

The Jacobsburg Record

JULY/AUGUST 1980

VOL. VIII, NO. 4

CATHERINE SKEATH BEERS (1908-1980)

It is with profound sense of loss that we mourn the passing of our beloved president, the only president we have had since the founding of our Society in 1972. Cay died at her home in Easton on Thursday, August 7, 1980, at the age of seventy-two years.

Catherine E. (Skeath) Beers was born in West Grove, Pa., January 13, 1908, a daughter of the late Rev. Dr. William C. Skeath and Alice Ray (Sherlock) Skeath. She was married in Philadelphia, June 28, 1933, to Lewis Sitgreaves Beers, Attorney, of Phillipsburg, N.J., a graduate of Lafayette College and of New Jersey Law School. Mr. Beers was born in Phillipsburg on October 13, 1903, and died there January 3, 1965, son of Lewis Osmun Beers and Mary (Sitgreaves) Beers.

Cay is survived by two sons, Lewis Sitgreaves Beers II, King of Prussia, Pa., and William Skeath Beers, Lopatcong Township; a sister, Mrs. Edwin S. Friend, Suffolk, Va.; and seven grandchildren.

A graduate of Goucher College, Baltimore, Cay taught French and Latin from 1930 to 1933 at Phillipsburg High School and from 1966 to 1971 at Moravian Seminary for Girls, Bethlehem.

Cay's death brought to a close a lifetime of devoted service to church and community. Her presidency of the Jacobsburg Historical Society during the past eight years was marked by a record of outstanding achievement culminating with the restoration of the Henry Homestead.

Cay was a born leader with a knack for rallying persons with the diversity of talents required for accomplishing the Society's objectives and for inspiring loyal support among our many associates. Those of us who shared her dreams are now challenged to honor her memory by bringing those dreams to further fruition.

---Charles M. Sandwick, Sr.
Charter Member,
Jacobsburg Historical Society

THE JACOBSSBURG HISTORICAL SOCIETY

INVITES

Members, Contributors to the \$65,000 campaign, and Campaign Solicitors to the Henry Homestead Open House, Saturday, September 13 from 2 to 5 o'clock. From Easton-Bethlehem, take the Belfast Exit from #33 and turn left. From the Slate Belt, come south on #191. At the Belfast Hotel, turn right, and at the first Y, go left. In both cases, watch for parking lot signs before the bridge.

HENRY HOMESTEAD OPEN HOUSE, SEPTEMBER 13 AND 14

We are proud and ready to welcome visitors to the Henry Homestead restored! It is the culmination of eight years of dreams and plans, including eighteen months of a \$65,000 successful campaign for matching funds from the U. S. Department of the Interior funneled through the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission and Park Commission of the State Department of Environmental Resources.

On Saturday afternoon, September 13, from 2 to 5, all campaign donors and workers and all members of the Society are invited and are surely welcome to come see what their interest and donations have achieved. At 3 o'clock the Board of Directors of the Jacobsburg Historical Society will conduct a short program dedicating a sapling tree from the Henry grounds to the memory of Cay Beers. It will stand and flourish as a living memorial for years to come and will eventually cast its shade over a bench to be placed at its base in an area overlooking the Spring Garden.

On Sunday afternoon, September 14, from 2 to 5, the Henry Homestead will be open to the public. We will welcome our neighbors and the entire county to come see what has been done in this part of the Jacobsburg State Park, the only State park in Northampton County. Light refreshments will be served both days.

Joseph DiGerlando, vice president, heads up the following overall committee arranging for the Open House: Joe and Virginia Lopresti, Matthew Morris, Ellis Neuner, Dale Prinkey, Judy Sandercock, Charlotte Sayre, John and Katherine Schlamp, Mary Henry Stites, Margaret Taylor, and Louise Young. Details will be handled by subcommittees to be appointed as necessary.

