

The Jacobsburg Record

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 1979

VOL. VII, No. 5

ANNUAL DINNER MEETING - OCTOBER 25 - \$7.75

STOCKERTOWN MEMORIAL HALL

DUTCH TREAT BAR - 6:00 HOME COOKED TURKEY AND HAM DINNER - 6:30

Fruit Cup - Relishes - Candied Sweet Potatoes - Succotash -

Stuffing - Cauliflower - Lettuce with Bacon Dressing

Rolls and Butter

Cocoanut Cream Pie - Coffee or Tea

John M. Regrut, Civil War Round Table of Eastern Pennsylvania, will discuss and show the paraphernalia used by Union soldiers of the day. It is a period of interest to us in connection with the Homestead and the Henry gun factory--the time when the factory was in operation.

Members and friends are reminded to send reservation money to Miss Margaret Taylor, 733 Paxinosa Ave., Easton, Pa., 18042. The deadline is October 18. You will not receive tickets--come to enjoy an informal evening with good conversation, good food, and good fellowship. Let's celebrate the good feeling we have about the progress of the Henry Homestead restoration. Virginia Lopresti will exhibit some of the fascinating items she and Joe have unearthed in their eight weeks of summer digging.

Directions for getting to the Hall: Coming from the south on Rte. #33, take the Stockertown exit and turn right. You are perpendicular to Rte. #115. Cross it slightly to the right. At the dead end of that street, turn right, and the Hall will be on your left. Coming down from the north on Rte. #115, in Stockertown, immediately beyond the exit from Rte. #33, take the street to the left. At the end of that street, turn right, and the Hall will be on your left. Plenty of parking.

SLATE OF OFFICERS FOR THE YEAR 1980

October 25 marks the 7th annual meeting of the Jacobsburg Historical Society. It is, therefore, election-of-officers night. The organization is set up with a Board of twelve, including the usual first four officers. The president assigns to each of the other eight, specific areas to cover. The president has proudly stated ours is a Working Board. Work assignments will be made and announced on the Directory page of the January/February issue of the Record.

The nominating committee, headed by Jesse Sandwick, presents the following slate for action on October 25: President, Catherine S. Beers - Vice President, Joseph DiGerlando - Secretary, Mary Lou Audenried - Treasurer, Margaret H. Taylor; members of the Board - Janet Gum, Joseph Lopresti, Matthew Morris, Hilton Rahn, Charles Sandwick, Sr., Charlotte C. Sayre, John J. Schlamp, and Mary Henry Stites.

We wish to acknowledge with gratitude the services of Hilton Rahn,

the Society's first secretary, who found it necessary to resign that post because of pressing duties elsewhere. We appreciate his faithful services to the Board and his unflagging interest in the pursuits of the Society. He has consented to continue on as a Board member.

Hilton's 1979 term is being finished by Mary Lou Audenried, and we are pleased Mary Lou has consented to carry on in 1980.

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CAMPAIGN REPORT

Matthew Morris, campaign chairman, reports that now we need about \$6500 to complete our goal of \$65,000 in the Henry Homestead restoration drive. In addition, he says in terms of dollar cost, the project is about halfway completed. In a quick review, Matt says the original drive for funds netted about \$58,500 in pledges and cash from 602 persons. To date, in cash, we have close to \$45,000--among professional money raisers considered to be an excellent response. Now on to that final \$6500!

The committee particularly suggests that cash donors of last year may be able to repeat or increase their donation this year.

What can we see when we take a look at the house? All of the exterior is restored to the 1812 look. Much of the old kitchen is restored: the beehive oven and the walk-in fireplace. Bricks are down as flooring. The logs in the log cabin area are exposed--at least on two sides to show the original construction. Installation of utilities has progressed, and the tenant area is shaping up.

