

The Jacobsburg Record

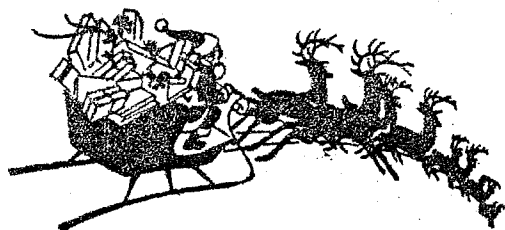
NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 1981

VOL. IX, NO. 6

DECEMBER 6 CHRISTMAS PARTY - OPEN HOUSE

HENRY HOMESTEAD, 1 TO 4 P.M.

OLD TOYS - REFRESHMENTS



Out of attics and into the present will come the toys and Christmas mementos of long ago. Yes, everyone is invited to our Christmas Party at the Henry Homestead on Sunday, December 6, one to four o'clock.

The Home will be decorated for Christmas, we will have a putz, and because it is a party, we will have refreshments at the end of the Open House tour.

Of most interest, however, will be the displays of toys and play items of yesteryear. Do plan to celebrate with us.

Undoubtedly there will be a doll or two, but we plan later to have an all-doll exhibit. On display, however, will be wooden and leather animals, old children's books, doll tea sets, little girl's parasol, tiny play bowling pins, play pots and pans, etc.

On a platform in the Log Cabin, we expect to show the back yard toy, a Buddy L. Train. It is a collector's item being loaned for the occasion by Matt Morris. At least 50 years old, it was bought second-hand by Matt for his own back yard. The locomotive and cars are of pressed steel, run on track, and are strong enough for youngsters to sit on. The whole thing includes a locomotive and tender, a gondola car, a cattle car, an oil tank car, a wrecker, and a caboose. The track is of heavy gage metal and includes switches, frogs, etc. (A frog is a device permitting the wheels on one rail of a track to cross an intersecting rail--Webster.)

Virginia and Joe Lopresti will be showing archeological finds from the digs.

Diane Warner will have for sale herb packets and several different homemade vinegars.

Eva Smith, although recovering from a recent operation, will at least have some Miss Clara cornhusk dolls available. We are happy to report Eva is recuperating nicely at home.

Dale Prinkey, too, will have his hand-drawn artistic prints of area historic buildings for sale.

Directions for getting to the Homestead: From the South, take Rte. #33 to the Belfast Exit, turn left, and just beyond the bridge, turn right into the Parking Lot. From the North, at the Belfast Hotel on Rte. #115, turn right, take the first left fork at Speck Plastics, and continue to the bridge, then right into the Parking Lot.

MERRY CHRISTMAS EVERYONE

AND

A HAPPY NEW YEAR

CARRIAGE HOUSE REPAIRS

Joe Lopresti has been directing Matt Morris and Ellis Neuner, and sometimes Steve Kalmar and Claude Jones, in making the Carriage House weatherproof. The Board had allocated \$1200 for this work. Needless to say, without all the donated hours and some of the material, the above amount would never have begun to cover the project. We hope in the spring, Virginia and Joe will be exhibiting their archeological artifacts in a real museum setting.

At this point we say thank you, too, to the Nazareth Pharmacy for some display cases and compartmentalized drawers, ideal for exhibiting digs items.

Joe put in a cement foundation and donated used lumber for the new Carriage House siding to make it weatherproof. He put in a supporting beam to give strength to the center of the structure to correct a sag.

In fact, Joe gave his team expert lessons in building and rebuilding. On the side facing east, new track was put in for the hanging doors. Eaves trimming was put in place. Gutters were enclosed to make them look better. Entrance doors were rotted top and bottom and had to be repaired.

Finally, almost single-handedly, Joe dug trenches to lay conduit for electric lines from the pole at the back of the Homestead to the Carriage House, thence to the Duck House, and finally to the Barn.

In all, since Joe and Virginia stopped their archeological work early in the fall, Joe along with his helpers, has put in full days at the auxiliary buildings. Thank you, men!

ARCHEOLOGY NOTES

Virginia over the winter will fill us in on 1981's summer digging, but she has let us in on a few items that have delighted her. At the mill dump, she and Joe found clay and glass marbles plus a particularly beautiful large glass marble; also glass toys that used to be filled with small candies. There also they found a copper sewing thimble with just a sharp edge, no rolled edge.

