

# The Jacobsburg Record

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 1980

VOL. VIII, NO. 6

## CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE

Sunday, December 7, 2 - 4 P.M.

Come to our Country Christmas party! The Jacobsburg Historical Society Board will be host. Judy Sandercock and Peggy Shuttleworth are thinking about refreshments, and the Henry Homestead will again hospitably welcome all who would like to roam through the rooms. Tour guides will be on hand.

Start your family Christmas observance a bit early this 1980 year with a look back to a former era. Come enjoy with us. Hardy souls are invited to walk through Henry's Woods. Should we think snow--a light one maybe, for atmosphere?

The newly acquired Henry rifle will be shown, as well as the 1783 Connecticut Colony coin. Virginia and Joe Lopresti will exhibit some of their choice finds from the digs.

## ANNUAL MEETING REPORT

Congratulations to John J. Schlamp of Nazareth, newly elected president of the Jacobsburg Historical Society. John is president of the Nazareth National Bank and guided us through the money matters relative to our campaign dealings with the State of Pennsylvania and our matching funds. We look forward to expanded activities at the Homestead now that the home is renovated.

We plan further exhibits, particularly when the carriage house can be made suitable for the Lopresti artifacts from the digs. Then, too, we want to expand into the barn. The latter is the next big project to occupy us. Lots of work ahead!

Other officers elected include Matthew K. Morris, vice president; Betty Morris, secretary; and Margaret H. Taylor, treasurer. Board members are Mary Lou Audenried, Joseph T. DiGerlando, Janet A. Gum, Joseph A. Lopresti, Ellis A. Neuner, Hilton N. Rahn, Jr., Charles M. Sandwick, Sr., and Louise K. Young.

The January/February issue of the Record will carry the new Directory after the new president has had a chance to review committee assignments.

## HENRY RIFLE GIFT TO SOCIETY

Ninety-four members and guests were on hand for the introduction by John M. Dickey, our restoration architect, of his cousin, William Henry Atherton from Hartford, Conn. Highlight of the evening was Atherton's presentation of a prized Henry rifle to the Society, one from his own personal gun collection. This is indeed a cherished possession and one for which the Society is extremely grateful. Until we are able to give it proper security, it is under lock and key off the premises.

Many present crowded around at the end of the evening to admire this early 19th century firearm crafted by many skilled hands at Boulton. The Society is proud to accept its very own Henry rifle. Thank you, William Henry Atherton!

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD JOURNAL 1980

Virginia Lopresti

The Manpower assistance at the Jacobsburg site was in trouble from Monday, June 23 to August 8 during the summer of 1980. Because of the Directors' advancing years and because there are no other volunteers in the Jacobsburg Historical Society, we asked for youngsters who had transportation. The only ones with transportation were the boys and girls in the Easton Children's Home. Inasmuch as they are well provided for, it is very hard to get them to work. Nevertheless, one boy and one girl reported to our Mill Site. They were given a history of the site and of the archaeological investigation in progress. Weeds were cut in the area, some steps made to the east end of the building, and then the summer's work began.

Trash was thrown to the outside of the east and north walls into the deep trench where the water used to return to the creek. Our crew of two did not take kindly to the labor involved. The second day the girl did not show up for work. The boy sat on rocks 85% of the time. The fact was duly noted in the day's field notes. In preparing for this article, I find someone erased the "no" in front of "work" and wrote "did."

The girl came the rest of the week but positively refused to come the following week. Another boy was sent out for two days two weeks later. The first day he worked, the second day the two boys kept me dodging between them while they tried to hit each other with bottles, rusted tin cans, and shovelful of ashes, etc. The first boy worked until July 11 when on the weekend he met with an accident while riding a motorbike. We continually asked for someone to replace the girl and finally received an older boy with one hand. He struggled with the task of assisting at an archaeological dig until on August 8 we gave up in disgust.

The trash in the east half of the mill was almost as deep as the garbage in the west half that was removed in the summer of 1979. We soon had the top of the north wall exposed. The east wall appeared as the days grew warmer. But there was no sign of a south wall. The southeast corner wall was also nonexistent, but there were many large rocks from the former wall that were used to support the disturbed area on the outside of the building. In the northeast corner of the building there was very little garbage. There was considerable clay/lime mortar among the stones. The roots of a grapevine appeared to be holding the remaining wall together.

Immediately below the garbage over the entire eastern half of the building there was a layer of crushed slate and bricks from the forge fires. Underneath appeared to be mostly debris left when the mill was apparently bulldozed sometime after 1915. Twelve bricks were found together in the northeast corner. A spice bush was removed from the north wall. A young walnut tree was growing on top of the east wall. A rather large box elder had been cut in the vicinity of the south wall during the time a power line was strung over the southeast corner of the building. With the removal of stones etc., from inside the north wall, a 4-ft. wide window appeared 8 ft. from the inside northeast corner.

