

# The Jacobsburg Record

MARCH/APRIL 1979

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## CAMPAIGN REPORT

In the fall of 1978 when the Jacobsburg Historical Society planned a campaign for funds to renovate the Henry Homestead at Boulton, the goal set was for \$65,000. As of April 4, of the \$56,445 pledged by 589 contributors, \$38,089 has been paid. The amount pledged is almost \$10,000 short of our goal. If we can meet the \$65,000, with the \$40,000 in matching Federal Funds accomplished, we can meet the architect's minimum cost estimate of \$100,000 for renovations. However, \$10,000 more would assure us of landscaping!

Therefore, if you did not like to pledge funds for 1979 and 1980, but stated you would be willing to contribute again, will you please come forward now with a 1979 gift? Send all contributions to Janet Gum (Mrs. Geary A.), 247 N. Liberty St., Nazareth, Pa. 18064. Phone 215/749-1862.

Then, too, all canvassers are urged to complete their rosters. There are still about a possible 600 persons to be heard from.

An on-site meeting for April has been scheduled with John Dickey, architect; the Society committee of Albert Toth, Matthew Morris, Mary Henry Stites; Cay Beers, ex-officio, as Society president; William Forrey, State Director of the Bureau of State Parks; James Leshner, Chief, Department of Environmental Resources, Bureau of State Parks, Division of Maintenance and Resource Management; and Dale Prinkey, superintendent of Jacobsburg State Park.

## WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS!

We are delighted to welcome 60 new members to the Jacobsburg Historical Society, and we invite you to join in our activities. The Summer Festival would be a fine time to offer your services. Just fill out the forms sent with this issue of the Record. Furthermore, we have received dues for 159 membership renewals, and we have reinstated 20 delinquents. Our total membership as of April 4 is 239. BUT---about 90 persons have not yet paid their 1979 dues! Margaret Taylor, treasurer, will be happy to hear from you. If the number 78 appears at your address on the front cover, you have not paid your dues for 1979.

## SUMMER FESTIVAL PLANS--JULY 14

Reply quickly to the call for volunteers in this issue! Become a part of the fun! Tom and Ruth Bortell and Mary Lou Audenried are co-chairpersons. Judy Sandercock is in charge of foods and Beatrice Pritchard of plants, Joe Lopresti will organize tours, and Matt Morris and Hilton Rahn will man the birch beer bar. The co-chairpersons will oversee the booklet. Joe DiGerlando will again solicit ads, Margaret Taylor will sign up patrons, Ronald Audenried will write up crafter resumes, and Charlotte Sayre will select informational items.

The Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission and the Landis Valley Associates announce the 23rd annual Institute of Pennsylvania Rural Life & Culture at the Landis Valley Pennsylvania Farm Museum near Lancaster, June 19-22. As we go to press, no costs have been published. If interested, call Cay Beers.



## FOND MEMORIES OF THE HENRY FAMILY

Annie M. Babb Roth  
Jacobsburg Road, Nazareth

From the very beginning, my life has been touched by the Henry family. My mother worked as a domestic for Mr. and Mrs. Granville Henry from 1891 to 1897 in the house now owned and occupied by Miss Mary Henry Stites (Granville Henry's granddaughter). The house itself had been built in 1832 by Granville's grandfather, John Joseph Henry, brother of William Henry 3rd. In my mother's day was the time of dinner parties, linen tablecloths and napkins, as well as linen bedding, all of which had to be dried outside and meticulously ironed.

When my mother married my father, Calvin Babb, on January 1, 1897, they started housekeeping in the little house against the hill (The Franklin Fort) near the gun factory. It was there (the house is still standing) I was born November 18, 1899. I was christened in the Belfast Union Church that members of the Henry family helped to build in 1828.

In 1900 we moved about a hundred yards down the road into another Henry-owned house from which, in 1903, we moved across the Bushkill Creek into the big stone house that is at the foot of the hill, close to the creek. The next 10 years were the best a child could ever wish for. Excellent coasting on the hills and skating on the Henry dam in winter plus boating, swimming, and fishing in summer, in addition to roaming the woods in every season of the year were all a part of my growing up.

When we moved to the stone house, my father gave up his job as slate dresser at the quarry in Edelman to work for Uncle Granville and Aunt Mary as gardener and to take care of two fine horses, Kit and Maude, used exclusively for transportation. I remember the buggy, two-seated carriage, and truck wagon. It was always such a treat when my father would take me with him on an errand or to the grist mill in Jacobsburg for feed for the horses. In 1913, to make a place for a full-time farmer, we moved back across the creek to where we had lived formerly. So, it was during the memorable years from 1903 to 1913 that I learned to know and love the whole Henry family.

