

JACOBSTOWN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Volume 2 Number 8

December 1974

From the President

Dear Members of the Jacobstown Historical Society,

This is a letter of appreciation for what your time, talents, interests, and financial support have contributed to the achievements of the past year.

Through your efforts and support we have had:

- 1) the best "walk through Henry's Woods" to date.
- 2) interesting, friendly, and stimulating meetings.
- 3) an exciting and profitable Craft Fair.
- 4) many improvements to the Homestead (new wiring, heating, insulation, kitchen range, papering, painting, cleaning up of grounds, etc.)
- 5) extensive archaeological explorations at the "tannery" and at an as yet unidentified building above the tannery.

6) detailed research into the history of Jacobstown; its families, industries, deeds and titles of land.

7) the preparation of maps of the village of Jacobstown as it existed in the late 18th and in the 19th century.

8) the production of a beautiful series of scenes of the Boulton area by artist Barry Jones.

The Board of Directors, Committee Chairmen, members of committees, and all members are to be congratulated on these remarkable accomplishments.

Yet we have only just begun!

All of these projects are incomplete. There is much more to do and we can only progress if many more of you will volunteer for research, archaeology, work on the Homestead, and serving on committees. I am sure that you will find a few hours spent in these ways will be fun and rewarding. We also want to sell our 500 sets of the Barry Jones scenes and of course we need new members and your continued support through your payment of dues for 1975.

Won't you please help us in these areas?

I am thrilled about another plan which we hope to be completed by 1976, the Bicentennial year. It is the publication of the unpublished manuscript of Matthew Henry's "History of Northampton County". We have been in touch with Dr. Robert T. Henry of Quakertown, descendant of Matthew Henry, for permission for this publication. Hilton Rahn, our able Secretary, is the chairman of the committee to publish the book. He will be assisted by our vice-President Joe DiGerlando, Charles Sandwick and his research committee, and Barry Jones for art work. I know we will have a valuable historical publication.

Once again I thank you all for the success of the past year and seek your continued support in 1975 so that we may keep on growing.

Sincerely,
Catherine S. Beers
President

Ramblings

Christmas 1926 - Is there a Santa Claus? This question has been asked by countless number of children for scores of years and the bleak years of the 20's were no different.

September of that year came and the school bell rang for the first day after a long summer of work and vacation. The only things missing were the new clothes that usually go with the excitement of seeing your friends and the teacher again. However, cleanliness was a must and everyone was shining. The clothes that your brother or sister outgrew were now yours and a sense of pride took over. You too were growing up.

The first month flew by, and then the second and finally the third month arrived. Clouds, snow flakes, Thanksgiving and the air of Christmas hung over the school. What could we children hope to get from Santa? Well, if you were good you were bound to get the usual, but you smiled when you remembered that last year your brother received coal in his cap or the clothes pins in your sisters apron. Nobody hung up stockings, for it would be of no use, there were holes in the heels and toes and any candy or oranges would fall through. Santa never had any expensive toys for us like he delivered to some of the more prominent families, but nevertheless he would come to our house too.

One thing that always had me concerned was the tree. Where and how? One was needed for both the school and at home. How would Santa manage? As the days drew near it became a thought of torture for a boy of 8. Finally the day arrived and when we entered the school room, in the corner was a tree in full glow with candy canes, strings of popcorn, beads made from the colored pages of the mail catalog and a smiling teacher. Everyone beamed. But when I returned home my eyes lit up like stars, for behold there in the living room was also a glimmering tree with all the trimmings. Christmas morning was a delight to behold. My cap was filled with nuts, candy, oranges, new stockings and a toy!

I knew there was a Santa Claus!! Santa was in the person of Mr. Babp and the Henry family. I know for sure for I was there at Christmas, 1926.

Albert Toth

Historic Registration

Society officers were recently notified that a major milestone had been passed on the road to the National Register of Historic Sites and Buildings. The Jacobsburg Historic District has been approved for inclusion of the Pennsylvania Historic Register. This district is about 500 acres and includes about 60 buildings, foundations, sites, and other important features as mill races, dam sites and natural areas. Most of the district is within the 1100 acre Jacobsburg State Park. It begins at the old industrial town of Jacobsburg on the north and goes south along the Bushkill Creek to include Henry's Woods, the Boulton Gun Factory and the Henry Homestead (all in the park) and a number of buildings outside the southern boundary of the park.

Some members of the Society have been working on this project for almost two years; collecting maps, data, and photos to verify our claims of historical importance and significance of the area. The Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission has reviewed our application and agreed that the area has historical importance. They are now in the process of preparing the necessary applications to be submitted for inclusion in the National Register. This is

important for a number of reasons, primarily because before any alterations, construction, development, or any other modification can take place the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission must be consulted for approval. Another important reason for inclusion on the registry is that the area will then become eligible for State and Federal funding for some projects that are currently on our drawing boards. Being on the registry does not guarantee funding but it does make us eligible to be considered for any funding that may be available. Hence we are anxiously awaiting word within the next few months about the eligibility of the area for national registry.

