

Jacobsburg Historical Society, Inc.

P.O. Box 345, Nazareth, PA 18064

Vol 1, No. 2

NEWSLETTER

March 1973

President: Mrs. Lewis Beers Secretary: Hilton Rahn
Vice President: Joseph DiGerlando Treasurer: Miss Margaret Taylor

Meeting Notice

The next general membership meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 2, at 7:30 pm at the College Hill Presbyterian Church, Broadhead and Monroe Streets Easton, PA. The program for this meeting will be presented by Albert Toth, a director of our Society and a well-known local historian and lecturer. Mr. Toth will speak on "Forgotten History of Jacobsburg."

Spring Bus Tour

The Society will sponsor a bus trip to Hopewell Village, a National Historic restoration, on Saturday, April 14.

Hopewell was founded in 1770 by Mark Bird. At one time, its forges employed more than 65 men with some responsible for two or more jobs. Cannon and shot for the Revolutionary War were produced here in addition to pig iron, which was shipped to such places as Valley Forge. The restored store buildings and reconstructed wooden ones present an authentic picture of an iron making community between 1820-1840.

Our tour will also include Pottsgrove mansion - the home of the Potts family of ironmasters. Begun in 1752 by John Potts, it incorporates lovely classical features and is a museum of 18th century furnishings. We will also visit the Daniel Boon Homestead - a restoration of a mid 18th century farmhouse on the foundations of Daniel Boone's log cabin birthplace. The trip promises to be very interesting and enjoyable, so get your reservations in early. The bus will leave from the 25th Street Shopping Center in Easton at 8:00 am April 14th and should return by about 6:00 pm. Full cost - excluding lunch (you may bring your own, and we'll be making a stop) will only be \$5.00. You may use the handy form at the end of this newsletter to send in your reservations.

President's Letter

We are very happy and proud to send out the first Newsletter of the Jacobsburg Historical Society. The enthusiasm and interest displayed by many people has been most heartening and enabled us to make a good start on projects which we are anxious to have you know about.

March 1973

Since we hope to continue to issue such a report from time to time, we would be happy if our members would suggest a name for our Newsletter. Won't you please send your ideas for titles to the Jacobsburg Historical Society, Box 345, Nazareth, PA. 18064 and we will select a name at our next meeting, May 2.

The Board of Directors and Committees have been working very hard. Research is being done on the Benade House and Jacobsburg area. We have joined the American Association for State and Local History from which we hope to receive valuable information and aid. The land has been surveyed and plans for digging are set up. Steps for the preservation of existing buildings and materials and cleaning up of the woods are being undertaken. The Committee for National Registration is gathering its material.

With the spring weather we hope to do digging, dismantling of buildings and cleaning up. We are always in need of volunteers and many hands.

Many of us are looking forward also to the bus trip to Hopewell Village on April 14 and to our meeting May 2 when we will learn more about Jacobsburg History from Mr. Albert Toth.

Mrs. Henry Fluck of 3783 Fleetwood Drive, Easton, PA. 18042 has been appointed membership chairman. Mrs. Fluck is planning a county-wide membership drive in May and June. To this end she is forming committees in several areas of the county. All who join before the end of 1973 will be considered charter members and will receive special membership certificates. We are proud that to date we have 97 members, but we would like to have many more because at this point memberships are our only source of revenue.

Catherine S. Beers

Excavation Progress Report

More than 20 members of the Archeology Committee met at the home of Committee Chairman Mrs. Virginia Lopresti on Wednesday, evening, March 14. Enthusiasm is running high with this group and the turnout was very encouraging, but we all met with a disappointment on Saturday, March 17 when the spring rain forced a cancellation of a day of instruction and site familiarization by our Archeologist-in-charge, Prof. Charles W. Tremer of Muhlenberg College in Allentown. Professor Tremer will be in charge of working the Jacobsburg site with his archeology students as the primary work-force. Mrs. Lopresti is coordinating the efforts of our members in the program. We'll try again next Saturday, March 24th at 10 am.

