

JACOBSTOWN HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Jacobstown Historical Society
P.O.Box 345 Nazareth, Pa. 18064

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Thoughts

Someone once said "When winter is here, can spring be far behind?" Winter is Mother Nature's resting time and spring brings a rush of new activity. The same is true in our Society. Our activities slow down, but just like Mother Nature we are very much alive, planning for a bigger and better year filled with many events, activities and gatherings. Our board of directors and committee heads have been busy preparing for our upcoming activities. We have an open house at the Homestead in May, our Colonial Craft Fair in July, another Walk in the Woods in the fall and much research, excavation, clean-up, and repair work in between. This all takes much time, effort and most of all - H E L P!

This is your society. Take part. Make a spring resolution to get more involved. Check the calendar of events and call the committee heads for more information.

Ed.

Ramblings

THOSE WERE THE GOOD OLE DAYS
Leap Year 1896

If you think I'm all right - send me back my bow of white.
If of me you often think - send me back my bow of pink.
If you will be my fellow - send back to me my bow of yellow.
If you'll have me for your queen - send me back my bow of green.
If to me you would be wed - send me back my bow of red.
If with me you would elope - send back my bow of heliotrope.
If to me you would be true - send me back my bow of blue.
If with me you would grow old - send me back my bow of gold.

A. N. Toth

Field Notes

Spring 1974

The winter passed much too quickly. It was March and time to call or write the Archaeological committee members and bring them up to date on our plans. All were invited to attend a meeting in the Archaeological Laboratory at Muhlenberg College on March 20th. Fourteen people availed themselves of the opportunity to hear Prof. Walter Tremer tell of his experiences in locating and excavating the site of the David Brown House. It was a pre-Revolution structure which had been torn down in the 1860's. Only the approximate location was known and even the road had been changed. After viewing what could be done with little information we were all fired up to find out what we could discover at Jacobstown.

But very few people came out on the appointed Saturdays to start digging where we had left off in the fall. The Professor and his students came out several times and started clearing the winter debris and finding new levels of occupation. They also excavated under the floor of the house near the spring. No boy scouts came cooping to cut down any brush. In fact the brush cut down the previous spring had not been burnt up.

In spite of the drawbacks we were able to get the demensions of 2 rectangular wood walls enclosed by a large wood wall. Because of the research done on the old tanneries by one of the Muhlenberg students, we were quite convinced we had uncovered old tanning vats. They were the exact size of other early tanning vats. Up to this point we had only about 8 feet of vat level exposed along the south wall. Tons of rocks, clay and debris covered the other 2400 square feet. We knew if we wanted to get anywhere we had to take some drastic steps. So your amatuer achaeologists took the bull by the horns and called the Lehigh Valley Manpower commission and asked if we were eligible for any summer workers. On being told that we were, J.A. and I decided to give up weeks to science and supervise underprivileged youngsters in a summer work program.

Virginia Lopresti

Colonial Craft Fair '75

The list of craftsmen is growing daily. If you haven't sent your reservation for exhibit or demonstration space - do it now. July seems like a long way off, but so did Spring, not too long ago. Saturday, July 19 is the day. Mark it on your calendar and get your ideas together. We also need volunteers to help with the preparation work, set-up, clean-up and assistance on Fair Day. Contact me by phone (759-7239) or % Box 345, Nazareth, Pa. 18064.

Bobbie DiGerlando

Historical Research

Jacobsburg was named for its first settler, Jacob Hubler, who was born in Germany in 1711. He arrived in America and qualified as a citizen on 24 Sept. 1737. About 1740 he settled in what later became known as Plainfield Township, now Bushkill Township, Northampton County, where he secured five warrants for land, the first in 1743 and the last in 1750, acquiring a total of 350 acres. He died in May 1789 and was buried in a lonely grave on his farm for which no marker has been found. He and his wife Barbara had eight children -- sons Jacob, Frederick, Gottlieb, Abraham, Isaac and John, and daughters Christina, wife of Michael Glass, and Rosanna, wife of Christian Hellman.

From the heirs of Jacob Hubler, about 400 acres were purchased in 1790 by a partnership consisting of William Henry, Jacob Christ and Jacob Eyerly. A one-third interest in this property was bought by Nathaniel Michler in 1801, who upon a division retained the Jacobsburg Inn and about twenty-six acres of land. At the Inn, according to Matthew Henry, "Mr. Michler kept a store until 1809, and then sold his stock of goods to a refugee from Nazareth and removed to Easton." The "refugee from Nazareth" was actually Mathew Henry's brother-in-law, John Frederick Wolle, who married Sabina Henry in 1809. The ledger kept by J.F. Wolle's store at Jacobsburg from 1809 to 1816 is preserved at the Moravian Archives in Bethlehem. An alphabetical index of roughly 400 customers whose names are in this ledger was prepared for the Society by Jessie Sandwick, a member of the research committee.

Charles Sandwick, Sr.

Open House

The date of the open-house at the Henry Homestead has been moved to Saturday, May 10, to insure the maximum of beauty from our flowers and garden areas. This is our first "For members only" event. We will have exhibits of kitchen utensils and household items of the colonial era in a special display case being prepared by our newest board member, Mrs. Mary DeRaymond of Nazareth. If you have an item of interest that you would care to put on exhibit for the day contact Mary. Refreshments will be served in the old basement kitchen. Please plan to attend.

Work Days

To insure the presentability of the Homestead to the public, Albert Toth has scheduled a few workdays to prepare the grounds and kitchen for our grand opening. These days will be Saturdays, April 5, 12 and 19, beginning at 10:00 AM. Call Mickey for more information.

Project Completed

Board member Lester Stein undertook the production of a complete set of blueprints and sketches of the Henry Homestead. This very meticulous and time consuming project will be an invaluable aid in any future renovation work. (Ed. note: Members with special skills take note. We need more of this type effort.)

Calendar of Events

Archaeology: Virginia Lopresti (759-1580) Anytime
Research: Charles Sandwick, Sr. (252-1290) Anytime
Homestead Work Days: April 5, 12 & 19 from 10:00 AM
Homestead Open House: May 10 Members Only
Colonial Craft Fair '75: July 19

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