

The Jacobsburg Record

MARCH/APRIL 1978

Vol. VI No. 2

JACOBSTOWN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

SPRING MEETING--APRIL 6, 8 PM

College Hill Presbyterian Church, Brodhead and Monroe Sts.
Easton, PA.

Speaker: Miss June Sprigg - "Shakers and Trippers"

Artistically talented and of brilliant mind, June Sprigg was graduated from Easton Area High School in 1970 and from Lafayette College, summa cum laude, in 1974. Her book, "By Shaker Hands," has received wide acclaim as one of the top 50 books in overall presentation published in 1975, not only for its text, but also for Miss Sprigg's 250 original graphic drawings of hand-made Shaker furniture and items of household practicality.

The book unravels in sympathetic understanding the interesting Shaker story when sect members emigrated in 1774 from Manchester, England, to the New World. Because the sect believed in celibacy, its propagation depended on converts, but there haven't been any in more than 50 years, and now the Shakers are not accepting any new members to their rolls.



Miss Sprigg, whose mother lives at 408 Clinton Terrace, Easton, is the youngest member ever to be elected to the Lafayette Board of Trustees. Her major in college was art history, and she received a master's in Early American Culture from the University of Delaware's Winterthur Program. She is Curator of Hancock Shaker Village, Hancock, Massachusetts, a restored Shaker Community with over 50,000 objects in 16 buildings open to the public.

We hope our entire membership will keep in mind the date of April 6 to hear Miss Sprigg in her illustrated slide talk on this fascinating religious group known as the Shakers. The meeting will be in the Chapel of the church, and refreshments will be served in the Lounge by the hospitality committee, Mrs. Robert Sandercock, chairman. Come to talk of our own Jacobsburg project to fellow members of the Society. In this connection, see the important announcement from the president on page 3 of this issue.

This is an open meeting, and guests are welcome to come.

NEW SUPERINTENDENT FOR JACOBSTOWN PARK

The Easton Express of March 7, 1978, carried the item that Dale Prinkey of Jeannette, Pennsylvania, is the new superintendent of Jacobstown State Park, Bushkill Township. According to the announcement, Prinkey served as water treatment plant operator at Shawnee State Park from the time of his appointment by the Pennsylvania Bureau of State Parks in April 1976. Theodore George, formerly superintendent at Jacobstown, has been transferred to Evansburg State Park in Montgomery County.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

The 22nd Annual Institute of Pennsylvania Rural Life and Culture will be held June 20-23, 1978, in the Pennsylvania Farm Museum of Landis Valley near Lancaster. Theme: A Continuing Perspective Upon Early American Daily Life. Subject titles include: Pennsylvania Antiques---1978 Edition, Ethnic Identity in Pennsylvania German History, Baskets and Their Makers in Pennsylvania from Early Times to Present--An Analysis of a Folk Craft.

Craftsmen skilled in traditional methods will conduct workshops in Straw Basketry, Corn Husk Braiding, American Toleware Painting, and Stenciling on Wood.



We were happy to see the U.S. Postal Service get into the swing of crafts with one of its recent stamps. The colors and designs are typical quilt representations. If you haven't seen them, ask for them at your favorite P.O.

All of which brings us to mention we are looking forward to our Jacobstown Society Craft Fair. Are there further ideas for a change in name, apart from the one stated in our last issue, Colonial Heritage Day?

Remember the date---July 15 Mary Lou Audenried and Diane Warner have been working on a letter of invitation to craftspeople, even in these eastern United States. They would appreciate suggested names. Get in touch. Keep in touch. Plan to be there.

Mr. Charles Sandwick is working on a Register of marriages, baptisms, and deaths as found in the records of the Schoeneck Moravian Church, 1762-1978.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF PROGRESS--A TURNING POINT

Kay Beers, President

For some time the officers and Board of Directors of the Society have been working with Mr. John Dickey, our Architect Consultant, on plans for restoration of the Henry Homestead. Many of our members saw the preliminary sketches and heard Mr. Dickey speak about them at our Spring Meeting 1977. The plans were also on display at our Open House in September.

At the November 1977 meeting, the Board voted to ask Mr. Dickey to explore the possibility of securing a small grant to carry out thorough historic architectural studies on the Homestead and the adjacent buildings. Then we learned that the Bureau of State Parks had applied for federal funds for Historic Restoration in the Jacobsburg State Park.

We have received the following letter from Mr. Forrey, Director of the Bureau of State Parks. This allocation of funds will allow us to proceed with the preliminary studies and later, when we receive the proper authorization, to proceed with restoration plans.

