

JACOBSBURG  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY

March 2010

# The Jacobsburg Record

## *Volunteers Issue*

Volume 37, Issue 2

*Jacobsburg — Where History Lives!*

### *Spotlight on Volunteers*

## Meet Kay Tomko, A New Lady of the JJ Henry House

Kay Tomko discovered the 1832 John Joseph Henry House last May, when Barb and Phil Schroeder gave her a tour. Like most visitors, Kay was impressed with the grandeur of the house, awed at the sight of the staircase that wound to the third floor. Awed—but disappointed—because she could only look up the stairs with wonder; only the first floor of the house may be toured by the public.



Kay Tomko decorates a tree with bows that will be used for making wreaths for a JJ House fundraiser.

“Yes,” she was told upon further inquiry, “it has always been a dream of the Society to open the bedrooms and studies on the second floor. But it’s a big job and will require a very determined and hardworking volunteer to get such a project off the ground.”

Fortunately for the Society, Kay is just that sort of volunteer—and more. Kay has a passion for interior decorating, and she has been involved with historic house restoration since she was a young child. For 15 years, beginning when she was in fourth grade, Kay worked in her grandparents’ lighting fixture business, where she learned something about everything from repairing old lamps to re-wiring old homes. As an older teenager, she assisted her parents with the various tasks, e.g., library research and wallpapering, involved in restoring and decorating an historic 22-room inn.

Later, Kay and her husband, Allen, restored a circa 1910 house of their own, along with a three-story barn, which they renovated for their stove and fireplace business. More recently, Allen and Kay moved to their current circa mid-19th century home on Jacobsburg Road. Two years ago the couple retired and sold their stove and fireplace shop. After taking off a little time for herself, Kay was ready for a new challenge. Her goal: Restore two upstairs rooms in the JJ House and have them ready for public tours when the museum season opens in May 2010.



Trimming greens for wreaths.

### *Raising Funds: Wreath-Making Event*

A consummate businesswoman, Kay knew that her first task was to raise seed funds to begin the project. With the help of her friends and other JHS volunteers, Kay solicited sponsorships from local businesses and sold raffle tickets for Christmas gift boxes to cover the costs of

*Continued on page 4*

**Jacobsburg Historical Society****Board of Directors****\*Dave Ehrig, President**

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**\*JHS Life Members**

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The *Jacobsburg Historical Society* is a member-supported nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving and presenting the art and industry of making early American firearms, and the character of the individuals and community that created and sustained that enterprise.

The *Jacobsburg Record* is published by the Jacobsburg Historical Society, 402 Henry Road (mail to P.O. Box 345), Nazareth, Pennsylvania 18064, 610-759-9029, and is mailed to Society members and supporters.

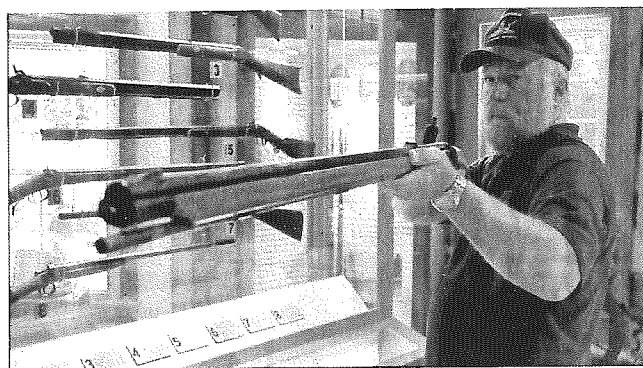
*The Boulton Bicentennial Is Coming!*

The year was 1812; a backwoods valley downstream from Jacobsburg became a small industrial community. It would employ more than 75 skilled barrel smiths, stock carvers, lock filers, as well as the skills of their families. The banks of the Bushkill Creek which was named "Boulton" would leave an indelible mark on the pages of Northampton County, Pennsylvania and the United States of America history.

