

The Jacobsburg Record

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 1980

VOL. VIII, NO. 5

ANNUAL DINNER MEETING - THURSDAY, OCTOBER 23 - \$8.50

STOCKERTOWN MEMORIAL HALL

Dutch treat bar, 6:00 - home cooked turkey and filling dinner, 6:30 - fruit cup, relish tray, sweet potatoes, Harvard beets, peas, lettuce with bacon dressing, rolls and butter, lemon meringue pie, coffee/tea

The price of \$8.50 includes tax and gratuities.

Come to see in slide form the restoration of the Henry Homestead. Matt Morris' slides will show the work's progress from before and during the construction, as well as Matt's coverage of the two-day Open House, September 13 and 14. Hilton Rahn, Jr., chairman of program, prevailed upon Matt to do this for us--so come out and enjoy! You may even see yourself on the screen!

We are excited, too, because that evening William Atherton of Hartford, Conn., will present to the Society a Henry rifle, one gun of a collection inherited from his father. Bill's father and Mary Henry Stites's father were cousins, grandsons of William Henry 3rd. Society members have arranged for security on this item. We are indeed proud to be selected as the recipients of this truly cherished gift. Thank you!

Virginia Lopresti and Joe will exhibit some of the fascinating items they unearthed in their seven or eight weeks of summer digging.

Members and friends are reminded to send reservation money to Miss Margaret Taylor, 733 Paxinosa Ave., Easton, Pa. 18042. The deadline is October 16. You will not receive tickets--come to enjoy an informal evening with good conversation, good food, and good fun.

Directions for getting to the Memorial 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 is on your left. Coming 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. There's plenty of parking.

- - - - -

SLATE OF OFFICERS FOR THE YEAR 1981

October 23 marks the 8th annual meeting of the Jacobsburg Historical Society. It is therefore election-of-officers night. The organization is set up with a Board of 12, including the usual first four officers. The president assigns to each of the other eight, specific areas to cover. The new officers and Board will be announced on the Directory page of the January/February issue of the Record.

The nominating committee, Charlotte Sayre, Jesse Sandwick, and Mary Henry Stites, presents the following slate for action on October 23: president, John J. Schlamp; vice president Matthew Morris; secretary, Betty Morris; treasurer, Margaret Taylor. Nominations for Board members include: Mary Lou Audepried, Joseph T. DiGerlando, Janet A. Gum, Joseph A. Lopresti, Ellis Neuner, Hilton N. Rahn, Jr., Charles M. Sandwick, Sr., and Louise Young.

According to the by-laws, the membership must be apprised of the nominations 10 days before the election.

OPEN HOUSE NOTES

We are still reveling in the exhilaration of the Open House events on September 13 and 14. Many members missed the ceremony on Saturday afternoon presided over by Joe DiGerlando. Rep. Don Ritter from the 15th Congressional District presented to the Society an American flag for the Society flag pole. This was a flag that first had flown over the Capitol building in Washington, D.C. Matt Morris accepted the flag and on behalf of the Society expressed appreciation for the gift. Other speakers included Northampton County Judge Franklin Van Antwerpen, and State representatives Leonard Gruppo and Edmund Sieminski.

* * * * *

The Rev. Richard B. Gibbins, pastor of the Pilgrim Presbyterian Church of Phillipsburg, spoke of the contribution to the Society made by our late president, Mrs. Lewis S. Beers, who passed away on August 7. Cay's leadership role in her community and in the Society was referred to a number of times during the afternoon.

* * * * *

The flooring in the stable area put down by Joe Lopresti was indeed an item of interest--bricks from the old Henry forge along the Bushkill where Joe and Virginia worked this summer. The Lopresti exhibit included new items from the digs--interesting in detail.

The Mickey Toth and Claude Jones set-ups always draw crowds for the extreme knowledgeableness with which the tools and guns and pictures are presented.

* * * * *

Kenneth J. Serfass, Nazareth artist, presented to the Society two beautifully detailed oil paintings, about 24 x 20 in., one of the Homestead and one of the Boulton gun factory. The Society is most appreciative, and certainly both paintings will be hung in the Home.

* * * * *

Mickey Toth presented to the Society the 1783 Connecticut Colony coin found on the floor of the log cabin when the steps from the first floor to the second were removed. We expect to have it on display at the dinner--it is encased in see-through acrylic.

* * * * *

Then on Sunday came the deluge of people--more than 950! And we were so happy to welcome them. Everyone was patient as the line stretched out under the hemlock trees almost to the gate. Judy Sandercock and Peggy Shuttleworth, who were on duty the entire weekend, gleefully sent out for more Hawaiian punch and ginger ale, as well as boxes of cookies. The home-made cookies gave out just toward the end. That was when one little girl was observed with a homemade cooky in one hand and a store cooky in the other. She took a bite from the store cooky, and a bite from the homemade, immediately she handed over the remainder of the first to her mother!