In October, Virginia finally had identified two blue ceramic rings, about 2 in. in diameter that she had found as long ago as 1976. They are sewing basket handles. Remember sewing baskets?

Also in October, Virginia had identified an object she had picked up in 1977 at the Matthew S. Henry home location. It proved to be a pie crimper.

On November 16, Virginia and Joe were scheduled to speak at a meeting of the Bethlehem School Teachers Association.

We look forward to Virginia's telling of other archeological finds.

Congratulations to Ellis Neuner who is back in Nazareth High School taking a class in German every morning at 8:15, no less. He, along with his brother-in-law, Romaine Ruhf, is taking advantage of the School's invitation to Senior Citizens, 55 and over, to become a part of scheduled daily classroom work. The School Administration and the total of five Senior Citizens in the program are to be commended. Bravo!

HISTORICAL RESEARCH

TRACING THE COLVER FAMILY TO BUSHKILL TOWNSHIP

By Charles M. Sandwick, Sr.

The will of Edward Colver of Bushkill Township, Northampton County, dated 6 Jul 1875 and proved 12 Apr 1884, mentions his wife Henrietta Caroline; sons Charles, William, Herman and Henry; daughters Harriet wife of Morris Kostenbader, May wife of Peter Greitz, Louisa wife of John Ritter, and Catharine wife of Monroe Krout. He named as executors his sons Charles and Henry, but Henry died before him; so Charles was the sole executor. The witnesses were Granville Henry and Edward T. Henry.

The federal census of 1850 of Bushkill Township lists the following household: Edward Colver, 43, gunsmith; Henerette, 37; Charles, 19, filer; Harette, 13; Mary, 11; William, 9; Louesa, 7; Harman, 5; Catherine, 4; all born in Pennsylvania. The five children aged 5 to 13 attended school during the year. Some of the ages are not strictly correct as of 1 Jun 1850 but such discrepancies are frequent in the 1850 census.

Ephraim Colver, the great-grandfather of Edward L., was born in Lebanon, New London County, Connecticut, 30 Jul 1717, in the eastern part of the state. He was raised a Presbyterian but later converted to Moravian. He moved to the area of Litchfield, Connecticut and there married, probably about 1739, Hannah Mason, who bore him two sons, Charles and Ephraim. Hannah died leaving him a widower with two motherless little boys. On 12 Jun 1746 he married as his second wife Elizabeth Smith, who was born in East Haddam, Middlesex County, Connecticut, 26 Aug 1717, and like Ephraim had been brought up a Presbyterian. They had six children of whom only three daughters were living in 1771. We have no information regarding one of their children but of the other five we know that two were born in Connecticut and three in Pennsylvania.

In 1751 the Colvers came to Dansbury, Smithfield Township, Bucks County (now East Stroudsburg, incorporated in 1870 from Stroud Township, Monroe County) where the Moravians had built a mission house on the west side of the Analomink Creek, having been made welcome to that locality by Daniel Brodhead (1693-1755), owner of the Dansbury tract. By 1753 Ephraim had built a grist mill and other buildings on McMichael's Creek, on a site within the present limits of Stroudsburg.

That the Colvers were already associated with the Moravians before coming to Dansbury is not an unsupported guess. On both sides of the border of northeastern Dutchess County, N.Y., and northwestern Litchfield County, Ct., beginning in 1740, the Moravians were seeking converts among the Indians and established at least two meeting houses, one on the border at the head of Indian Lake, and the Shekomeko mission two miles south of Pine Plains, both in Dutchess County. Persecution forced the abandonment of the Shekomeko mission in 1745, and the missionaries returned to Bethlehem accompanied by several of

their Indian converts. However, other converts, both Indian and white, remained in the area. There is a record in the Moravian Archives to the effect that Ephraim Colver of Salisbury, Litchfield County, Connecticut, requested some English Moravian hymnbooks on 16 Mar 1749, and requested an English-speaking minister on 24 Apr 1749.

On the morning of 11 Dec 1755 more than a hundred hostile Indians made a surprise attack on Dansbury, at that time in Northampton County which had been formed in 1752 from Bucks. Some of the settlers were able to flee but their homes and barns were burned. Among those who escaped were the Colvers, who made their way to Nazareth where they found care and shelter in the Whitefield House, and they remained there for some time. When still within sight of their buildings they looked back and saw them in flames. They had lost everything except the few belongings they could carry. Francis Jones, who had lived with them and had accompanied them in their flight, found refuge at the Rose Inn.