* * * * *

Our jubilation over the Homestead restoration cannot but be marred by the passing of Cay Beers, president of the Jacobsburg Historical Society since its inception in 1972. We cannot adequately express our appreciation for her leadership and perseverance in finding the way through the governmental intricacies of funding and dealing with architects and contractors. Hers was the risk signature and hers the signature on myriad letters, papers, and contracts. It was a superb accomplishment by an intelligent and resourceful lady. Cay spent untold hours at the Homestead and made innumerable trips to oversee the project for the Society. It is indeed hail and farewell.

We note that it was Cay's wish that memorial donations be made to either of her first loves: her church, Pilgrim Presbyterian, in Phillipsburg, or to Jacobsburg Historical Society. Funds given to the latter will be used to enhance the attractiveness of the Henry Homestead and grounds.

* * * * *

DATES TO KEEP IN MIND

October 12 - Music in the Woods, Dale Prinkey, chairman

October 23 - Jacobsburg Historical Society Annual Meeting

SUMMER CRAFT FESTIVAL

The Summer Craft Festival was bigger and better than ever, and Hilton Rahn, chairman, extends his thanks to all the heads of committees who worked so tirelessly to make the project a success. To Mary Lou Audenried, in particular, who rounded up such an interesting group of crafters we are particularly indebted. What is heartening is that many of those crafters have already expressed a desire to return next year! Our total profit is a bit more than \$2000.

We understand Joe Lopresti did himself proud in the knife-throwing, and best of all this year we couldn't complain about the weather.

Janet Gum's food committee, to whom we say thank you, included Anna Gamboni, Lori and Geary Gum, Betty Morris, Kay Munger, Althea Neuner, Peggy Pagni, Mary Stites, Martha and Bud Stover, and Louise Young.

* * * * *

BUS TRIP POSTPONED!

The September 23 bus trip by the Society to Harrisburg has been postponed until Spring. Details will be published later.

* * * * *

HOMESTEAD HAPPENINGS

Cousins of Mary Henry Stites, "the Nitschke Girls," from Long Island, have given to the Henry Homestead a sampler dated 1832. It was done by Maria Wolle when she was a student at the Moravian Academy in Bethlehem. Maria Wolle is in the Henry family relationship, and for that reason we much cherish this gift. The sampler is unusual in that it depicts a scene along a body of water. It hangs in the Homestead parlor. We can only admire the discipline of workmanship it represents and say a big thank you to the donors.

* * * * *

Mrs. Thomas Law (Dottie, and cousin to Matthew Morris), Bethlehem, long associated with exhibits at the Moravian Kemmerer Museum, has given us the benefit of her experience in many days of hard work in getting the Homestead ready for inspection and exhibit. Her leadership and advice have been much, much appreciated.

* * * * *

In addition, Mrs. F. M. Frantz (Pearl), also of Bethlehem, a professional appraiser, has been kind enough to give us (and the key word referring to both Mrs. Law and Mrs. Frantz is "give") her time to come up from Bethlehem to appraise gifts to the Homestead for donors' IRS purposes. We say thank you to both individuals for their interest and donations of skills.

* * * * *

William Karch of Nazareth has been kind enough to give the Homestead the old-fashioned shutters, with all the tiny louvres, for inside the windows of the bay in the parlor of the Homestead. Ellis Neuner did the likewise tedious work of installation. We are indebted to Ellis, too, for installing the original Homestead venetian blinds with the carved tops trimmed in gold.

VISIT BY STATE OFFICIALS

On August 6, Dr. Barry Kent, Pennsylvania State Archaeologist, visited the Jacobsburg mill where Joe and Virginia Lopresti have worked this summer. Dr. Kent was accompanied by his assistant, Steve Warful, and by Dr. Peter Welch, head of Pennsylvania State Museums. As reported by our Society archaeologists, the Loprestis, the visitors were much impressed by the unusual construction of the mill building. The guests spent the entire afternoon touring the site of the Jacobsburg Inn, the State Park Office, other Jacobsburg excavations, and the Henry Homestead. They were shown around by the Loprestis, the Park Superintendent, Dale Prinkey, and Homestead Committeeman, Matthew Morris.