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FURTHER REMINISCENCES AND RECIPES FROM THE BOULTON COOKBOOK

Mary Henry Stites

With the coming of fall came the making of cider and apple butter. These were family undertakings. Cider was used for making vinegar and as a basis for apple butter. For the latter there were two large copper kettles--one now stands in my back sitting room beside the fireplace, filled with logs. The other, unfortunately, was sold by the two aunts when they decided to do some house clearing--after all, the days for making apple butter were past and who could possibly want a smoke-blackened, battered, old copper kettle? So, out with it! Fifty cents was fifty cents! And that's just what the antique dealer paid the two ladies. On that same visit, too, he managed to persuade them to part with several Windsor chairs and some other small treasures.

Apples were gathered for the cider making. They were picked, washed, and checked for evidence of worms--any such were discarded. Then the accepted apples were loaded into a farm wagon, empty barrels piled on top, and the whole load was trundled off to the cider mill not far away.

Getting the apples was no problem; in those days each house in Boulton had its orchard--no spraying was needed. This was before the days of the San Jose scale that would work such havoc with the fruit trees. There is one survivor of the original orchard, a Philadelphia Early,

standing not far from my brick house, battered by age and storm, hollow-trunked, and carefully wired together by Anthony Unger, the nurseryman at Cherry Hill. It is a cherished tree that still, in spite of its many infirmities, blooms every spring, a mound of apple blossom pink, later to be loaded with yellow-green red-stripped fruit, waiting to be picked for apple sauce, tarts, and all the rest of the good things that come from apples.

Cider was used in a number of different ways. For instance, no one ever thought of buying vinegar--it was aged from cider. In my childhood, my grandparents' cellar held a huge cask--it really must have been a hog's head--far larger than the ordinary barrel, lying on its side in a cradle about a foot above the earthen floor. At the front was a bung that with some effort could be turned. Then out poured the vinegar. Cider mother--that grayish unappetizing-looking skin that grows in cider and makes vinegar--and water were all that were needed to keep the cask full.

In apple butter making, first were the cutting and peeling of the apples, all done the day before the boiling. On the day itself, fires were made in the upper orchard of the Old House near the sharp bend in the road where the "Thank-ye-mams" used to be. The two big kettles, well scrubbed, were standing ready with the wooden stirrers that took two uncles to manage. Then the cooking began. Stirring was a long and tiresome business, hour after hour, with no stopping or the apple butter would burn. First the cider had to be cooked down to about half, then the apples, "schnitzed", sugar, and spices were added--the latter to taste, not too much clove and never sassafras. At the end of the long day--but always a festive one--the big kettles of apple butter were done and the product was ready to be divided among the various households, stored in stone crocks, and finally eaten--with cottage cheese, as filling for little tarts, and perhaps best of all, piled generously on good home-made bread, and that first generously, too, spread with butter.

THE FIELD JOURNAL, 1979
Virginia Lopresti

Fate was not on archaeology's side in the summer of 1979. Neither were the federally funded Manpower people. They came up with one young man to help us in our research for the Jacobsburg Historical Society. The area we selected in the Jacobsburg State Park was the site of an 18th Century mill on the property purchased by William Henry of Nazareth in 1792 from Abraham and Isaac Hubler. According to our research of the Henry papers on microfilm (a letter written by William Henry to the United States Government), he had erected a file shop and a blacksmith shop next to an extensive building by 1799.

The site is impossible to see from the Belfast-Jacobsburg Road. Brush, trees and weeds hide it from passersby. Our first project was to clear an area to the site from the public road where we were fortunate enough to find a flat even surface large enough to park two cars. As we approached the site, the terrain abruptly descended 3 ft. to a second level area. This area was wide enough for a road but was overgrown with brush. A second descent of 5 ft. brought us to the raceway that ends at

the southwest corner of a stone building. After removing the underbrush, but allowing the branches to overlap thus hiding the work area, we used our shovels to form steps in both steep hillsides. The second area was filled with garbage and every time we went up or down, we dislodged another bottle or some broken crockery.