Two hundred years later, the descendants, neighbors, historians, artisans and members of Jacobsburg Historical Society will gather once again at Boulton. The year 2012 will be an exciting year for the Society. We have gained the recognition of the Pennsylvania Longrifle as a state symbol in the PA House of Representatives and are awaiting a similar outcome in the Senate. Our PA Longrifle Museum will be proudly displaying our collections of Henry guns, as well as the contemporary crafts associated with longrifle manufacture.

With our classes in gun building, leather work, horn work, blacksmithing, colonial cooking, colonial gardens, and other Early American skills, Boulton is establishing itself as the new center for these arts. But the best is yet to come.

We are studying the feasibility of resurrecting the Boulton Gun Works! It is our fervent hope that JHS can bring together new faces, new resources and renewed energy to complete the dream of many. By rebuilding a once proud symbol of Northampton County and the State of Pennsylvania, we can showcase more than static displays, we can showcase the arts and entrepreneurial skills of contemporary artisans. Moreover, we will elevate the awareness of students' history/arts/mechanical skills; bring heightened awareness and motivation to area teachers; and, provide a site for scholars for archaeological research, archives studies and relevant thesis projects.



AL ZAGORSKY/SPECIAL TO THE TIMES NEWS  
Dave Ehrig, president of the Jacobsburg Historical Society at the Pennsylvania Longrifle Museum stands in front of a display exhibit showcasing the history of rifle making by the Henry family of Northampton.

**VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**

- **Serve on the JHS Bicentennial Committee**
- **Contribute ideas for celebration events & programs**

Call 610-759-9020, email [jacobsburg@rcn.com](mailto:jacobsburg@rcn.com)

The Jacobsburg Historical Society's Board of Directors is excited about the coming bicentennial and invites you to become an important part of Boulton's past and future. Call us, email us, visit us; we look forward to your involvement.

—Dave Ehrig, JHS Life Member  
President, JHS Board of Directors

## Jacobsburg Historical Society

### 2010 Calendar of Events\*

\*Note that this is a preliminary schedule for the year. Visit us at [www.jacobsburg.org](http://www.jacobsburg.org) for updates and more information.

**ALL JHS EVENTS RUN ON VOLUNTEER POWER — PLEASE CALL 610-759-9029 TO FIND OUT HOW YOU CAN HELP**

#### MUSEUM SCHEDULE

**Pennsylvania Longrifle Museum (PLRM):** Open Saturdays and Sundays, May-October, 11am-4pm; open year around during special events and by appointment.

**John Joseph Henry House (JJ House) & Nicholas Hawk Gun Shop:** Open year around during special events and by appointment. Exact dates for opening during the JHS Museum Season (May through October) are forthcoming and will be posted soon on the website and in the next issue of the newsletter.

January 9	<i>Powder Horn Building Class.</i> Saturdays through Jan. 30, noon to 5pm. PLRM
February 13	<i>Advanced Powder Horn Seminar</i> (class full). PLRM
March 6	<i>Beginning Gunsmithing Class.</i> , Saturdays through May 1, 2pm to 5pm. PLRM.
March 20	<i>Garden Class:</i> Seed-starting, 10am-12noon, JJH gardens. Proceeds of all garden classes benefit the Boulton Historic Site gardens.
April 17	<i>Garden Class:</i> Plant propagation, 10am-12noon, JJH gardens
April 24	<i>Spring Buildings &amp; Grounds Clean-up.</i> 8:30am, meet at the JJHouse.
May (TBA)	<i>Leather-Working Class: Hunting Bag</i> (pilot class, closed registration), PLRM
May 1	<b>MUSEUMS OPEN FOR THE SEASON.</b> All facilities open today, 11am-4pm.
May 15	<i>Plant Sale.</i> JJHouse gardens, Proceeds to benefit JJH Gardens.
May 16	<i>Seasonal Craft Class:</i> Bow making, 1pm, PLRM. Proceeds of all seasonal craft classes benefit the 1832 JJHouse Museum.
June 5	<i>Delaware Foodways Group meeting,</i> Summer Kitchen
June 12-13	<i>Rifle Frolic.</i> Frontier living history encampment, 10am-4pm. Boulton Historic Site
June 27	<i>Summer Kitchen Class.</i> Open Hearth Cooking Basics with Connie Unangst
July 3-11	<i>Kutztown Folk Festival.</i> Gunsmith booth.
July 11	<i>Easton Heritage Day.</i> Easton, PA.
July 23	<i>Honourable Company of Horner Annual Gathering,</i> JJH grounds
July 23-25	<i>Dixon's Gunmakers' Fair.</i> Kempton, PA
August 7-8	<i>JHS Remembers World War II.</i> 29th infantry re-enactors. Boulton grounds.
August 20,21,22	<i>Jacobsburg Garden Theatre,</i> JJH grounds.
October 30-31	<i>American Fur Trade Rendezvous.</i> Frontier living history encampment, 11am-4pm. Boulton Historic Site
November 11	<i>Annual Dinner Meeting</i>
November 20	<i>Fall Buildings &amp; Grounds Clean-up</i>
November 27	<i>Seasonal Craft Class:</i> Wreath making, PLRM.
December 4	<i>Seasonal Craft Class:</i> Victorian ornaments, PLRM.
December 11	<i>Christmas Open House.</i> Victorian Christmas at the JJ House.