From the Department of Environmental Resources, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, March 10, 1978:

Catherine S. Beers, President
Jacobsburg Historical Society
Box 345
Nazareth, Pennsylvania 18046

Dear Mrs. Beers:

I am pleased to inform you that the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission has approved the allocation of \$40,000 in Federal Historic Preservation Funds to assist in the preservation of the Henry Homestead.

This project will be recommended for approval by the National Park Service since final approval by this federal agency is necessary before the project may be implemented. It is my understanding that the \$40,000 grant will be matched by an equal amount of funds provided by the Jacobsburg Historical Society.

The long-term program of restoration of the Homestead as stated in Mr. John M. Dickey's letter dated December 13, 1977 to me, is acceptable.

Please note that this letter is a notification of allocation of funds. It is not an authorization for the expenditure of funds or the initiation of project work. We will be providing you with more specific instructions and information regarding the grant.

Sincerely,

William C. Forrey, Director
Bureau of State Parks

REMINISCENCES AND RECIPES FROM THE BOULTON COOKBOOK

With the coming of spring, Boulton rejoined the outside world. Sleighs were hoisted to carriage house lofts and carriages were once again in evidence. Where carriages had been kept in winter I have no idea. It's my theory that the shafts were removed and hung across the rafters thus making close storage possible. The winter fur robes were aired and carefully packed away, with plenty of camphor, in the attic.

To make easy pulling for the horses, carriage wheels were removed and the axles carefully greased. All summer long this was a once-a-week chore usually reserved for Saturday mornings, as was washing the carriage, to be ready for church the following morning. With this general resurgence, company once again began to arrive, some expected, some unexpected but all were made welcome.

One of the joys of spring was the good fresh-picked salad makings from the family gardens. The first lettuces, little green onions, and radishes went into salads usually served with a French dressing of vinegar and oil, pepper, and salt or a boiled salad dressing seasoned lightly with mustard. Mayonnaise was also used but rather less frequently--probably because of the difficulty in making it. Without electricity and the blenders and mixers that go with it these days, mayonnaise then was a touchy thing to undertake, requiring a strong and tireless pair of arms and infinite patience for dropping in the oil, a tedious business at best but needful if the dressing was "to get."

The French dressing followed the time-honored proportions of salt and fresh ground black pepper mixed with vinegar. Olive oil came last, twice as much oil as vinegar, and the whole beaten in a shallow bowl with a fork until it thickened. If the salad was in a bowl, the dressing was poured over the top and the whole carefully and thoroughly mixed--and, oh, the deliciousness of it all. The flavor of the dressing was sometimes varied by the addition of a pinch of sugar to give smoothness and body, or a touch of mustard or tarragon vinegar was added. In later years when such sauces as Worcestershire and A-1 were available, a few drops occasionally were added.

In my time, the French dressing was usually made at the table by my father, and its concoction became something of a ritual. He was an innovator who delighted in trying something new--usually with success.

The boiled dressing was made on the kitchen stove, stored in the ice-box, and served in a small china bowl with a little silver ladle. This was good, not only on salads, but also on spinach and other cooked greens. My grandmother's recipe follows:

Boiled Dressing

1 whole egg	2 tablespoons of butter
Pinch of mustard (adjust to taste)	½ cup of vinegar
1 large teaspoon of cornstarch	

Mix and boil until the mixture thickens. Dilute with vinegar to taste, if it is too thick. Note: It must be remembered that in the days of these recipes, the vinegar came from a large cask in the cellar, and its acidity varied. So taste and, if necessary, dilute!

After 1932 when electricity came to Boulton, mayonnaise became quite usual. Made at first in an electric mixer and later in a blender, the product was delicious and certainly the process has been greatly simplified.

Mayonnaise

(Use a blender for this!)

1 whole egg ½ teaspoon salt
2 tablespoons of fresh lemon juice ½ teaspoon dry mustard (¾ teaspoon if
or vinegar you want a spicier product)
1 cup olive oil or any good cooking
oil. Olive oil adds a flavor of its own.

Put all ingredients except oil into the blender, cover, and mix five to 10 seconds. Remove small cover and, with blender on medium speed, slowly, very slowly, pour in the oil. This takes about one minute or possibly longer. Beat until all oil has been absorbed. Refrigerate.

This recipe is an easy one and makes a delicious, delicately seasoned mayonnaise. Quantity, about 1½ cups.