Virginia also reports that the July excavating crew (mostly J & W) uncovered part of the mill building used by William Henry 3rd (discoverer and first tenant of the Henry Homestead log cabin) for manufacture of muskets for the War of 1812. Gun parts were found. Another interesting item found at the top of the occupation level was a clay pipe, the bowl decorated by a man's head. Uncovered near the bottom of the trash dumped into the mill site since 1915 was a Seitz Bros. Easton, Pa., Premium Mineral Waters Bottle.

Virginia promises for a later issue a full account of the 1980 summer digs.

* * * * *

SUN INN PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION VISIT

The Society welcomed its first bus tour to the Henry Homestead, the Lopresti digs, and Henry's Woods on Saturday, August 9. The Sun Inn Preservation Association, Ind., from Bethlehem, was led by Jean P. Wesner. The group was on the Homestead grounds for only a half hour, but they expressed admiration for what we are doing and were most generous: forty-seven dollars were added to our treasury and one new member was garnered. Welcome indeed and thank you!

* * * * *

In connection with this event, Betty Morris was busy cataloguing, marking, and recording each individual item on display in the Homestead. It's a job requiring hours and hours of time, but here again we are fortunate in that Betty has library experience. Then, too, Betty and Dottie Law selected all the material for the curtains Betty made for the downstairs kitchen. We were pleased to have curtains for security reasons.

At the same time, Betty was scrubbing and washing and polishing display items, along with Dottie, Katherine Schlamp, Margaret Taylor, and Charlotte Sayre.

Evelyn Heckman and Beatrice Pritchard and Mrs. Earl Buck, a volunteer from Nazareth, worked on the pond garden, clearing the paths and checking weed growth. Diane Warner saw to it the old-fashioned herb garden looked span clean and weeded, besides furnishing dried herbs to hand in the kitchen.

Karen and Dale Prinkey, Katherine and John Schlamp, Peggy Jarrett, Dottie Law, Kay Munger, and Louise Young were Homestead guides for members of the Sun Inn group. Mary Henry Stites headed the committee.

HISTORICAL RESEARCH

THE ANCESTRY OF WILLIAM HENRY, PART TWO

By Charles M. Sandwick, Sr.

In the previous article concerning the ancestry of William Henry of Nazareth, three generations of the family were traced. An introduction was made to the biography of Colonel William Henry of Lancaster, father of "our" William, and more was promised. It now appears that at least two articles will be needed to present the highlights of his unusual career.

A summary of the vital records of William and Ann (Wood) Henry of Lancaster is in order. William Henry, b Chester Co., Pa., 19 May 1729; d Lancaster, Pa., 15 Dec 1786; son of John and Elizabeth (DeVinnie) Henry; m Jan 1756 Ann Wood, b Burlington, N.J., 21 Jan 1734; d Lancaster, Pa., 8 Mar 1799; dau of Abraham and Ursula (Taylor) Wood. Their children were listed in the previous article.

Apprenticed in 1744 at the age of fifteen to Matthew Roesser, a Lancaster gunsmith, William Henry readily mastered an understanding of mechanical principles and acquired skill in the manufacture of metal products. Six years later, in partnership with Joseph Simon, he established a store and workshop on Centre Square in Lancaster, next to which he soon built his home.

No later than 1771 William Henry invented the screw auger, for which he obtained an English patent. Until 1777 this product was available only at his store.

In 1772 Mr. Henry was appointed to a committee with John Lukens, surveyor general; David Rittenhouse and others to survey the Susquehanna and Lehigh rivers, to determine the best location for a canal to be constructed through the interior of Pennsylvania.