### Meet Kay Tomko, Continued from page 1

the event so that all participant proceeds could be used for the JJ House project. Friends assisted in making gorgeous bows for the wreaths.

The wreath-making event, held Thanksgiving Sunday, kicked off the beginning of a wonderful Christmas season at Boulton. Dave Ehrig trimmed wreath greens from Christmas trees donated by Unangst Tree Farm. Kevin Ballard baked several pans of lasagna for lunch; Stephen Boligitz assisted with set up; and Howie White, JHS volunteer coordinator, was on-hand to greet participants. Kay and Lisa Boligitz, offered basic wreath-making instructions and tips; then participants were left to follow their own creative visions. The resulting wreaths were splendid, and the event raised \$650 for Kay's JJ House project.

### The Project Begins

During the second week of January, Kay began working to restore a second-floor bedroom. The first order of business was reorganizing third-floor storage space to make room for the numerous "non-bedroom" artifacts being housed in that bedroom. Kay carefully ordered textiles by type and stored them in drawers and trunk chests. Student volunteers from Moravian Academy (Bethlehem) helped to move furniture. Next, Kay and her friend, Debbie Marmelo, began sanding the old fireplace, doors, and trim in the bedroom,



Kay Tomko and Debbie Marmelo sanding the bedroom fireplace.

while Tom O'Toole repaired and painted the ceiling. Much sanding and painting remains to be done to restore the original beauty of the room. However, Kay is right on schedule to finish with the bedroom by mid-March, after which she will begin working on the small room adjacent to the bedroom. Décor in this room will highlight the interests, occupations, and past times, e.g., sewing, of the Henry family women.

We hope you'll join us at the for the debut opening of these two rooms on May 1st, which marks the beginning of our regular museum season.



Participants in the wreath-making fundraiser for the JJ House display their creations. Jennifer McKeever (far left, standing) donated her wreath to decorate the front door of the JJ House throughout the holiday season.

### VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

- **Register to participate in or volunteer to assist with seasonal craft classes (see Events Calendar on page 3). All proceeds from the classes will be used for the JJ House interiors project.**
- **Sell raffle tickets (\$1 per ticket) to raise funds to cover the costs of the craft classes.**
- **Assist with interior structure work, e.g., cleaning, sanding, and painting.**
- **Assist with museum curatorial work, such as cleaning, organizing, boxing, and cataloging artifacts.**
- **Serve as a public greeter when the JJ House is open for special events, especially on living history encampment weekends (June 12-13; October 30-31).**

Call 610-759-9029, Email [jacobsburg@rcn.com](mailto:jacobsburg@rcn.com)