There were Uncle Granville and Aunt Mary and their daughter, Mary (Molly), the mother of Miss Mary Henry Stites, who were always special to me because of appreciated hand-outs, after a dinner party, such as Boulton chocolate custard or half-moon cookies, or perhaps fifty cents spending money at our Sunday School picnics. My father worked for the family for 38 years and enjoyed taking care of the lawn and garden long after his beloved horses were laid to rest in the orchard behind the barn.

Across the street from the Granville Henry home in the Old Henry Homestead, which now houses the Jacobsburg Historical Society Museum, lived Uncle Charlie and Aunt Emma in part of the house, and in another part lived Aunt Sophia (Sophie) and Aunt Clara (Tal), both maiden ladies. I recall that Aunt Sophie did all the cleaning, and Aunt Tal did all the cooking and baking. The latter, at Easter time, hid "Bunny" eggs for me under the huge branches of the tall evergreen trees. Uncle Charlie and I fished in the creek and set trotlines for eels following rainstorms when the water would be high and muddy. He was an excellent ice skater, and he and I spent many happy hours skating double, each of us even executing Figure 8's.



Then there were Uncle Rob and Aunt Susie, who lived in a house built up the hill from the Homestead by Robert's father, James Henry. (That house is now occupied by Ellis and Althea Neuner.) Uncle Rob and Aunt Susie had three daughters. Helen was the eldest and my first teacher in the Boulton school. Next came Ruth (see the following item in this issue of the Record), whose wedding to Clarence Clewell from Bethlehem I shall always remember. The ceremony was performed on the lawn of the Homestead amid the huge evergreens that are still standing. The youngest daughter, Harriet, gave me my first music lessons on a reed organ.

Uncle Charlie and Uncle Rob conducted an ice business. It was most interesting to witness the cutting of the blocks of ice that were then floated through an open channel to a horse-powered elevator, the blocks were lifted into the icehouse where they were heavily covered with sawdust to preserve them for summer use. I well remember the horse-drawn wagon, driven by Bob Steinmetz of New Village, that delivered ice to customers in Nazareth.

In January 1926, when the dam broke, a piece of my heart went with it right down the Bushkill. I have such happy memories of time spent in the area, the likes of which cannot be duplicated anywhere today. There was no fear then of harm to a girl fishing, skating, swimming, and roaming the woods alone. How times have changed!

Last, but not least, were Uncle Ed and Aunt Emily who lived in the home on the hill where Matthew Morris now resides. That house, too, was built by James Henry for his son Edward. Uncle Ed and Aunt Emily had a son William (named for his great uncle, William Henry 3rd), once postmaster in Nazareth, and a daughter, Katherine (Katy). Uncle Ed had the first chain-driven car in the area that frequently did not cooperate too well, either in mud or on a hill. He used the abandoned gun factory for various ventures, such as making cigar boxes, cleaning and shredding cement bags for use as filling for cheap mattresses, making canvas gloves, and possibly a few other business excursions I don't recall.

These are my memories of a fine, God-fearing, and lovable family.

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The Easton Express of March 27, 1979, carried the account of the death of Mrs. Ruth Henry Clewell of Swarthmore, Pa. She was 91 and the daughter of the late Robert William and Susan Munger Henry. Born in Boulton, she lived there 23 years. Her husband, Clarence E. Clewell, had died in 1966. He had been professor of electrical engineering, University of Pennsylvania, and the first director of the university's placement service.

A son, John Harold, and daughter, Ruth, live in Swarthmore.

Mrs. Clewell was a member of the Central Moravian Church, Bethlehem, the Jacobsburg Historical Society, the Moravian Historical Society, the DAR, and she had held memberships in numerous local Swarthmore organizations. Services were held in the Old Chapel, Bethlehem, and interment was in Nisky Hill Cemetery, Bethlehem.

We extend our sympathy to the families of Henry and Clewell with their long-time roots in our Boulton/Jacobsburg area.

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Sunday, September 9, 1979, Interpretive Tour of Jacobsburg Historical Sites. Rain date, September 16.