The Brodhead family fared better. The sons of Daniel Brodhead barricaded their sturdy log house and held off the enemy from all directions with gunfire. It was during the unsuccessful siege of the Brodhead house that the marauders fired the barns and other outbuildings on the Brodhead farm and burned the Moravian meeting house and the buildings at Colver's mill. When the Indians finally left the scene, little was left of Dansbury except the well-defended Brodhead home.

Some facts from our previous article need to be recalled. In October 1756 Mr. Colver was installed as landlord of the Crown Inn, across the Lehigh from Bethlehem. In the spring of 1759 he was transferred to the Rose Inn, a short distance northeast of Schoeneck in what is now Bushkill Township, serving as landlord there until 19 Apr 1765 when he was moved back to the Crown Inn, where he remained in charge until the death of his wife.

Elizabeth (Smith) Colver died 12 Feb 1771 and was buried in the old Moravian Cemetery at Bethlehem. Ephraim retired as landlord of the Crown Inn and soon afterward returned to the vicinity of Schoeneck. On 27 Nov 1772, at Schoeneck, he married as his third wife the widow Maria Christina (Kuehn) Clauss, who was born in Alsace 19 May 1719 and was previously married to Johann George Clauss (1722-1763). Ephraim Colver died 24 Mar 1775 and was buried in the Moravian Cemetery at Bethlehem. His will, dated 5 Jul 1773 and proved 31 Mar 1775, mentions his wife Christina; sons Charles and Ephraim; and daughters Anna, Johanna Elizabeth, and Mary. He named as executors his friend William Edmonds and his sons Charles and Ephraim. The witnesses were Abraham Steiner, Johann Michler, and Gottlieb Demuth. (File No. 652, wills and administrations, Northampton County Archives.) Christina died 7 Sep 1782 and was buried in the Schoeneck Moravian Cemetery.

Charles Colver, the first child of Ephraim and Hannah (Mason) Colver, was born in Danbury, Fairfield County, Ct., 18 Jan 1741, and died at his farm near Bethlehem 16 Nov 1817. He married 2 Jan 1769 Anna Heil who was born in Warwick Township near Lititz in Lancaster County 12 Jul 1746, and died at or near Bethlehem 22 Dec 1818. Their

farm was west of Bethlehem, roughly two miles west of Monocacy Creek and less than a mile north of the Lehigh River at the nearest: it would now be in Allentown. Charles and Anna (Heil) Colver had four children: (1) Jacob, born about 1769-70, who in 1797 had a farm adjacent to that of his father and nearer to Bethlehem; (2) Nathanael, born 2 Oct 1771; (3) Johannes, born near Bethlehem 11 Feb 1775; and (4) Anna Maria, born near Bethlehem 14 Aug 1776. It was written of Charles Colver that he was a brick maker by trade; that he moved to Salem, N.C., left the Church, but later was readmitted and returned to Bethlehem. He is listed in the DAR PATRIOT INDEX, Washington: 1966, as having served in the Revolutionary War as a private from Connecticut. (See page 168 under CULVER etc.)

Ephraim Colver, the second son of Ephraim and Hannah (Mason) Colver, was born in Litchfield, Ct., 25 Feb 1743, and died near Schoeneck, Northampton Co., Pa., 21 Sep 1804. He married first at Bethlehem 16 Aug 1770 Magdalena Lanius who was born in Catores Township, York Co., Pa., 23 Oct 1745, and died at Hope, N.J., 17 Jan 1797, the eighth child of Jacob and Juliana (Kraemer) Lanius. This Ephraim was at various times a miller's helper at Friedensthal, a farmer near Hope, N.J., and a schoolmaster in Plainfield (now Bushkill) Township. He married second in April 1801 the widow Margaretha (Engel) Loeffler. The will of Ephraim Colver of Plainfield Township, schoolmaster, dated 15 Sep 1804 and proved 18 Oct 1804, mentions his wife Margaret, son Jacob and daughter Johanna Elizabeth. The executors were his son Jacob and his friend John Roth, innkeeper, of Nazareth. The witnesses were Franz Clewell, John Snare and Nathaniel Michler.