* * * * *

And a great big thank you to all who served as hosts and hostesses, who helped in the parking, to the Boy Scouts who helped raise the flag, to the brass quartet from Liberty High School, and not least to the Park employees who cleared the land and put in the parking lot for 32 cars. Then, too, Ellis Neuner and Matt Morris ran their tractors through fields, pastures, and brush to set up parking spaces. At one time there were more than 150 cars parked in the area. The Bushkill Township Auxiliary Fire Police directed traffic to protect pedestrians. It was a great weekend.

MUSIC IN THE WOODS

The woods are Henry's Woods, of course. The date is October 12, 2 to 5 o'clock. This Society program is among our most delightful. No rain date. Feel free to come early and bring a picnic lunch. Spend the day in the woods with your family.

Dale Prinkey, Jacobsburg Park Superintendent, has arranged a program in the woods to include bagpipe and blue grass music, as well as performances by members of the Marching Band from Liberty High School, a folk singer, and a flutist. Plan to come!

From the south on Rte. #33, take the Belfast exit. Turn right to the corner, then left, stay straight for a good mile and a half until you reach the big parking lot on the left. To the right, you'll see the Benade House with orange shutters. Guides will direct you from the parking lot.

If you come down from the north, turn right at the Belfast Hotel and continue straight, no turns, until you see the parking lot on the left.

- - - - -

CAY BEERS GIFT

- - - - -

Cay bequeathed to the Society an item you might have missed in the parlor of the Homestead. It is a charming tilt top table with the bird's nest construction. It was one of Cay's own favorites, and we are certain it was chosen with care and her own delight. To receive it is our pleasure.

Next spring a tree will be planted on Homestead property in Cay's memory. Over the summer months the weather had been too dry to allow the transplanting of a tree to the spot selected at the time of the Open House. The clearing to the left overlooking the Home has been set aside as the appropriate area.

- - - - -

OTHER HENRY HOMESTEAD IMPROVEMENTS

On the tour, we hope everyone noticed the grandfather clock in the hallway. We thank Claude Jones for a beautiful work of restoration. The clock was a gift to the Society, but badly in need of repair. Unfortunately no name or date could be found. The oak wood casing came out in detail; the top proved to be walnut with sides of red glass.

* * * * *

Since the Open House it has been necessary to replace the hot water heater. We thank Mickey Toth for offering to do the work of installation.

* * * * *

An improvement the Society must think about seriously and soon is the purchase of a security system. We are sorry to report a break-in at the Homestead in mid-August. Steve Kalmar's quarters were ransacked, apparently in search of money. However, the episode points up a need for a security system of adequate dimension.

- - - - -

JACOBSBURG HISTORICAL SOCIETY CORN HUSK DOLL

Eva Smith, crafter par excellence of corn husk dolls, offered to do a singular doll for the Society. From a photograph of Miss Clara Henry (Aunt Tal) furnished by Mary Henry Stites, Eva has fashioned and dressed a doll that will be seen at the annual dinner.

HISTORICAL RESEARCH

WILLIAM HENRY DISCOVERED BENJAMIN WEST

By Charles M. Sandwick, Sr.

About 1753 an illiterate fifteen-year-old boy, apprenticed to a tinsmith, came to the attention of William Henry of Lancaster. The lad was Benjamin West, who lived in a hamlet then known as Springfield, not far from Lancaster. In his free time, West's decorations of fences and barn doors helped him to develop a latent artistic talent. William Henry believed that the boy had an unusual ability which ought to be fostered and encouraged.

Mr. Henry invited West into his home, provided a room and the necessary materials for his use, and urged him to try his hand at portrait painting. The results were so encouraging that Mr. Henry then urged him to attempt a historical painting, suggesting "The Death of Socrates" as his subject. West knew nothing of Socrates; so Henry introduced him to Rollin's Ancient History, published in London in 1738, and other scholarly works on his own bookshelves. For the slave who handed the cup of hemlock to Socrates, a stalwart young man from Mr. Henry's workshop served as model.

"The Death of Socrates" was only the first of a long series of historical paintings for which West became deservedly famous. His "Death of General Wolfe," commissioned by King George III, won special praise from Sir Joshua Reynolds.

Benjamin West succeeded Sir Joshua Reynolds as president of the Royal Academy and invited his namesake, Benjamin West Henry (1777-1806), youngest child of William and Ann (Wood) Henry and brother of "our" William Henry of Nazareth, to attend his installation.

Among the portraits and other paintings by Benjamin West which are in the possession of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania are those of William Henry of Lancaster and Mrs. Ann Henry.

Benjamin West was born in Chester County, Pa., 10 Oct 1738. He left Lancaster in 1756 and became a portrait painter in Philadelphia, where he received some instruction from William Williams. In 1758 he went to New York. Aware of the need for instruction that was not available to him in the colonies, he sailed for Europe in 1760 and studied in Italy until 1763, going next to London where he soon won fame as a painter of historical subjects. In 1765 he married Elizabeth Shewell. In 1768 he was one of the founders of the Royal Academy, of which Sir Joshua Reynolds became the first president.