The area inside the visible stone walls was cleared of spice bushes and other plants. The debris was carried over a slight rise toward the Bushkill Creek. We decided to use the area to the west of our building as a landfill site. It was the area where a sawmill was located. One high wall is still visible below the race bank. Pointed shovels were used to clear the trash from the nearest spot, namely the southwest corner of the mill. We knew the mill was used until about 1915, so that all the garbage dumped into our foundation had been put there since that time. A few unbroken bottles were saved, but the catsup bottles, Clorox containers, and pickle jars were tossed by hand, hoping to break them against the stones so that they would occupy less space. Almost immediately we started to find unusual bricks, unusual in shape and unusual in color. The shapes led us to believe the historian who wrote that hand-made and salt-glazed bricks were used for the forge! We would like to believe they were packed by hand, then placed in position while still wet and not prefired. The firing in the forge turned the bricks beautiful shades of blue, lavender, purple, and gray. Now they are easily broken and reveal glass-like, almost vitreous, interiors. We soon came to the rich dark soil at the bottom of the race. We also discovered a slab of natural slate that became a part of the southwest corner of our research project.

We worked along the west wall and soon discovered a doorway into the building. We worked along the north wall and found a large open space. We assume this was the exit for the water used to run the mill. Water still fills the area from the north wall to the present Creek bed. We worked along the outside south wall that would be at the second story level. We removed enough trash to make a path 2 ft. wide. Five feet from the corner we found another doorway. According to a report of our deceased historian, the late Martin Smith, the water in this mill dropped 11 ft. If this were true, we knew we had a lot of hard work ahead of us. Eleven feet of garbage had to be removed by hand to reach the working level of the original shop. Undaunted, we began the huge task. Our 14-year-old helper, Lee Dearringer, really developed muscles in the process. We were indeed grateful for our volunteers: one grandson and two 11-year-old neighbors.

From Pennsylvania Heritage, "In Search of the Elusive Basketmaker," by Jeannette Lasansky

Willow, the prevalent traditional basket material for immigrant groups, was used in Pennsylvania by Gypsies and by those working in the town of Basket (Berks County). In some parts of Pennsylvania willow was replaced by round oak splints, deliberately and painstakingly fashioned to duplicate willow. It is not known whether the European immigrants were just overwhelmed by the abundance of wood here, whether they sought a basket more durable than those made of willow, or whether they had trouble finding the basket willow that is native to Europe. Whatever the reason, the wide range of European willow forms was duplicated here in round oak.

HISTORICAL RESEARCH

JACOB COPE OF JACOBSTOWN

By Charles M. Sandwick, Sr.

When the estate of Jacob Cope was settled in 1864, it was found that he owned nine properties in Northampton County. Five parcels in Bushkill Township contained nearly 648 acres, much of it within what is now Jacobstown State Park. He also had two parcels in Plainfield Township containing more than 117 acres, one acre in Moore Township, and the lot in the Borough of Easton at the northeast corner of Ferry and Sixth Streets. His holdings in Bushkill Township included part of the former Henry properties.

The Society has photocopies of the pages of the docket kept from 1857 to 1859 by Jacob Cope while serving as Justice of the Peace in Jacobstown. Ninety pages contain the records of the cases over which he presided during those years. Nearly all of them concerned debts of less than one hundred dollars, many for less than ten dollars. Witnesses were often called to testify in behalf of the parties to the dispute. Occasionally an action was designated as an Amicable Suit, in which the parties needed judicial help to determine their respective rights and responsibilities. In one suit Alexander Ahry was found liable for a debt of \$18.77, in addition to which he was required to pay the court costs which came to 86 cents!

Jacob Cope was born in Bucks County 25 Oct 1796, son of Isaac and Sarah (Miller) Cope. Soon afterward his parents moved to Plainfield Township, where Jacob's sister Sarah was born 21 Jun 1798. By 1802 they were in Moore Township where Maria Salome, another sister, was born July 18th of that year. Jacob married first Anna Catharine Bruch who died in Bushkill Township 13 Sep 1835. She was the daughter of George and Barbara (Repsher) Bruch. They had six children: (1) Aaron B., b 9 Jun 1820, d 14 Jun 1854, whose wife was named Sophia; (2) Eliza (baptized Elizabeth) b 29 Mar 1822, d 17 Feb 1881, m 5 Jan 1841 Philip Miller, b 21 Jan 1816, d Stroudsburg 28 Jul 1887, son of Charles and Anna Catherina (Fetterman) Miller; (3) Sophia, b 3 Jun 1823, m Henry Sandt of Forks Township, son of John Adam and Magdalena Sandt; (4) Sarah Ann, b 26 Oct 1825, m Andrew Clewell; (5) Levina, b 10 Oct 1827, m 1st Charles Hixon, m 2nd Emilius Samuel Bassler, b 10 Oct 1834, son of Gideon and Marianne Bassler; (6) David, b 25 Feb 1830, d 18 Apr 1850.