## Boulton Christmas Open House 2009

### A Very Special Thanks to our Volunteers

**Rich & Roberta Steiner** (JHS Life Members), who donated the funds for the Boulton Christmas open house events & **Roberta Steiner**, who coordinated the Victorian Christmas at the JJ House, including decorations, music by Sally Shutler and period costumes by Lorita Musselman. & **Sybil Marsh**, JJ House docent & decorator, including the dining room Putz & **Phyllis and Bob Johnson**, JJ House docents & **Tom Varenchick and Sarah White**, summer kitchen demonstrations & **Joe & Bobbie DiGerlando**, who coordinated the Volunteer Christmas Party and Christmas at the Old Henry Homestead, including decorations, food, and programming & **Debbie DeSousa**, Nazareth Garden Club, for creating wreaths, swags, banister ropes, and other natural arrangements to decorate the Old Homestead & **Derek Steiner**, who provided music at the Old Homestead & **Rich Hujsa, Carl Landis, & Ron Gabel** for the special PA Longrifle Museum exhibit, featuring German wood carvings, powder horns, and a collection of long rifles & **Dave Ehrig** (JHS Life Member), photographer & **Howie White**, JHS Volunteer Coordinator & **Kevin McDonald**, JHS website designer, for on-line publicity.



## New Directions: William Henry Atherton Bridge

On November 25, 2009, JHS members and friends gathered for the official opening of the new Henry Road bridge over the Bushkill. The new bridge replaces the Henry Woods pony truss bridge, which, prior to its destruction by Hurricane Ivan in 2004, was considered by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (PHMC) to be a contributing element to the Jacobsburg National Historic District. Though disappointed that the Commonwealth would not construct a replacement bridge with a suitably accurate historical appearance, the Society is pleased that visitors now have easy access off Route 33 to Boulton.

The new bridge was christened "William Henry Atherton Bridge," in honor of Bill Atherton, a direct descendent of William Henry III and current resident of Boulton. Bill is a member of the JHS board of directors and has been recognized on numerous occasions by the PHMC for his outstanding efforts to preserve and present the heritage of Pennsylvania. Speaking at the ceremony were JHS President Dave Ehrig and Rep. Craig Dally, as well as representatives of Pennsylvania Department of Transportation. Dignitaries in attendance included Matt Moyer, executive assistant to Senator Pat Browne. The ceremony concluded with a long rifle salute by Matt Ehrig, and a reception was held afterwards in Bill's honor.



Rifleman Matt Ehrig, Bill Atherton, and Rep. Craig Dally celebrate the opening of the William Henry Atherton Bridge.

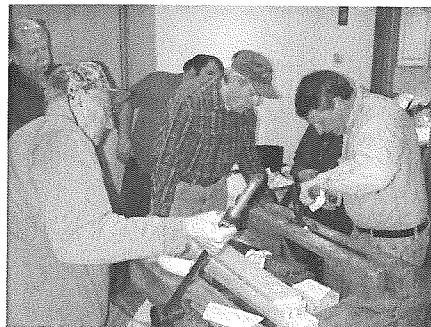
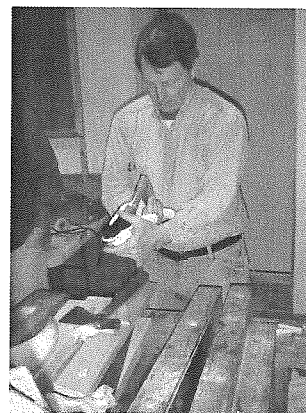
## *Honourable Company of Horners at Boulton*



The Honourable Company of Horners sponsored its second Beginning Powder Horn Building class at Boulton this January. The class was instructed by Frank Willis, Bob Albrecht, Bob Chattin, and Rich Hujsa, assisted by apprentices Hoyt Masterton and Carl Landis.

The class featured a special seminar by master horner, Roland Cadle (top right), on building flat powder horns. Roland and the HCH generously donated all the horns for the class. Additionally, the HCH donated all tuition fees back to the Jacobsburg Historical Society, so that the Society can continue to build its heritage craft class program.

If you are interested in registering for the next powder horn building class or other heritage craft classes, please call the Society at 610-759-9029 for information.





Mary Adeline "Molly" Henry Stites in her garden at Boulton.