About 1780 West began painting religious subjects. His painting, "Christ Healing the Sick," was intended for the Pennsylvania Hospital in Philadelphia, but instead was purchased by a British institution for 3000 pounds sterling.

Benjamin West never overlooked an opportunity to give help and guidance to struggling young artists. Among the young Americans who sought him out were Charles W. Peale, Gilbert Stuart, Joseph Wright and John Trumbull.

Benjamin West died in London, England, 11 Mar 1820, his wife having predeceased him in 1817. His distinguished career as a portrait and historical painter owed much to the kindness and perceptiveness of his benefactor and first patron, William Henry of Lancaster.

- - - - -

ARCHAEOLOGY REPORT PREPARED BY VIRGINIA LOPRESTI

- 1972 - Jacobsburg Historical Society organized to preserve the history of Bushkill Valley
- 1973 - Excavations started in Colonial Village in March by volunteers and students of Moravian College under the direction of Prof. C. Walter Tremmer
- 1974 - Excavated portions of tannery with five Manpower boys under the direction of Virginia and Joseph Lopresti
- 1975 - Excavated part of tannery and area above it (the site of the bridge to blast furnace) with the aid of 11 students from the Philadelphia School for the Deaf
- 1976 - Jacobsburg Historical Society received Bicentennial Grant. Hired 18 students to excavate charcoal storage shed and complete tannery. Jeff Kenyon, University of Pennsylvania, in charge
- 1977 - Excavated Spoonheimer Home, Matthew S. Henry Office, part of Matthew S. Henry home with help of Lehigh Valley Manpower boys
- 1978 - Excavated Matthew S. Henry Home, Forge area with Manpower and the Loprestis
- 1979 - Excavated part of the mill where William Henry 3rd made guns 1792 to 1812. Work done by the Loprestis and one boy and one girl from Manpower
- 1980 - In March the Loprestis started excavating outside Jacobsburg Inn built in 1780
In May they started work on the site of the Jacob Hubler grist mill that was turned by William Henry 3rd into a forge
On June 23, with only one boy helping at a time, the Loprestis started seven weeks of excavating the mill site

End results - 1 roomful of artifacts
6 carousels of slides
1 box of notebooks
Maps, research material, etc.

Man hours volunteered by the Loprestis - 18,500 plus

During the winter months ahead, Virginia has promised to write up this past summer's findings, some of which are truly exciting.

* * * * *

As a result of the Open House publicity, Franklin Valkenburg of Bethlehem got in touch with the Loprestis to say he had a photo of the Boulton gun factory taken more than forty years ago when he and his son were in the area just rambling around. The Society now has excellent enlargements that we can see at the dinner!

RESEARCH COMMITTEE

Charles M. Sandwick, Sr., is chairman, and because he wants feedback from Society members, he is careful to schedule regular meetings. Jesse sees that refreshments are served. All this is a roundabout way to announce the next meeting on October 20 at 8 o'clock.

Mrs. G. K. Strodach is a new member of the Committee. Charlie is particularly pleased to welcome Catherine because she has studied old German script. The expertise is a valuable one when researching Moravian records.

THIS 'N' THAT

Wilhemina Jones (Mrs. David), Easton, has given to the Society two snapshots in a 3 x 5 folder that had belonged to her father, Thomas A. L. Hay, son of Thomas Hay. The photos we think are of the Benade House and a scene from the vicinity. Why would such items be in the possession of an Easton family? The interesting fact is that Susan (Weaver) and Thomas Kreidler were from the Belfast area and were the grandparents of Thomas J. Hay. The latter's full name was Thomas Jefferson Hay, twin brother to Andrew Jackson Hay. Anyway we appreciate these pictures and snapshots that show up here and there.

* * * * *

Myriads of activity went on behind the scenes before we were ready for Open House, not the least of which was the creation of the parking lot behind the barn. The Coplay Cement Co. of Nazareth donated the 10 tons of crushed stone that went into it, and Arthur Smith of Clearfield was kind enough to do the hauling. We appreciate so much the local community aid and support.

* * * * *

Louise Young, publicity chairman, has put together a fascinating scrapbook of all the news items and coverage Society officers have saved over the years since 1972. This is a real service and makes for an interesting history.

* * * * *

Mrs. John R. Jones and her daughter, Hannah Smith, descendants of Jacob Hubler, came over from their Mint Brook Farm for the Friday evening Open House festivities. The Society entertained State officials and representatives involved with the Jacobsburg State Park and the granting of funds for the Homestead Restoration. In addition, invited guests included the architects and the contractors. Alice and Hannah, of course, were particularly interested in the log cabin and what had been done to turn it into an exhibit area. (It is thought Jacob Hubler built the log cabin, perhaps before Revolutionary times.)

* * * * *

Tom Law, Bethlehem, finally welcomed back his basement work table after it had served duty as an exhibit/refreshment table in the Homestead kitchen. Thanks so much!

Ask a friend to join the Jacobsburg Historical Society

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.