

FOURTH ANNUAL WALK — A FINE FALL DAY

We must be doing something right — either that or the weatherman's union is really rooting for us. The 400 or so people who came out Sunday, October 12, to enjoy the beautiful autumn day had the opportunity to visit the digs at the Village of Jacobstown, to tour part of the Jacobstown State Park by bus, and to stroll past the remnants of the Boulton industrial area and into the beautifully relaxing Henry's Woods. We were pleased to find out, through our unofficial polltakers, that the majority of our walkers were first-timers. We're glad to see that more people are hearing about and taking an active interest in our Society and its work.

We owe special thanks to the Rev. Forrest Miller for donating his time to drive our tour bus, and also to our guides: Molly Santee (bus), Joe and Virginia Lopresti (Jacobstown dig), Kenneth, Margaret and Brian Stocker (Jacobstown), Claude Jones (the Inn), Gordon Santee (gun factory), and Charles Sandwick, Jr. (Henry's woods).

We are also grateful to all the others who gave so graciously of their time to help in the planning and operations of our 4th Annual Fall Walk. Our special thanks also to Mrs. Albert Toole for manning the refreshment stand, and to Virginia Lopresti for contributing to the refreshments.

A TIMELY REMINDER (AND A WONDERFUL GIFT IDEA)

Before you go shopping for those special holiday gifts remember to shop your local Historical Society — JACOBSTOWN, that is. We still have a supply of our Series 1 prints that will make ideal gifts, and best of all, you can shop by mail. (And Sears thought they had something!)

All you have to do is send \$5.00 for each set of four prints, contained in a folder that gives a brief historical sketch of The Homestead, The Gun Factory, The Workmen's House, and Henry's Woods. They are beautifully and professionally done by Barry L. Jones, of Easton, and will be a handsome group for any den or office wall.

Send your order today — before you forget (and before the supply is exhausted) and address it to:

Series 1 Prints
Jacobstown Historical Society
Box 345, Nazareth, Pa. 18064

(P. S. Don't forget to include your check or money order.)

A WORD OF WARM APPRECIATION

To Joseph DiGerlando, our vice-president, who because of added demands connected with his regular employment was forced to relinquish some of his active duties with the Society, our warmest thanks for his loyal services. Joe inaugurated the newsletter (The Jacobstown Record) guided it and established it in its fledgling years, and acted as its editor until the press of his other duties forced his withdrawal. Thank you, Joe.

And to Carol (Mrs. David) Parker for her faithful services these many months as our typist in preparing the material of The Jacobstown Record for publication. Thank you, Carol.

It is the devoted services of people like these which are vital to the success of our Society. They are irreplaceable.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Archeology (Mrs. Virginia Lopresti)

No formal report for the current issue because of unfavorable weather during the October weekends, which interfered with the digging. Digging has resumed, however, and they are now excavating at what they feel certain is the site of the smelting pot of the Anne Catherine furnace.

The historical evidence uncovered by these digs is invaluable. When the structures were still standing, well back in the last century, everyone knew where they were, so no one felt it necessary to locate any of the sites so that they might be identified at a later time (like today). The accumulation of over a hundred years of silt and detritus effectively served to obliterate them until the painstaking grubbing of our archeologists uncovered them. The results are not only extremely informative, but, in fact, astounding. Good work!

Historical Research (Charles Sandwick)

A settlement which was outside the region of Jacobsburg State Park, less than a mile southwest of it, nevertheless had an important role in the history of the region, for it was there that the filing of parts for gun locks and door locks and other small metal objects was done at home by many of the inhabitants. It was about half a mile north of Cherry Hill on the road to Jacobsburg and contained from twelve to fifteen dwellings and shops.

The village was begun about 1800 by persons who have been described as 'refugees' from the rigid rules imposed upon them by Nazareth and other Moravian communities. Many of these 'excommunicated' persons were later admitted as members of the Moravian congregation at Schoeneck. Prior to 1840 the settlement was called Asylum, but about that time the name was changed to Filetown in token of the principal occupation of the inhabitants.