Mary Henry Stites

JACOBSBURG SOCIETY RECIPIENT OF MUSEUM ITEMS

Mr. and Mrs. Herman Hahn have donated to the Society the reprinted booklet, "A Partial Record of Peter Philip Hahn and His Descendants, 1715-1914." The details of the family history were first gathered by the late George W. Hahn, who died just this past March 4 at the age of 97 in Fellowship Bible Home, Nazareth. The Society is fortunate also to have a taped interview with Mr. Hahn recounting some of the history of Northampton and Lehigh Counties. The Hahn family, as did so many folks in this area, came from the Palatinate or Lower Rhine section of southwestern Germany. George Hahn operated his own building trade business in Nazareth for 47 years, served as an officer in the Nazareth Moravian Church, and was a past officer of the Moravian Historical Society. We are pleased to have the booklet as a permanent repository from the Easton Hahns.

Miss Ida Magee, Easton, has given us 28 8½ x 11 drawings by Edward C. Smith of Traditional Pennsylvania Dutch activities with accompanying explanations, with each drawing and text mounted on its own cardboard for effective display. This is a delightful series--perhaps someone can tell us about the artist or where the drawings first appeared. Details are authentic and exquisitely done--lovingly, in fact, with understanding humor. Included in the collection are representations, for instance, of "Belsnickel," "The Calithumpian Band," "Schnitzel Bank," and the New Year celebration, "Neijorhrschesse." We appreciate Miss Magee's thinking of us as a possible interested party. Thank you!

FIELD JOURNAL

(Excavation of Matthew S. Henry Home, Continued)

Among the burned slates we found in the Matthew Henry Homestead were many hand-cut nails. The numerous hard yellow clay bricks we found in the fireplace area were stamped "Woodbridge, N.J." Forty of them we neatly piled beside the fireplace in one day. In the fireplace itself we discovered a burned plate with a familiar blue bird pattern of the 1920's on the face of it.

As soon as the burned material was removed with shovels, we took to our knees and trowels to excavate the next 1 ft. of clay and artifacts. We decided to work the fireplace area first and immediately started to find some "goodies"--a piece of white kaolin pipestem, a bottom of a blown glass bottle, and other bits of glass. In the upper part of the excavation we found several pieces of slipware, some imported Staffordshireware and pearlware. Rather small pieces of very thin windowpane were uncovered in this unlikely area. On the third day we found a white kaolin pipe bowl. We excavated more pearlware with a blue shell edge, some flow blue and spatterware sherds. Every day we found many fowl bones. We can't help supposing that diners seated at the table threw the cleaned bones toward the open fire and missed their mark. Imbedded in the clay were small pieces of brick, bits of lime, seashells, and mussel shells.

The area directly inside the east door (see drawing, Vol. VI, No. 1), proved to be a treasure spot. The press-down latch from the door was recovered along with two hinges. Numerous buttons had been lost and were found there. More bits of very thin windowpane were picked up along with a few more pieces of ceramic.

From the door area we moved to the northeast corner of the ground-level floor. Several large pieces of an old English ceramic bowl were found. It had bands of blue and yellow running around it. It was further decorated with spots of brown paint daubed with the tip of a finger. (An antique buff tells us the paint was mixed with urine to create the decoration). At the north end of the hearth a two-brick wide and two-brick thick wall was all that was left of the divider between the cellar area and the kitchen. It extended west under 4 ft. of unexcavated material. A piece of stoneware plate was found partially covered by the brick wall. In the angle of the east wall and the north wall of the stone fireplace, two more pieces of this plate were excavated. In front of the hearth a blue glass marble and an orange glass $\frac{1}{2}$ -bead were found. It was definitely established that the stone support of the Italian bakeoven was incorporated in the original structure of the stone home. A foot of clay was excavated in front of the hearth and to both sides of it. It was brown with darker spots and beneath it the yellow-orange clay seemed not to be disturbed.

From the fireplace, we moved to the southeast corner of the room between the window and the door. Our Manpower help having long since departed, this excavating was taking place on the Saturdays in September. A few more buttons were found along with pieces of brown, red, and blue

Staffordshire sherds, as well as some hand-painted ware. Several pieces of slag were found in the dark brown clay mixed with lime--a crud-like material. Could the slag have been brought into the kitchen on a pair of muddy boots worn at the furnace? Again we found numerous pieces of very thin windowpane, the bottom of a blown glass bottle, and many square-cut nails. After digging out 1 ft. of material there, we moved our carefully piled bricks so that we could investigate the area next to the brick fireplace wall. More next time----

Virginia Lopresti

RAMBLINGS

The top right-hand corner of the evening paper had a small heading about the weather: "The next 5 to 10 days will be extremely cold with temperatures hovering around zero at night to 10 above during the day." No, not 1978, but exceedingly important news in relation to the following project in Boulton's heyday.