William Henry had served as chief armorer with Braddock in 1755, and with Forbes' campaign in 1758. It was while serving under Braddock that Major Henry intervened to save the life of a young Indian chief, Gelelemend, known to the whites as Killbuck, who was about to be executed by the angry troops who had captured him. In gratitude, Gelelemend took the name of William Henry as his own and thereafter was known as William Henry Killbuck. Gelelemend was born in 1737 at Lehigh Gap. His story, which is well documented, is more amply told by Francis Jordan, Jr. (1843-1911) in his The Life of William Henry of Lancaster, Pennsylvania, which was published at Lancaster in 1910.

Among Gelelemend's descendants was John Henry Killbuck, A.B., B.D., who entered Nazareth Hall in 1873, attended Moravian College at Bethlehem and was graduated from the Theological Seminary in 1884. He became a missionary of the Moravian Church in Alaska and later entered government service in that territory.

No less an authority than the late Dr. Robert H. Thurston (1839-1903), professor of mechanical engineering at Cornell University, credited William Henry with the honor of inventing and building the first steamboat in the United States. Unfortunately, the diversity of Mr. Henry's interests, and his early death at the age of fifty-seven, prevented him from developing this important invention. According to Dr. Thurston, "Fitch improved on Mr. Henry's model, and Fulton improved on both."

In December 1760 William Henry sailed for England in the hope of establishing direct connections with iron and steel makers overseas. His passage cost him twenty-five pounds, for which a receipted bill has been preserved among his papers. There were only two other passengers, both Quakers, who were returning home from mission service in Pennsylvania and New Jersey. As their ship entered the English channel it was captured by a French privateer and taken to a Spanish port. Several months later they finally managed to reach London. It was on this visit to England that Mr. Henry met James Watt. When he saw Watt's steam engine in operation, he conceived the idea of using steam power to propel boats in river navigation.

At least one more article will be needed to deal with William Henry's role as a revolutionary patriot; his entertainment of such notables as John Hart, David Rittenhouse and Thomas Paine who were his house guests during the British occupation of Philadelphia; and earlier the part he played as benefactor of a struggling young artist, Benjamin West (1738-1820), who rose to rank among the greatest artists of his time.

* * * * *

NEWS BITS

Work on the Homestead parking lot is progressing, and word is that it will be finished by Labor Day--and in time for the Open House. We are ever so much appreciative to the State Department of Environmental Resources for this real boon to our efforts to make the Homestead area easily accessible.

As part of our Society celebration, Virginia and Joe Lopresti have put in place a window display at the National Bank of Nazareth.

A little bit better than \$3000 are outstanding on campaign pledges for the \$65,000 total. We expect everyone to be paid up by the end of the year.

Local police and fire fighting groups will be invited to tour the Homestead to become familiar with the layout. Goal in the offing: installation of a security system.

* * * * *

Ask a friend to join the Jacobsburg Historical Society.

JULY 26 NAZARETH DAY PROCEEDS

Betty and Matt Morris, along with Dottie Law, set up a card table at the Nazareth Day celebration. They sold items not suitable for display or exhibit at the Henry Homestead and turned over to the Society \$75.05! We appreciate such enterprise, and we are sure it was fun.

* * * * *

GIFTS AND LOANS TO THE HENRY HOMESTEAD

To Mary Henry Stites we can't neglect saying how much we appreciate her loaning, as well as giving, displays she knew were of the period of, or actually had been used in, the Henry Homestead. All these add authenticity to the interior restoration.

* * * * *

The Society is fortunate to be restoring a home so recently vacated, for "Aunt Harriet Henry" was still living here in 1970 when the State by right of eminent domain took over the property owned by Harriet's niece, Ruth Henry Clewell, and her nephew, John Clewell, both of whom had been brought up in the Homestead. The Clewells now live in Swarthmore and have been generous in sending back to the Homestead items they themselves knew had been in use here. Some items from the home have been in storage across the street in the custody of Mary Henry Stites. We are happy to receive these things, and for the Open House we plan to label all such as being original Henry items.