Museum Report

Plans are being worked out for permanently storing records and information that is collected by our members. Miss Ruth Leh, librarian at the Nazareth Library, has given us permission to store our reference and research material in the reference section of the library. Miss Leh and her assistants have also volunteered their service to assist us in storing and using the materials that we collect from our many sources. Our long-range plans include a permanent facility to house and properly display all our findings and gifts.

Environmental Education

Our Society is cooperating with the Bushkill Watershed Assoc. and the Penn State Cooperative Extension Service in assisting the Intermediate School Unit to plan an outdoor education program utilizing the Jacobsburg State Park. The Directors feel that this is a very important project and that very careful planning is needed to make proper and full use of the area. One of our Society's goals is to educate the public in the history and heritage of the area, and an excellent method of doing this is through our school system. A combined environmental-historical program would be of great benefit to our long range plans.

Committee Reports

The Research Committee, under the direction of Charles Sandwick of Easton, is working primarily on the Jacobsburg area, especially the Benade House on the Ferretti Farm. They are collecting data at this time that will be of benefit to the archeological committee in the excavation program.

Archeology Committee: Chairman Mrs. Joseph Lopresti of Stockertown. With spring coming Mrs. Lopresti anticipates a very busy season ahead (for further details see Excavation Progress Report).

Registration Committee: Chairman - Joe DiGerlando of Bath. Continuing to collect data and photos necessary for entering the sites on the State and National Historical Register.

Building Committee: Co-chairman Joseph Lopresti, Stockertown and Joe DiGerlando. Planning spring projects for removal and dismantling structures within the Park boundaries and storing the materials for future use in our restoration program.

Membership Committee: Chairman Mrs. Henry Fluck, Easton. (See President's letter). A county membership drive is being planned for May and June. This is a very important project for our group. We are more than a social group. To achieve our goals we need a large and active working organization. We have had a very good start, but we must continue to expand if we are to fulfill the purposes for which we were founded.

Any member having an interest in working with one or more of these committees is urged to contact the appropriate chairman by phone or by writing to them in care of the Society at Box 345, Nazareth, PA. 18064.

Architects Notes

Early last month, John K. Heyl, A.I.A., a noted historical architect from Allentown, was accompanied by Lester Stein, a Nazareth architect and Joe DiGerlando on a tour of what has become known as the "Benade" House. Mr. Heyl has given us a very excellent architectural report on the buildings, dating them to the mid or late 18th century. We are very grateful to Mr. Heyl and Mr. Stein for taking time from their very busy schedules to assist us in this important research.

Did you know??

*Bushkill Township was a part of Plainfield until 1814.

The Indian name of the Bushkill is Lehiaton, meaning "where the writings were drawn" (the Indian treaties in Easton 1756).

Jacobsburg was founded in 1740 by Jacob Hubler.

*From History of Northampton County by Mathew S. Henry 1851 (unpublished).

Cleanup Project

Don Fowler is coordinating efforts between our Society, the Bushkill Watershed Association, the Environmental Education Steering Committee and the Park Superintendent to barricade the roads into Jacobsburg and the Henry Woods area. It is a very sad thing to see some of the most beautiful areas in the valley turned into a large dump by inconsiderate people who have no respect for nature or their fellow men. The response to the proposed cleanup program has been astounding. We hope to have the roads barricaded within the next week or two and then begin our cleanup campaign with a joint effort with the Watershed Assoc., Boy Scouts, and any other interested groups. A work day is being planned for Saturday, April 7, 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. We will meet at the parking area at the Jacobsburg bridge. Bring your lunch with you and help us out for the day.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

JACOBSEBURG HISTORICAL SOCIETY

SINGLE MEMBERSHIP \$5.00 SUSTAINING \$10.00 ORGANIZATION \$25.00

Check Enclosed \$ _____

Name _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Please mail to: Jacobsburg Historical Society, Box 345, Nazareth, PA. 18064

Bus trip to Hopewell Village

Saturday April 14, 1973

Name:

Address:

Telephone No.

_____ Seats @ \$5.00 Total Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Sent to: Mrs. Virginia Lopresti
210 LeFevre Rd.
Stockertown, Pa. 18083