The children of Ephraim and Magdalena (Lanius) Colver were (1) John, born in Bethlehem 30 Jul 1771 and died there 2 Sep 1771; (2) Ephraim, born in Bethlehem 2 May 1773, presumably dead by 1804; (3) Anna (or) Johanna Elisabeth (called Elisabeth), born in Bethlehem 11 May 1776, resided in Lititz in 1804; (4) Wilhelm, born in Bethlehem 26 Sep 1778, presumably dead by 1804; and (5) Johann Jacob (called Jacob), who was born in Hope, N.J., 5 Oct 1783, and died in Bushkill Township 19 Mar 1844. Jacob married in Bushkill Township in 1806 Catharina Steiner who was born in "the Settlement," Allen Township, on or about 17 Oct 1786, and died 6 Sep 1857, daughter of Heinrich and Susanna (Volz) Steiner. Jacob and Catharina (Steiner) Colver are buried in the Moravian Cemetery at Schoeneck. They had several generations of descendants who lived and worked in the area of Boulton, Filetown and Jacobsburg. Our next article will continue with this branch of the Colver family.

Returning now to Ephraim Colver (1717-1775) and his second wife Elizabeth (Smith) Colver (1717-1771), they had six children of whom only three daughters survived them. Anna (also called Martha) was born in Danbury, Ct., in 1748, and was baptized in Bethlehem at the age of twelve on 29 Mar 1761. She died in 1811 and was buried in Bethlehem. She was married at Bethlehem 1 Dec 1775 to Stephen Nicolaus, who was born in Alsace 23 Feb 1731 and died in Hope, N.J., 24 Nov 1795, son of Jacob and Anna Barbara Nicolaus. At this time we are not sure whether Anna was the first or second child born to Ephraim and Elizabeth (Smith) Colver. We have proof that they had six children but we have discovered records of only five.

Johanna Elizabeth, the second or third child of Ephraim and Elizabeth, was born in Connecticut the latter part of 1750, and was baptized in Bethlehem at the age of thirteen and one half on 25 Mar 1764. She was living in 1773, but no other information about her has come to our attention. Maria, their next child, was born at Dansbury (the Stroudsburg vicinity) in 1752 and died at Bethlehem in 1821; she was married at Nazareth 17 Jan 1780 to Daniel Kunckler who was born at Nazareth in 1753 and died in Bethlehem in 1792, son of Daniel Kunckler. Sarah, who was born at Dansbury 16 Sep 1755, less than three months before the Indian attack, died at Nazareth on 4 May 1756. John, the last of their children of whom we have found a record, was born in Nazareth 17 Nov 1757, died 27 Oct 1761, and was buried in Bethlehem.

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NEWS AND NOTES FROM THE BOARD

The Board acknowledges a gift from Miss Dorothy R. Miller, Easton, of a lady's we'll dub it a "household sewing center," about 10 in. across and 8 in. high in carved wood. Stand up pegs are for spools, two round nubs are for thimbles, a small raised platform in the middle would accommodate a pin cushion. Three drawers swing out, or would if they could be loosened. Short legs are carved as if to represent small animal heads, and tiny beads are eyes. We do not know its age. If anyone has seen such an item illustrated, please let Betty Morris know. In the meantime, we say thank you to Miss Miller for a most interesting item. Betty Morris is fashioning 2 pin cushions.

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More than \$500 has been turned over to the Jacobsburg Historical Society from the Black Powder Shoot. Special thanks go to George Dech, John Gerra, James Dinecola, Bushkill Township Boy Scout Troop #74, and Easton Boy Scout Troop #1.

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We have \$1000 toward a Security System. In addition, we need smoke and fire detection equipment. We need a refrigerator for the Society kitchen downstairs. We need shelving for the Society office above the log cabin room. Shelves should be wide enough from front to back to accommodate magazines. Donations accepted!

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At the annual dinner, 105 people heard John Gunsser speak interestingly on the Asa Packer years, 1805-1879. Ten members of the Sun Inn Preservation Association attended.

Peggy Shuttleworth, who did all the attractive flower arrangements with flowers from her own back yard, at the last minute was ill and could not come.

The new Constitution and By-laws were accepted and officers were elected for 1982. The list will appear in the next issue.