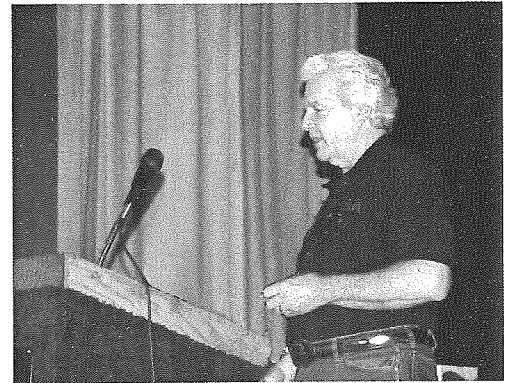
### *Think Spring!* *The JJ House Victory Garden*

Part of the Henry family legacy is an appreciation of the rural, outdoor life — a legacy that includes family picnics in Henry Woods, James Henry's work to conserve the trees of Pennsylvania, and the gardens and orchards of Boulton. To continue this tradition, Bobbie DiGerlando, along with all interested volunteers, plans to establish a "Victory Garden" this summer on the JJ House grounds. This vegetable garden will complement the summer kitchen herb garden, and its produce will be used in our cooking classes and demonstrations.

To raise money to start the garden, Bobbie is offering a series of basic gardening classes to the public this spring. She is a certified master gardener, a member of the Nazareth Garden Club, and chair of the Society's garden committee. The first garden class, "Seed Starting Clinic," will be held on March 20, from 10am to noon, in the JJ House Gardens. At this clinic, participants will learn how to start seeds and transplant seedlings. Gardeners will go home with a fully planted flat of seeds and a six pack of transplants, plus the confidence and knowledge to be able to continue at home. Topics will include seed selection, planting mediums, heat, lighting, watering, and organic pest management. The cost is \$20 per student (due by March 17), and all proceeds will benefit the Victory Garden. Registration limited to 15 students. Call 610-759-9029 or email [jacobsburg@rcn.com](mailto:jacobsburg@rcn.com).

**Volunteer Opportunities Available to Gardeners**  
Call 610-759-9029, email [jacobsburg@rcn.com](mailto:jacobsburg@rcn.com)

### Tim Lubenesky, JHS Board, Heads the Kentucky Rifle Association



Tim Lubenesky giving his acceptance speech as newly elected president of the KRA

In 2009, Tim Lubenesky was elected president of the prestigious Kentucky Longrifle Association, an international organization dedicated to preserving the heritage of the Kentucky Rifle, Kentucky Pistol, and related accoutrements. The KRA promotes collecting the American Longrifle as one of the finest form of pure American art ever produced by this country. The organization, officially founded in 1962, traces its history to 1924 with the publication of Capt. John G.W. Dillon's seminal work, *The Kentucky Rifle*. The KRA promotes research through its database of longrifle gunmakers, its newsletter (edited by Ron Gabel, also on the JHS board), and its associated educational arm, the Kentucky Rifle Foundation. The Foundation has contributed funds to several JHS educational projects, including \$5000 for the interactive gunsmith school exhibit in our Pennsylvania Longrifle Museum.

Tim Lubenesky is a long-time director of the JHS board, serving for two terms as its president. He is widely known as an expert on Kentucky rifles, particularly those produced by the Henry family and other gunsmiths in the Lehigh Valley and surrounding region. Tim has served as projects manager on the Nicholas Hawk Gun Shop and the Pennsylvania Longrifle Museum; as well as coordinator of our living history encampments and popular gunsmithing classes. Congratulations, Tim, on your new position!

**Volunteer Opportunities available for various positions at the Pennsylvania Longrifle Museum and during our frontier living history encampments.**

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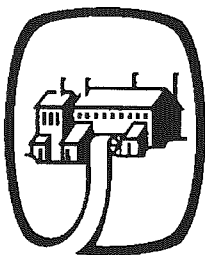
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CALENDAR OF EVENTS  
CORRECTION

RIFLE FROLIC AT BOULTON  
JUNE 19 & 20, 2010

## Membership Form

☐ Renewal ..... Or ..... ☐ New Member

*Please check appropriate category*

☐ Student \$7.00

☐ Individual \$10.00

☐ Family \$20.00

☐ Contributing \$25.00

☐ Organization \$50.00

☐ Apprentice \$75.00

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