## MORE EXCITEMENT FROM THE DINNER MEETING

On exhibit was the "Miss Clara" Jacobsburg Historical Society corn husk doll. Eva Smith, well-known Bath creator of corn husk dolls and a yearly exhibitor at our Craft festival, fashioned a doll after a photograph Mary Henry Stites owned of Miss Clara Henry (1844-1927). Miss Clara (called by the family "Aunt Tal") was a daughter of James Henry, granddaughter of John Joseph Henry, and of course was one who had been brought up in the Henry Homestead.

Eva presented one of her dolls to the Society to be on exhibition at the Homestead. We are most grateful. In addition, in a delightful surprise announcement, Eva presented a "Miss Clara" to Virginia Lopresti because it was Virginia who had originally interested her in crafts in general years ago in a 4-H group. Now Eva fashions dolls for the Shaker Society and the Moravian Historical Society. Miss Clara is faithfully dressed, according to the photo, in deep maroon decorated with a tiny black braid.

Barry Jones, Easton artist, and creator of our Jacobsburg logo will print up an identifying card to go with the doll. Barry was also the one who did the Homestead set of prints that the Society sells for \$5.

The dolls are on sale for \$20 and can be ordered through the Society.

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We are sorry if you missed Matt Morris' slides and his running commentary on the "before" and "after" pictures of the Home and the activity surrounding the restoration. The Open House slides were particularly enjoyed--those long lines of people! We appreciate the fact that Matt took the time to get all the material together and that, at Hilton Rahn's suggestion, he was willing to make the presentation. Altogether it was a most enjoyable evening.

## BITS AND PIECES

We had a delightful Music in the Woods program arranged by Dale Prinkey, Superintendent of the Jacobsburg State Park, on the afternoon of October 12. Robert Kostenbader furnished rides in his big red wagon, with bales of hay as seats, and pulled by two impressively huge Belgian horses. John Fox, Stockertown, gave us the cider to sell, and the ones who were thoughtful enough to bring chairs could sit around to listen to intriguing and entertaining music by Karen Frace, flutist, David Fry, folk guitarist, and the Blue Grass and Old Time Country Band. The appreciative audience enjoyed the woodsy out-of-doors perfect setting for all the music.

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The Jacobsburg Historical Society has purchased from Robert Roberts on Jacobsburg Road in Filetown a relic that means much to many people in the Boulton area--the bell that hung in the schoolhouse located on the hill above the Homestead. In fact, the boys from the school would clamber down with pails to the Homestead spring to get the school's drinking water.

For the moment, the bell will be on view in the Homestead. It is too big for the Homestead cupola. We don't know where that bell is. Does anyone have any ideas?

## MORE BITS AND PIECES

Dues are due to the Society January 1 for the year 1981.

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We are looking into insurance to cover the contents of the Henry Homestead. Insurance and a full security system are top priorities. Unless we can offer assurance of absolute security, donors will be shy to come forward with items of the highest value and most interest. Betty Morris has identified and numbered 228 items so far that are on exhibit in the Homestead. In each room is a card file for handy reference in case tour guides need to consult it to answer questions. It is necessary that we have appraisals of all gifts for insurance purposes and for donor's IRS reports.

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Ask friends to become members of the  
Jacobsburg Historical Society

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Brian Stocker helped cover each drawer of the Francis Kocher arrowhead exhibit with see-through plastic. He and the Loprestis counted and numbered 220 arrowheads. We are extremely proud of this collection.

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Since publication of the previous Record, the Society has played host at the Homestead to three different groups: the Lehigh Valley Antique Car Club, the Pocono Mountains Antique Car Club (both on the same day; the display of antique cars on the premises would have dazzled any buff), and the Daughters of the American Colonists.

We welcome all such groups and appreciate their interest (and donations! Thank you!). Arrangements to tour the Homestead must be made through Matthew Morris or Ellis Neuner--newest member of the Board to whom we give a big welcome. Ellis has worked long and hard at the Homestead along with Matt. Both live on Henry Road and are in the Nazareth listing of the Easton telephone book.

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John Benfield of Nazareth helped Matt Morris and Ellis Neuner put a new slate roof on the Duck House, a job put off during the summer when it was too hot, but now all is cozy and done.

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Over the winter Dale Prinkey and his assistant for educational activities, Mike Jones, will be working on a Self-Guided Heritage Trail at Jacobsburg. They will make up explanatory trail guides for each marker. Work will include production of metal photo plates that will show drawings of the buildings with accompanying texts. They will also work on an overview map of Jacobsburg for the Information Board.

