nathan — Publicity	Easton (253-7532)
John M. Dickey, A.I.A. — Consultant	Media, Pa.
Dr. Lee Graver — Archivist	Nazareth (759-3132)

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION for JACOBSTOWN 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.