(Editor's Note: The art of skilled filers was a jealously guarded one, usually handed down from father to son, and the filers preferred not to work in proximity with the other artisans of the gun factory, where the final operations of fitting and assembly of the gunlocks, trigger guard and hammer were done. Remember, the assembly line was almost a century away. Mr. Sandwick's historical notes are not only extremely interesting, but show evidence of a great deal of painstaking research — and research has a tendency to 'spread': you tend to accumulate extraneous information on subjects beyond the primary subject. For example, in the May 'Record' we learned (from Charles) that Nathaniel Michler, in 1801, acquired from the Henry interests the Jacobsburg Inn (+26 acres) and then leased it to John Frederick Wolle, who continued to operate it as a store and tavern. Michler, a son of Bishop (Moravian) Michler was born in Nazareth, and while living in Jacobsburg became a justice of the peace. He later moved to Nazareth, taught Latin at Nazareth Hall, served as register of wills and recorder of deeds for Northampton County and for many years was clerk of the Orphans Court. Of his sons Peter S. was one of the founders of the First National Bank of Easton and of the Thomas Iron Company; a grandson Francis was a prominent Northampton County attorney; a great-grandson William was an architect who (as of 1920) designed the Laubach store, Chipman Knitting Mills, Hotel Easton, the State Armory, the (old) Easton Hospital and Pardee Hall at Lafayette. His descendants are still living in Easton. Of the Wolle's we do not at present know too much. John Frederick (the lessee) was probably related to William who as a partner in Wolle and Kern was sometime owner of the Henry forge (or foundry) property. Mr. Sandwick is pursuing all these avenues and has told us he will be ready with historical reports on the families involved (and of the Benades and others) as soon as he can complete his researches (a formidable job). Here we have a dedicated man!).

The Society has purchased a tape recorder, which will be used to gather the information which older folks may retain of scenes and incidents now vanished. — And there are some!

COMMITTEE REPORTS (Continued)

Membership (Kitty Fluck)

In September of 1973 we had approximately one hundred and ten members. At that time we conducted a sizeable membership mailing campaign. Our membership has increased steadily; today we have about three hundred members.

Every month we include a membership application on the last page of our newsletter. We would like to suggest that you clip the application blank -- right now -- and try to enroll one new member before the end of the year.

Incidentally, we will be billing members in January for their 1976 dues. If in any doubt about your current dues, please check on the outside for a '74 or '75. If '74 follows your name, your dues are in arrears. (Kitty).

RAMBLINGS

'Those were the good ol' days!': The harvest season has come and gone, leaving memories of hard work and the dream of a white winter. Sitting beside the open hearth with its fire all aglow, hoping for Mom to start her palatable cooking and baking -- BUT, for one article of food we always held a deep resentment: and that was --

Dried Apple Pies

I loathe, abhor, detest, despise
Abominate dried-apple pies.
I like good bread, I like good meat
Or anything thst's fit to eat;
But of all poor grub beneath the skies
The poorest is dried apple pies.

Give me the toothache, or sore eyes,
But don't give me dried apple pies.
We used to take the gnarliest fruit
'Twas wormy, bitter, and hard, to boot;
We'd leave the hulls to make one cough
And not take half the peeling off.
Then on a dirty cord 'twas strung
And in a garret window hung;
And there it served as roost for flies
Until 'twas made up into pies.

Tread on my corns, or tell me lies,
But don't pass me dried-apple pies.

- Albert M. Toth

(Our Pennsylvawnisch deutsch forbears called these 'schnitz' -- and schnitz und knepp was a real good rib-sticker too. -Ed.)

CAN YOU SPARE A DIME?

Recent news releases listed projects approved by the Pennsylvania Bi-Centennial Commission. The Commission has asked the Pennsylvania Legislature for \$2,000,000.00 to complete these projects, and the request has been tacked on to Bill #1333, popularly called the Christmas Tree Bill. The significant thing to us about this request is that none of these projects are in the Lehigh Valley area, particularly Northampton County. Our area has many sites of great historical interest. Many of them have been faithfully preserved and lovingly cared for. However there remain many valuable Historical Sites to be preserved and restored. Jacobsburg is a case in point. The Jacobsburg Historical Society applied for two grants: 1) \$10,000 for

restoration of the Henry Homestead; and 2) \$30,000 for further archaeological studies in the Park. Both requests were denied. Of real value to our request is that these sites are on State Park land. The State Parks are short of funds. Thus anything which could supplement these efforts would be valuable. Please write to your representatives pointing out how Northampton County, particularly Jacobsburg, has been slighted in the awarding of Bi-Centennial Funds and protesting Bill #1333.