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Come to the Homestead Christmas Party, December 7.

## HISTORICAL RESEARCH

## SOME OF WILLIAM HENRY'S WARTIME GUESTS

By Charles M. Sandwick, Sr.

In August and September of 1777 Philadelphia was under constant threat of occupation by the British forces under General Howe. The Continental Congress, which had been meeting in Philadelphia, finally adjourned to meet in Lancaster on September 27th. The Supreme Executive Council of Pennsylvania also transferred its meetings to Lancaster. Many persons prominent in the cause of American Independence left Philadelphia and found refuge in Lancaster. Three who took up residence in the home of William Henry in 1777 and 1778 were John Hart, David Rittenhouse and Thomas Paine.

The problem of identifying the John Hart who was William Henry's house guest during those perilous times has proved baffling. The family usually referred to him as Mr. Hart, a friend of Mr. Henry. Franklin Ellis and Samuel Evans, in their History of Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, published at Philadelphia in 1883, said that he was a member of the Supreme Executive Council, but the extant records of that body, particularly while it was meeting in Lancaster, fail to show him as a participant. The minutes invariably began with a list of those present.

Francis Jordan, Jr., in his The Life of William Henry, published at Lancaster in 1910, said that Mr. Hart was a member of the Continental Congress and signer of the Declaration of Independence. This is clearly a case of mistaken identity. The only John Hart who signed the Declaration of Independence was a member from Hunterdon County, New Jersey, who was elected a delegate to the Continental Congress by the Provincial Congress of New Jersey on 21 Jun 1776 and served until 30 Nov 1776 when another delegation was elected.

At no time thereafter was John Hart of New Jersey a delegate to the Continental Congress, and there is no evidence that he was absent from New Jersey during the British occupation of Philadelphia. In fact, he served several consecutive terms as Speaker of the New Jersey Assembly, until at the end of the first session of 1778 he retired because of ill health. He died at Hopewell, New Jersey, then in Hunterdon but now in Mercer County, in May 1779. The identity of John Hart who was a house guest of the Henrys in Lancaster remains a mystery.

David Rittenhouse was also a close friend of William Henry. It will be recalled that in 1772 the two were among those appointed to survey the Susquehanna and Lehigh rivers, to determine the best location for a canal to be constructed through the interior of Pennsylvania. A mechanical genius, Rittenhouse had many interests and abilities in common with William Henry. He is known for his achievements as a clock maker, astronomer, mathematician, scientist,

philosopher and statesman. The circular arc about New Castle which forms part of the boundary of Delaware and Pennsylvania was determined by Rittenhouse. In politics he was a militant Whig, a staunch supporter of the cause of Independence.

While residing with the Henrys, David Rittenhouse held the office of State Treasurer. He was assigned a large front room for his office. The Henry home was an appropriate location for the State Treasurer's office, inasmuch as William Henry was the Treasurer of Lancaster County, a position he held until he died.

It is interesting to note that after the death of William Henry on 15 Dec 1786, his widow, Ann (Wood) Henry was appointed to serve out his term, and continued in the office of County Treasurer for several more years, serving in that post with outstanding competence. She was the first woman in Pennsylvania to hold so important a public office.

Another article will be required to tell the story of William Henry's other house guest. Thomas Paine, to whom the cause of American Independence owes so much, was an anomalous character whose presence in the Henry household was not regarded by all its members as an unmixed blessing. But we'll save that story for another issue.

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#### RESOLUTION

Hilton N. Rahn, Jr., at the October 23, 1980, Annual Meeting, with a bow to Charles M. Sandwick Sr., 's tribute to Catherine Skeath Beers published in the July/August issue of The Jacobsburg Record, presented the following Resolution which it was voted should be spread on the Minutes of the Jacobsburg Historical Society to wit:

"BE IT RESOLVED that the Jacobsburg Historical Society owes an immeasurable debt of gratitude to the late Catherine Skeath Beers (1908-1980), President from the Society's founding in 1972 until her death in this year.

"Her efforts in guiding the Society through its birth and growth, culminating in the successful Henry Homestead restoration have left an indelible mark of quality.

"Through her ability to rally persons of diverse talents around the Society's objectives and to inspire loyal support among our associates, Cay provided the foundation that will enable Jacobsburg to operate effectively for years to come."

# DIRECTORY

## Board of Directors

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

Nazareth (759-0302)  
 Nazareth (759-0751)  
 Nazareth (759-0751)  
 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 - Hilton N. Rahn, Jr.

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)  
 Bethlehem (868-1789)

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FOR JACOBSBURG 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
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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.