Robert Henry informed the local men of the area that the time was here--Floyd Rader and Dayton Serfass were to hitch the horse to the Steam Jenny, which was on a large wooden sled, and take it to the icehouse on the west bank of the dam. When it was in position, the instructions were to take the ice marker, horse drawn, to the dam and start scoring the ice. Other men would follow with ice saws and peaveys. Still another group would work on the Steam Jenny. The latter connected the drive wheel and belt to the pulley that moved the chain connected to the gears and machinery housed at the foot of the slope right at the waterfront. Then the metal race was made ready for the first cakes of ice.

Up at the icehouse, the trip lever was set for a 6 ft. height to match the cutting made earlier in the winter. While the scoring progressed, another crew was ready in the icehouse with their tools and sawdust. Three men worked inside--one was a spacer, one a shover, and the third man was a sawdust spreader. They would trade positions during the course of the work.

Soon the first block of ice was on its way to the top of the hill, the Steam Jenny pounding, its one-cylinder engine clacking like a locomotive. As the ice was piled higher inside the icehouse, the trip lever and curved race had to be raised, too, to a higher level. The process continued for several days, for it did not take long for the dam to freeze over for another cutting.

This was the way ice was harvested at one of the icehouses at the Henry Dam. The year was 1918 and this was the first week in January. The weather was so cold the spillway froze solid enough for Mr. Albert Roth to climb over the top.

Albert M. Toth

Deadline for May/June issue (publicity for July 15), May 22.

HISTORICAL RESEARCH

LIFE OF MATTHEW SCHROPP HENRY, Continued

By Charles M. Sandwick, Sr.

Until the death of his first wife- in 1833, Matthew S. Henry was the head of a miniature industrial empire in Jacobsburg. If Ann Catharine had lived, they would probably have continued to reside in Jacobsburg and perhaps to have prospered there..

The marriage of Matthew to his cousin Ann Catharine had been without the approval of the Moravian church authorities in Nazareth. They were married in Easton by a Lutheran pastor. Although they became what Matthew often called "refugees from Nazareth," they were welcomed by the Moravian congregation at Schoeneck, where several of their children were baptized. Until 1821, their children baptized at Schoeneck were listed under the classification of "fremder kinder," indicating their status of nonparishioners, but beginning in 1823 the baptisms were classified under "gemein kinder," showing that sometime in the interval 1821-1823 they had become affiliated with the Schoeneck congregation.

Early in 1828, Matthew and his brothers, John Joseph and William, became involved in a plan to build a union church to serve the Lutheran, Reformed, and Moravian families in the vicinity of Jacobsburg, Boulton, and Tria. Matthew served as secretary of the first meeting to plan this venture. His minutes follow:

"At a meeting of a number of contributors to the proposed Church and School house in Bushkill Township, at the house of William Henry at Tria, on the 24th of Febuary (sic), 1828, in order to confer about the propriety of building or erecting a Church and School house in the South-east part of Bushkill Township, Lewis Micke was appointed Chairman and Matthew S. Henry, Secretary. And after the foregoing Constitution was read, and the different points or sections discussed, it was by a majority adopted. Whereupon an Election was held for three Trustees, one Treasurer, Five building Committee and Seven for Collectors; when it appeared that the following were duly elected: Trustees, Lewis Micke, of the Reformed Church; J. Joseph Henry, of the United Brethren; Thomas Gold, of the Lutheran Church; Building Committee: William Henry, Thomas Gold, Lewis Micke, Matthew S. Henry, John J. Rogers; Treasurer, William Henry; Collectors: J. Joseph Henry, Abraham Ward, Michael Fehr, Lewis Micke, John J. Rogers, Matthew S. Henry, Martin Fry, Jr. Signed Mat. S. Henry, Secy.; Lewis Micke, Chairman." (See W. H. Brong, History of Evangelical Reformed Church, Belfast, Pennsylvania, 1828-1938; pp. 1-3).

Moravian involvement in this union church continued until March 21, 1903, when E. T. Henry, the trustee representing the Moravian congregation, issued a deed of their one-third interest to Charles Gold, representing the Lutheran congregation, and Oliver T. Reagan, of the Reformed congregation. In 1904, the Lutherans separated from the union to build

their own church, to be known as Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church of Belfast, and deeded their half interest in the union church to the Reformed congregation.

Ann Catharine Henry died 25 Feb. 1833. Matthew then sold his Jacobsburg properties and moved to Bethlehem with his six motherless children. There he married second, 16 July 1833, Esther Tyrill Berg, daughter of Moravian missionaries to the British West Indies.