Jacob Cope married second Sarah (Fehr) Saylor, who was born 7 Jul 1810 and died in Nazareth 28 Oct 1877, the widow of Frederick Saylor. Her first husband died 12 Aug 1834. Jacob and Sarah (Fehr) Cope had eight children: (7) Louisa, b 10 May 1838, d 22 Jan 1899, m Easton 30 Dec 1856 William Mutchler, b Chain Dam 21 Dec 1831, d Easton 23 Jun 1893, son of John and Margaret Mutchler; (8) Savina, b about 1840, m Easton 1 Aug 1857 Alfred Wuchter; (9) Isaac, b 4 Dec 1842, d 7 Oct

1916, m Sarah A. Williamson, b 17 Nov 1844, d Mt. Bethel 9 May 1904, dau of Frank and Mary Williamson; (10) James J., b about 1844, d Easton 18 Oct 1933, m Easton 16 Oct 1872 Julia Mansfield, b Easton about 1848, d Easton 27 Dec 1922, dau of Nathan G. and Theodosia (Parker) Mansfield; (11) Dr. Thomas Cope, b Bushkill Tp 18 Aug 1847, d Nazareth 27 Jun 1920, m Camilla A. Hagenbuch, dau of John and Catherine Hagenbuch; (12) Emma Malinda, b 7 Jan 1850, d 14 Mar 1852; (13) Mary Ann, b 16 Mar 1852, d 11 May 1854; (14) Dr. George W. Cope, b about 1854, d Nazareth 11 Sep 1926, m 26 Dec 1874 Annie E. Shiffer.

Jacob Cope died in Bushkill Township 24 Nov 1863. He and several members of his family are buried in the old Union Church cemetery behind the present St. Luke's U. C. C. on the road from Belfast to Jacobsburg.

Jacob's son Isaac followed in his father's footsteps by serving as Justice of the Peace, recording his docket in the same book that his father had used years earlier: this book is now in the possession of Isaac's great-granddaughter, Gladys (Walker) Marhefka, a member of the historical research committee of the Jacobsburg Historical Society. Jacob's son-in-law William Mutchler, a prominent Easton attorney, became a congressman: he and Louisa were the parents of Howard Mutchler, editor of the Northampton Democrat and later editor and publisher of the Easton Express.

James J. Cope, another of Jacob's sons, served three terms as Prothonotary of Northampton County and also served the county in other official capacities. Jacob's son Thomas graduated from Jefferson Medical College in 1869 with the degree of M.D.: besides his successful medical practice he was for many years president of the Nazareth National Bank, later becoming chairman of the board of directors. There will be more about Jacob Cope and his descendants in another article.

ALLENTOWN ART MUSEUM DISPLAY

A major exhibition of art objects concerning ancient Greek life is on view at the Allentown Art Museum through December 30. The museum is at Fifth and Court Sts. The pre-Christian works are of marble, bronze, glass and clay originally used in everyday life. The show was organized by Brunilde Sismondo Ridgway and Gloria Ferrari from the Department of Classical and Near Eastern Archaeology, Bryn Mawr College. The installation was designed by Thomas Wong, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston. Items are on loan from top museums in the country plus Princeton University, Bowdoin College, Wilson College, Haverford, and Bryn Mawr.

The exhibit has been generously funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, and Mr. and Mrs. John W. Evans, Bethlehem. The museum is open free of charge Tuesdays through Saturdays 10 to 5 and 1 to 5 on Sundays. It is closed Mondays and major holidays.

The next Board meeting will be November 7.