Bargains, bargains!!!

This is something that we could all use more of, especially with the cost of living rising as quickly as it is. As reported in our last newsletter, Barry Jones, an Easton area artist has produced a series of four pen and ink scenes of the Boulton area. The Henry Homestead, the large stone Workmen's House by the stream, the Boulton Gun Works, and a beautiful scene of Henry's Woods have all been tastefully captured by the artistry of Mr. Jones. These scenes have been reproduced in a set of four, 8½ X 11", brown on tan prints enclosed in a very handsome folder with an explanation of each print, information about the artist, and history of the Society. Only 500 sets were printed in this first edition and they will be offered on a first come basis. The size of the prints facilitates display individually or as a grouping in standard size mats or frames. The prints are very reasonably priced at \$5.00/set, including tax, postage and handling and can be mailed directly to your friends and relatives. Complete the order blank included in this newsletter and send with your check or money order. Your order will be mailed promptly.

Membership Dues are Due

It's that time of year again. Along with Christmas, the New Year and Income Taxes is the new Society membership year. Don't forget the new membership categories* that can save you money - something rare these days.

Membership categories now include:

*Student member	-	\$2.50
Regular	"	5.00
*Family	"	12.50
Contributing		15.00
Organization		25.00

The question most often asked is "What do I get for my membership?" Good questions deserve good answers! You get a monthly copy of the newsletter which keeps you informed to the latest happenings of the Society as well as brings you up to date on the history of the area as our researchers find new information. You will receive a membership card which may, at some future time, entitle you to a members discount at happenings and events sponsored by the Society. Hopefully these will become more frequent as our Society grows. The most important item you will receive is the personal satisfaction from knowing that your membership donation is being used to further the research and preservation of our local history and heritage. Programs are currently in progress and more are being planned for the future, but these can only be made possible by your donation of money and time. As a member you may be asked to occasionally

assist in some projects. Please seriously consider giving generously of your time and effort to help achieve the goals of the Society. We have been able to accomplish very much in the past few years but only because of the fantastic amount of time that has been donated. Take a minute now, before you forget, and fill in the application blank on the last page and mail it along with your order for prints. Your prompt attention is appreciated.

Colonial Craft Fair - 1975

Our Board of Directors has decided that the first Colonial Craft Fair was successful enough to warrant another try. This may seem a little early, but a great deal of planning is necessary to prepare for a successful fair. Saturday, July 19, 1975 has been selected and reservations have been placed for as nice a day weather-wise as last year. You will be getting more information as the year progresses but at this point we ask for your help. If you are interested in participating, exhibiting or in any way helping with the fair, or if you know anyone that might be interested, fill out the form (also included on the last page) and we will send you more information. We are looking for people who are willing to demonstrate and exhibit and explain personally handcrafted articles such as jewelry, clothes, decorations, foods, etc. Share your hobby with your friends and neighbors by being a part of our fair.

Directory

Catherine S. Beers - President
Joseph DiGerlando - Vice President (Editor)
William Rahn - Secretary
Margaret Taylor - Treasurer

Easton (253-4547)
Jacobsburg (759-7239)
Bethlehem (868-1789)
Easton (252-1315)

Directors:

Catherine Fluck
Joseph Lopresti
Lorraine Mineo
Charles Sandwick
Molly Santee *Resigned*
Lester Stein
Mary Henry Stites
Albert Toth

Easton (253-1146)
Stockertown (759-1580)
Nazareth (759-0867)
Easton (252-1290)
Easton (253-3687)
Bethlehem (866-8920)
Boulton (759-4693)
Belfast (759-2153)

ORDER BLANK JACOBSBURG HISTORICAL SOCIETY PRINTS

Name _____

Address _____

Zip _____

Enclosed check or money order for \$ _____ Please send _____ sets of
Barry Jones prints (\$5.00/set)

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION
1975

JACOBSBURG HISTORICAL SOCIETY
P.O. Box 345
Nazareth, Pa. 18064

Name _____

Address _____

_____ Zip _____

Type of membership: Student member _____ \$2.50

Regular member _____ 5.00

Family member _____ 12.50

Contributing _____ 15.00

Organization _____ 25.00

Any specific committee you would like to participate on please mention below. We can use all the help we can get.

CRAFT FAIR EXHIBITORS

July 19, 1975

Name _____

JACOBSBURG HISTORICAL SOCIETY
P.O. Box 345
Nazareth, Pa. 18064

Address _____

_____ Zip _____

Specify type of craft _____

ORDER BLANK

JACOBSBURG HISTORICAL SOCIETY PRINTS

Name _____

Address _____

_____ Zip _____

Enclosed check or money order for \$ _____ Please send _____ sets of
Barry Jones prints (\$5.00/set)