Matthew Henry's youngest child, William, has left this summary of Matthew's life following the marriage to Esther:

"This second marriage promised to be very happy, for surrounded with all that wealth could provide, he purposed to devote his life and means to Christian work, and advancement in scientific knowledge. But God purposed otherwise. He lost all his wealth after years spent in litigation. In 1837 he endeavored to retrieve his fortune by leasing the iron works at Milford, Perry County, PA. Here his creditors pursued him. He returned to Wind Gap in 1840 and conducted his store at that place, but his credit broken by his relentless enemies, he removed with his family to Bethlehem, then to Easton, about 1843. Here his beloved wife Esther died February 20, 1854. About 1855 he removed to Philadelphia where he died January 20, 1862. He was laid away in the little graveyard at Frankford, Philadelphia, in peaceful rest from all his enemies who had robbed him.

"By this second marriage he had eight children, the youngest being the writer, born in Easton, August 29, 1853.

"Father compiled a Dictionary of the Delaware Indians language, now in possession of the Philosophical Society of Philadelphia.

"His map of Northampton County published in 1852 is in the Historical Society Room at Easton.

"His manuscript History of Northampton County is in the Pennsylvania Historical Society Room in Philadelphia.

"His History of the Lehigh Valley published in 1860 is one of the standard histories of the state." (W. H. Brong, op. cit.; pp. 6-7).

The last four children of Matthew and Esther Henry were born in Easton, PA. Two of them, Juliet Adele (1844-1848) and Jane Wood (b 1849), were baptized at the First Methodist Episcopal Church on Second Street. No baptisms have been found for Charlotte Comb (b 1846) and William (b 1853). Newspaper items disclose that Esther T. Henry, wife of Matthew S. Henry, Esq., died at Easton, Pa., Feb. 20, 1854, aged 44 years, 2 months, and was buried at the Methodist graveyard.

The 1850 federal census of Lehigh Ward, Easton, Northampton Co., Pa., gives the occupation of Matthew S. Henry as surveyor. The family then consisted of Matthew, Esther, and eight children, of whom two (Caroline, 30, and Maria, 26) were of his former marriage. The census taker may have been hard of hearing, for he mistook the sex of two of the boys: Allen, 10, was recorded as "Ellen," and Arthur, 8, as "Esther."

In addition to the writings of Matthew S. Henry which were mentioned by his son William, there are extant a number of letters which Matthew wrote to the editor of the Easton Whig during his years in Easton. Several of those letters which appeared in the Whig in 1851 were included by the late Ethan Allen Weaver (1853-1929) in his Local Historical and Biographical Notes. . . from files of newspapers published in Easton, Penna.; Germantown Penna. 1906; pp. 225-231. That particular series included biographical sketches of Jacob Arndt, John Arndt, and Philip Shrawder and an article about the Leni Lenape. We are indebted to Ethan Allen Weaver for having rescued from oblivion several writings of Matthew S. Henry including his Manuscript History of Northampton County, Pennsylvania, and for depositing them with the Historical Society of Pennsylvania.

Inasmuch as Ethan Allen Weaver was a native of Jacobsburg, we intend to make him the subject of a future article in the Record. From time to time we may also present with his own byline an article written long ago by Matthew S. Henry.

Note: We have all admired so much Charles Sandwick, Sr.'s intense research and high-caliber scholarship devoted to this history of Matthew S. Henry. We urge Charlie to take care as he convalesces from his recent gall bladder operation in Easton Hospital.

SUGGESTED READING

National University Publications Kennikat Press, 90 So. Bayles Ave., Port Washington, N.Y. 11050; lists the following:

By Charles Penrose Keith, "Chronicles of Pennsylvania: From the English Revolution to the Peace of Aix-la-Chapelle, 1688-1748. This major work is a comprehensive chronicle of the most neglected period of Pennsylvania history. 1917. No. 8503. 3 Vols. \$34.50.

By Cornelius Weygandt, "Red Hills: A Record of Good Days Outdoors and In, With Things Pennsylvania Dutch." In happy and zestful spirit, the author leads the reader round about the counties of Southeastern Pennsylvania as he discourses about the rich farms and the prosperous farmers and their distinctive characteristics and customs. 1929. No. 8507. Illus. \$9.50.

By Frederick Pursh, "Journal of a Botanical Excursion in the Northeastern Parts of the States of New York and Pennsylvania During the Year 1807. Edited by William M. Beauchamp. For historians and others with a particular interest in the early years of the last century. 1869. No. 8073. \$5.00.

By Sydney George Fisher, "The Making of Pennsylvania," The many nationalities and religions that made up the state of Pennsylvania are dealt with in detail, indicating the part each played in the making of the state. 1906-2nd ed. No. 8502. \$10.00.