

Jacobsburg Historical Society, Inc.

P. O. Box 345, Nazareth, PA 18064

NEWSLETTER

Vol. 2 No. 2

March 1974

President: Mrs. Lewis Beers  
Vice President: Joseph DiGerlando

Secretary: Hilton Rahm  
Treasurer: Miss Margaret Taylor

Spring is in the air, flowers are growing, birds are singing, and your reporter was even attacked by the first mosquito, so can summer be far behind. Along with the fine weather comes our plans for outdoor projects, field trips, walks, and many, many more. Our board and committee heads have been planning all winter so this promises to be a very busy year with something of interest for all our members.

Archeologists

Our spring archeology program will be starting with a class presented by Mr. C. W. Tremmer of Muhlenburg College, our archeologist-in-charge. This class will be given Wednesday, March 21 at 7:30 p.m. in the archeology lab at Muhlenburg College in Allentown. Muhlenburg College is located a few blocks west of the Allentown Fairgrounds near 24th and Chew Sts. The lab is on the first floor of the building next to the Student Center. For more information please contact our Committee Head, Mrs. Lopresti.

Researchers

Mr. Sandwick held a meeting at his home on February 18, at which twelve members heard Mr. Tremmer giving some suggestions on Research Techniques, including the importance of indexing and cataloging, centralizing information, putting findings in writing; all this aimed at making information more easily available to more people. Information does not do us any good if only a few people know it. What one person may consider insignificant may be the key to solving another person's problem.

Some of the data accumulated to date has been: Dockets of Isaac and Jacob Cope - Justices of the Peace at Jacobsburg, Account lists of Jacob Wollé - the storekeeper, and chemical and microscopic analysis of a gun barrell found at the Jacobsburg Dig. All of these seemingly unrelated items are all pieces of the big puzzle of the story of Jacobsburg. Unfortunately many pieces are missing and a lot remains to be done, but we are hopeful that with the continued help and support of many interested members and local residents we will be able to eventually piece the whole story together.

Another committee meeting will be held at the Sandwick's home on March 18 at 7:30 p.m. If interested in more information, call Mr. Sandwick.

#### Map Research

In conjunction with our continual search for information, some of our members spent a Sunday afternoon working from old photographs, maps, deeds, and memories to transfer data onto a modern map to try to locate important sites in Jacobsburg and surrounding areas. Copies of this map will be given to diggers and researchers to constantly update as new data is found. Example: a copy of an old map of the area was just received from the old Easton Water Co. which has already added new data and changed some of the old.

#### Caveat Emptor - Buyer Beware

Modern merchants do not have the corner on shady business deals. Even old Jacobsburg had some questionable practices. For example the story is told of a blacksmith that used the fine, clear water from the spring to temper his tools. He would save this water to sell to the local Pharmacist who would then bottle it and sell it for Mineral Water. Ralph Nader where were you?

#### Changing Times?

This reporter was priveleged to attend a public hearing in Allentown last month at which PenDot aired a proposal to widen Rt. 222 through Dorneyville to a six lane highway and destroy three very fine, large stone historical buildings over 200 years old. It was very impressive to see several hundred people attend and speak out against this disaster. It is very ironical on the eve of our Bicentennial that one agency of our government attempts to spend millions of dollars to restore historical landmarks and areas while another agency spends equal or larger amounts to obliterate them. Keep up the good work and speak out to stop such stupidity.

#### Historical Ads

On the same theme of awareness, the National Trust for Historical Preservation has been sponsoring a series of T.V. ads pointing out the importance of preservation and showing what has been done in some instances to integrate our historical heritage with our everyday lives. The ads, they say, have had tremendous response, especially from the younger audience. We may sometimes wonder what is happening to our country, but these glimmers of light show us that we do have hope.

#### Bicentennial Notes

Our Country's 200th birthday is rapidly approaching and our Board has been planning for an appropriate celebration. One of the

ideas under discussion is for some type of craft fair at which artisans of old time trades can demonstrate the almost lost arts of woodworking, leatherwork, soap making and the like. If we pursue this idea, we would hope to try out the project this year so that if we decide to continue the event, we can hope to be more successful by 1976. Inform the Board of your thoughts on the subject.

#### Dam Construction Delayed

The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Resources has announced a two year delay in the planned construction of the proposed dam on the Bushkill Creek at Jacobsburg. The reasons given were to further study proposals by the Pennsylvania Fish Commission and other groups to protect quality of this beautiful trout stream. This delay has great importance to our Society for we now have two more years to expand our excavations and interpretations at Jacobsburg, which will be underwater after construction of the dam.