Congressman:

Representative Fred B. Rooney
27 East Church Street, Bethlehem, Pa. 18018

State Senator:

Senator Jeannette F. Reibman
711 Lehigh Street, Easton, Pa. 18042

Representatives in the General Assembly:

135th District: Mr. J. Michael Schweder
250 East Market Street, Bethlehem, Pa. 18018

136th district: Rep. James F. Prendergast
340 Paxinosa Avenue, Easton, Pa. 18042

137th District: Rep. Philip Ruggiero, 31 South 1st Street, Bangor, Pa. 18013

138th District: Mr. Russell Kowalyszyn
1929 Laubach Avenue, Northampton, Pa. 18067.

(O-oh -- that's 60 cents, not 10¢ -- but if 60 cents can get us like a \$50,000 grant -- wouldn't it be worth it? Let's try! We sure need funds! Tell them so!

A RARE OPPORTUNITY FROM A SISTER SOCIETY

The Lehigh County Historical Society is sponsoring the reprinting of the 1914 history of Lehigh County by Charles L. Roberts, a three-volume edition. Pre-publication price is \$50.00 for the three volumes. Long out of print, this history commands as high as \$200.00 (if available). A great deal of the earlier information in these volumes pertains directly to Northampton County, since Lehigh county did not become a separate entity until 1812. This is a real 'buy' for the historiophile. (Are we coining a word?) Mail to Lehigh County Historical Soc. Old Courthouse, 5th and Hamilton Sts., Allentown, Pa. 18101.

WHAT CAN I DO FOR MY SOCIETY?

You got the 'Cold Weather Blues'? -- come in where it's warm. We have many indoor winter projects that will keep you from getting bored. Call your committee heads to volunteer much-needed time and effort. You can become involved in many things, from research to restoration, either with a group or at your own pace and convenience.

For example, Mary DeRaymond (Open House chairman -- 759-2820) can use a lot of help in sorting and classifying 'things and stuff' accumulated by the Society. It could be a lot of fun! Why not give her a call?

BI-CENTENNIAL NOTES

Northampton County is, as you know, making extensive plans for participation in the nation-wide observance of the 200th anniversary of our nation's founding. As an important part of that observance the Bi-Cen committee has produced a lovely 14-month calendar with local scenes by twelve area artists. It is indeed most beautiful. The price is \$5.00, and they can be obtained from any of the banks of the area. Get yours now!

Dates to remember: Nov. 24 at the home of Charles Sandwick -- Research Committee, 7:30.

December 3: Board of Directors at the home of Mrs. Lewis Beers, 8:00 p. m.

Erratum: Page 2, Editor's Note under Historical Research -- William Michler architected the restoration of Pardee Hall after the fire of December 17, 1897 (not the original Pardee).

DIRECTORY

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

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

Directors:

Mary DeRaymond - Open House
Catherine Fluck - Membership
Joseph Lopresti - Archaeology
Lorraine Mineo - Natural Garden
Charles Sandwick - Research
Lester Stein - Architect
Mary Henry Stites - Homestead Grounds
Albert Toth - Maintenance and repairs

Nazareth (759-2820)
Easton (253-1146)
Stockertown (759-1580)
Nazareth (759-0867)
Easton (252-1290)
Bethlehem (866-8920)
Boulton (759-4693)
Belfast (759-2153)

Committees:

Bobbie DiGerlando - Craft Fair
Virginia Lopresti - Archaeology
Peggy Shuttleworth - Hospitality

Jacobsburg (759-7239)
Stockertown (759-1580)
Easton (252-4078)

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION for JACOBSBURG HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Student - \$2.50
Family - \$12.50

Individual - \$5.00
Contributing - \$15.00
Check Enclosed # _____

Sustaining - \$10.00
Organizations - \$25.00

Name _____
Street _____ Telephone Number _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Please return this application with your check made payable to: Jacobsburg Historical Society
and mail to:

Miss Margaret H. Taylor, Treas.
733 Paxinosa Avenue
Easton, Pa. 18042

All contributions are TAX DEDUCTABLE to the extent provided by law.