## CONTINUING REPORT OF THE 1978 FIELD JOURNAL

Virginia Lopresti

We had a good sized tree in the northwest corner of the Matthew S. Henry home foundation. We were happy for the coincidence of having the son-in-law of the last resident of Jacobsburg to have been married there to cut down the tree! He is Jim Begies married to Anita, daughter of Anna Tavianni Gamboni. The Tavianni family were the last to occupy the house. Every once in a while Anna drops in on the digs site to share her knowledge of how things were. Jim also took the trees out of our way that were cut in 1977 during the second week of our summer dig. Those portions he could use, he was happy to take away; those with termites---well, we dispose of those another way.

From the northwest corner tree, the boys were able to work the rocks out of the roots of the tree one by one. Eventually by its roots they were able to lug the trunk outside of the house boundaries. Again we found that the tree had just been sitting on top of the hard-packed floor.

As we worked along the north wall, we were amazed to find hundreds of very clean chicken feathers and countless shiny clam shells. They were well preserved in the lime and clay mortar from the north wall. The area covered was about 10 ft. long by  $1\frac{1}{2}$  ft. deep and extended about 3 ft. from the wall. We came to the conclusion they were the remnants of a clam bake.

The top third of the debris in the northwest corner was rather shy of twentieth century artifacts. We did find a disintegrating metal bedspring coil and the rusty running board from a car. Boys from the Philadelphia school were puzzled by the metal rug beater we dug up.

After the last stones were cleared from the area, we were ready to take to our knees and trowels. First we worked on both sides of a brick wall running east to west in the center of the house. One piece of flow blue china and one piece of blue edge plate were found almost underneath the two-brick thick wall. A rather old glass inkwell was found on the south wall near a 1903 nickel and an 1899 dime. An 8-oz. Bushkill Springs bottle and a Seitz Brewery ceramic bottle cap were found near the west wall burned area.

In the northwest corner two partly burned beams were uncovered. A large spoon was found wedged against the north wall at the packed clay floor level. A Castoria bottle, the broken lens from a pair of spectacles, an ironstone sauce dish with blue Dutch pattern, and a clay marble were among the square cut nails we troweled from the original floor base.

The northwest corner of the foundation was plastered, the plaster beginning 14 in. above the stone base of the wall and continued to the top of the remaining wall. On the west wall, matching plastering began 5 ft. 2 in. from the northwest corner. We assume this is where the stairway ended. Along the north wall, the plaster extended  $14\frac{1}{2}$  ft. from the northwest corner. Coincidentally, the center brick wall began  $14\frac{1}{2}$  ft. from the west wall. After taking pictures of the remaining walls, we proceeded to the next project.

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May Board meeting, first Wednesday, 8:00, May 2.



# CRAFT FAIR VOLUNTEERS

CRAFT FAIR SATURDAY, JULY 14, 11:30 to 7:00; AT 4-H CENTER,  
BUSHKILL CENTER, PA.

We need lots of help to make our Fair successful. There are many ways in which you can help. Here are some of them - Please check off what you can do and mail the whole sheet back to Ruth Bortell, 73 Willowdale Ave., Nazareth, Pa. 18064.

Your name, please \_\_\_\_\_ Tel. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ CRAFTS - I can demonstrate a craft or display a collection of interest.

\_\_\_\_\_ I can distribute posters in

\_\_\_\_\_ EASTON  
\_\_\_\_\_ NAZARETH  
\_\_\_\_\_ BETHLEHEM  
\_\_\_\_\_ ALLENTOWN  
\_\_\_\_\_ SLATE BELT

\_\_\_\_\_ STOCKERTOWN  
\_\_\_\_\_ EMMAUS  
\_\_\_\_\_ TREXLERTOWN  
\_\_\_\_\_ OTHER AREAS

\_\_\_\_\_ I will contribute to the baked goods table.  
(cakes, cookies and especially pies)

\_\_\_\_\_ I will contribute to the plant table.

\_\_\_\_\_ I will assist in the kitchen (2 hour shifts).

\_\_\_\_\_ I will help sell baked goods.

\_\_\_\_\_ I will assist in setting up the fair on Friday, July 13.  
From 7 to 9 p.m.

\_\_\_\_\_ I will assist in cleaning up at the Fair on Sat. at 7 till?

REMEMBER THE DATE. JULY 14 WILL BE HERE ALMOST BEFORE WE KNOW IT, AND THERE IS A FANTASTIC AMOUNT OF WORK TO BE DONE BOTH IN ARRANGING FOR THE EVENT AND STAFFING THE VARIOUS BOOTHS AND EXHIBITS. THIS IS YOUR FAIR SO LET'S ALL WORK TOGETHER TO MAKE IT A SUCCESS.

THANK YOU

MARY LOU AUDENRIED

TOM AND RUTH BORTELL

CO-CHAIRPERSONS