#### Henry Homestead

Our progress report on the approval of our lease on the Homestead is that there is no progress. Unfortunately the State's lawyers have found some problems with their former methods of leasing State properties, so until this problem can be corrected, all further leases have been temporarily suspended.

In the meantime, though, Mrs. Mineo has inspected the gardens with an eye to restoration. Fortunately, the plans for the original gardens have been made available to us, so we are progressing on what promises to be an involved but important project.

#### Barn Demolition

Along with the good weather, our demolition crew will again become active to dismantle a group of barns to save the materials for future construction. We do need a person to help out as a leader of this crew as well as more workers to help. If we have enough workers, the project can be completed in a few weekends. Contact Joe Lopresti, Joe DiGerlando, or Al Toth.

#### New Donations

The Society has been given a copy of the set of microfilms of the Henry Family Papers. This is a very valuable addition to our library and will greatly assist our research committee.

Two books on woodworking and old tools were donated by a member. These are also fine assets to our collection.

We are very grateful to all donors of books, materials, information, and funds. Donations and volunteers are the backbone of our Society. Without both we cannot hope to accomplish anything.

#### Meeting Report

Last month, our Society co-sponsored a meeting with the Bushkill Watershed Association and the Environmental Education Committee. Mr. Lou Ritrovato, Head of Environmental Education for the Pennsylvania Bureau of Parks, our speaker for the evening, discussed the importance of Environmental education and methods and techniques of implementing new programs. Our Society will be playing an important role in introducing the local history phase to our area school programs.

#### Meeting Notice

Our next meeting will be May 16 at 7:30 p.m. at the College Hill Presbetyrian Church. Our speaker will be Marjorie Penny Paschkis and her topic will be "History Can Be Fun". In 1936 Mrs. Paschkis, a professional illustrator, was director of a group to further human relations in Philadelphia. In 1941 she became director of the first Fellowship House, nine of which are now working throughout the country. In 1951 she was named the Phila. Most Outstanding Citizen and with her award purchased a farm near Pottstown to help further her human relations program. Her work is geared mainly but not exclusively toward children. Some of her work has involved creating museums and doll libraries, tracing historic trends and developments of human relations programs starting with William Penn, a leader in the field. This summer, a group of Indians from New York State will build an authentic long house on the farm, which incidently has been visited by more than 4000 children in the past two weeks.

Note this date so you don't miss this talk.

#### Hopewell Village Trip

Don't forget April 20. This is the date of our bus trip to Hopewell Village. The bus will leave from the 25th St. Shopping Center, Easton, Pa. at 8:00 a.m. Please park near the State Store. Our first stop will be Pottsgrove Mansion at 9:30 a.m. and then the Daniel Boone Homestead at 11:30 a.m., where we will take our lunch break. Please bring a box lunch since there will be no place along the way to purchase a lunch. We plan to arrive at Hopewell Village at 2:00 p.m. and have a guided tour scheduled for 2:20 p.m. The plans call for our return by 6:00 p.m. A tear-off sheet is attached on the back for your convenience. Please include a check for full payment and have reservations in by April 12.

## Archaeology Show

The Folks of the Delaware Archaeology Society will be having an educational show at the Eagles Home on Rt. 115 North of Easton, across from Lafayette College Sports Field. The Show will be Saturday, March 30, 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and Sunday, March 31 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Exhibits in the show, will present many facets in the life of American Indians, with demonstrations of some of the early crafts being given. There will also be a slide presentation and exhibits from many local Indian sites.

### Calendar of Events

March 18 - Research Committee Meeting  
March 20 - Archaeology Committee Class  
March 30/31 - Archaeology Show  
April 20 - Hopewell Trip  
April 3/May 1 - Board of Directors Meeting  
May 16 - Society Meeting

### Committee Directory

President: Mrs. Lewis Beers -- 253-4547  
Vice President: Joseph DiGerlando --  
Archaeology: Mrs. Joseph Lopresti -- 759-1580  
Construction: Joseph Lopresti, Joe DiGerlando, Albert Toth -- 759-2153  
Membership and Field Trips: Mrs. Henry Fluck -- 253-1146  
Research: Charles Sandwick -- 252-1290  
Public Information: Joe DiGerlando -- 759-7239

### Hopewell Village Trip

\_\_\_\_\_ Number of People @ \$5.50      Total enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to: Jacobsburg Historical Society

Mail to: Field Trip  
c/o Mrs. Henry Fluck

Easton, Pennsylvania