* * * * *

We have had a money donation from Miss Norma Yess, Arlington, Va., in memory of Miss Gladys Gordon of Washington, D.C. Miss Yess felt that what the Jacobsburg Historical Society is doing at the Henry Homestead is a project in which and with which Miss Gordon, formerly a staff member of the American Chemical Society in Washington and originally from Massachusetts, would have been much interested and in accord.

* * * * *

NEW TITLE FOR PARK ASSISTANT

Dale Prinkey's assistant, Michael Jones, has been appointed Environmental Interpretative Specialist, the first in Pennsylvania. He is, of course, stationed at the Jacobsburg State Park. Congratulations to Mike!

* * * * *

PUBLICITY FOR THE SOCIETY

We appreciate the splendid publicity Louise Young has been getting into the local newspapers. We noted, too the June 26 story with pictures in the Bethlehem Globe-Times publicizing the work of Virginia and Joe Lopresti and their archaeological discoveries concerning Henry mill operations along the Bushkill Creek.

* * * * *

The September Board meeting will be held at the Homestead, September 3, the first Wednesday.

DIRECTORY

Board of Directors

CATHERINE S. BEERS - President
 JOSEPH DIGERLANDO - Vice President
 MARY LOU AUDENRIED - Secretary
 MARGARET H. TAYLOR - Treasurer
 JANET GUM
 JOSEPH LOPRESTI
 MATTHEW K. MORRIS
 HILTON N. RAHN
 CHARLES M. SANDWICK, SR.
 CHARLOTTE C. SAYRE
 JOHN J. SCHLAMP
 MARY HENRY STITES

Easton (253-4547)
 Wind Gap (759-7239)
 Nazareth (759-4649)
 Easton (252-1315)
 Nazareth (759-1862)
 Stockertown (759-1580)
 Boulton (759-0751)
 Bethlehem (868-1789)
 Easton (252-1290)
 Easton (253-9516)
 Nazareth (759-0302)
 Boulton (759-4693)

Committee Assignments

Archaeology - Joseph & Virginia Lopresti
 Editor, Jacobsburg Record - Charlotte C. Sayre
 Finance - John J. Schlamp
 Homestead Committees,
 General Chairman - Katherine Schlamp
 Cataloguer - Betty Morris
 Exhibits - Virginia Lopresti
 Gardens - Mary Henry Stites
 Evelyn Heckman
 Beatrice Pritchard
 Diane Warner
 Maintenance - Matthew K. Morris
 Hospitality - Judy Sandercock
 Membership - Margaret H. Taylor
 Music in the Woods - Dale Prinkey
 Program - Hilton N. Rahn
 Publicity - Louise Young
 Research - Charles M. Sandwick, Sr.
 Summer Craft Festival -

Stockertown (759-1580)
 Easton (253-9516)
 Nazareth (759-0302)
 Nazareth (759-0302)
 Boulton (759-0751)
 Stockertown (759-1580)
 Boulton (759-4693)
 Nazareth (759-4145)
 Nazareth (759-4905)
 Nazareth (759-3555)
 Boulton (759-0751)
 Easton (258-3806)
 Easton (252-1315)
 Nazareth (759-0967)
 Bethlehem (868-1789)
 Nazareth (759-4610)
 Easton (252-1290)

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FOR JACOBSTOWN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Student	\$2.50	Sustaining	\$10.00	Contributing	\$15.00
Individual	\$5.00	Family	\$12.50	Organizations	\$25.00

Name Contributions					
Tannery Club	\$100	Boulton Club	\$500	Henry Rifle Club	\$1000

Name _____

Street _____ Tel. No. _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Please return this slip with your check made payable to Jacobsburg Historical Society. Mail to: Miss Margaret H. Taylor, 733 Paxinosa Ave. Easton, Pa. 18042. All contributions are tax deductible to the extent provided by law. Your canceled check is your receipt.