

The Jacobsburg Record

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SPRING 2013

Spring 2013

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JACOBSBURG
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

Open House Weekend—May 4 & 5 Noon to 4:00 pm

Saturday May 4th from 9am – 1pm. **Annual Plant Sale**

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New Executive Director— Welcome to **Ira Hiber-**
man

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Virginia Lopresti: Recently celebrated her 98th birthday on March, 29th.

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New Exhibits: Corn husk dolls and Moll brass pistol. Come look at our newest arrival a flintlock pistol vintage—Hellertown, PA early 1800's.

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Welcome to our new Executive Director

Ira Hiberman is a retired educator with a concentration in the social sciences. During his tenure as an educator he was in charge of the history/social studies program of the Stroudsburg School District. While residing in Maryland, he was in charge of the history/social studies program of the Harford County Public School System which serves about 45,000 students.

In retirement he volunteers at the Lehigh Valley International Airport where he has done historical research for the airport authority on the history of the airport. Ira also served on the Education Committee of the Historical Bethlehem Partnership.

He presently holds a volunteer position with the Pennsylvania Council for the Social Studies and

has the responsibility for planning the annual state conference of the organization.

Mr. Hiberman has authored instructional material for the Annenberg Foundation and Temple University's Law Related Education Program, and his program efforts were recognized at both the state and national level.

He was most recently the Assistant Superintendent at Saucon Valley School District in Hellertown, PA.

We are very confident that our new Executive Director / Site Manager, **Ira Hiberman**, is the right man for the job.

Come meet him at our Open House and other events.

Boulton Notes

We need your help on Saturday April 20 – 9:00 am – Spring Cleanup (coffee & refreshments at 8:30 am) Refreshments provided for light lunch.

The winter storms have caused much damage to our grounds. Bring your gloves and some yard tools and spend the morning with us. We really have a great time. Please email with approx. numbers so we can plan refreshments and jobs. Jacobsburg@rcn.com

This is also the start of our 2013 Open House season. Saturday and Sunday May 4 & 5. Noon to 4:00 pm.

All buildings will be open, including the PA Long Rifle Museum and the Bushkill Township Anniversary photo exhibit, the John Joseph Henry Mansion, the Henry Summer Kitchen, Nicholas Hawk Gunshop, and the new education center. Free admission days.

Our Annual Plant sale is planned for 9 am – 1 pm on Saturday May 4.

This is a great fund raiser for the JHS Gardens and you can find some great deals for your indoor or outdoor garden areas. The sale will be in the side yard of the JJ Henry House, facing Schoeneck Ave. Also, remember JHS if your plants are pushing you out of the house. Donations are welcomed.

Email bobbie@digerlando.com

or call 610.759.7239 for more information.

Reenactors, crafters, sutlers, demonstrators: Start planning now for our Market Faire & Rendezvous in October. Dave Ehrig is working with his very energetic and skilled committee to eclipse last year's inaugural event. Go to our new website for pictures and more information and contacts: www.jacobsburg.org

more Boulton Notes

Jacobsburg Historical Society is partnering with the Bushkill Township anniversary committee and hosting an exhibition of photos of the early days of the Township. Volunteers have been collecting pictures and historical information for the past year and will have many unique displays in the lower level of the PA Long Rifle Museum. The photos will be on display from May through the end of October. Come often because the exhibit may change as new pictures are found.

See our website for more information and links for the Bushkill Township Anniversary. www.jacobsburg.org



Coming Events 2013 Mark your calendars (and your smartphones)

APRIL

20 – 9:00 am - Spring Cleanup The winter storms have caused much damage to our grounds. Bring your gloves and some yard tools and spend the morning with us. Refreshments provided.

MAY

4 & 5 10 – 4 First Open House of the season. Free Admission. All buildings open. Demonstrations;

Annual Plant sale 9 am – 1 pm – fund raiser for JHS Gardens.

PA Long Rifle Museum open every Saturday & Sunday. JJ Henry House open 3rd Sunday of month

JUNE

PA Long Rifle Museum open every Saturday & Sunday. JJ Henry House open 3rd Sunday of month

JULY

PA Long Rifle Museum open every Saturday & Sunday. JJ Henry House open 3rd Sunday of month

AUGUST

17 – Bushkill Township Bicentennial Celebration

PA Long Rifle Museum open every Saturday & Sunday. JJ Henry House open 3rd Sunday of month

SEPTEMBER

21 or 28 - Walk in the Henry's Woods -

40th Anniversary Founders Remembrance

PA Long Rifle Museum open every Saturday & Sunday. JJ Henry House open 3rd Sunday of month

OCTOBER

26 – 27 Market Faire & Rendezvous

PA Long Rifle Museum open every Saturday & Sunday. JJ Henry House open 3rd Sunday of month

NOVEMBER

TBD – Apprentice Gunsmith Class

(6 weeks 10 am – 5 pm)

TBD – Wreath Making Classes

DECEMBER

TBD – Christmas Open House



New Exhibits Coming:

CORN HUSK DOLLS

In 1980, Eva Smith, a dedicated Society volunteer, offered to create a corn husk doll for the Society. Mary Henry Stites provided a photo of Miss Clara Henry (Aunt Tal) that Eva used as a model for her creation.



Miss Clara has come home with some friends. Through the generosity of Eleanor and John Ferretti, we will have a collection of some of Eva Smith's creations on display in the JJ Mansion this summer. They have also donated display globes and a booklet that Eva produced for the classes she taught.

Now that our new craft center is ready, maybe someone might take up where Eva

left off and teach a class

PHOTO DISPLAY

We are hosting an exhibit for the Bushkill Township 200th Anniversary in the downstairs area of the PA Long Rifle Museum. Pictures collected by the Anniversary Committee will be on display throughout the summer. The regular hours for the museum are Saturday and Sunday 10:00 am – 4:00 pm from May through the end of October.

MOLL BRASS PISTOL

A new exhibit will be coming to our PA Long Rifle Museum this spring. A flintlock pistol from the early 1800s will be on display soon. Peter and David Moll of Hellertown, PA were contemporaries of the Henry gunmakers and supplied parts for the Boulton factory. Look for more details and pictures about the display coming soon to our website – www.jacobsburg.org



more Boulton Notes

LONG TIME BOARD MEMBER is going to relax (maybe a little)

Phil Schroeder has decided not to seek another term on the JHS Board of Directors this year. Phil has served for many years and has volunteered as Secretary, Vice President, and President during his tenure on the Board. Phil and his wife Barb, have been long time house docents for our John Joseph Henry Mansion, and have graciously provided special tours for many visitors to our site. They have also been fantastic neighbors, helping to keep an eye on our properties. Phil and Barb have assured us that they are going to stay active and help when needed, but at a little slower pace. We are very grateful for all they have done for JHS.

The Landscape

*(Excerpt from **Historical Structures Reports: The Henry Homestead, Boulton, PA.** Prepared for the Jacobsburg Historical Society by Reed Laurence Engle, October 20, 1978; the office of John Dickey, ALA, Media, PA.) This article was originally printed in the Sept/Oct JHS Newsletter.*

(William) Henry and his wife apparently desired more than strictly utilitarian self-sufficiency at the Homestead. Much evidence exists that Henry not only attempted to create a useful farmstead and complex, but also intended it to be beautiful and to some extent, an unusual landscape.

Henry's intuitions are clearly seen in his planting plans for the more functional areas of the factory complex. He twice placed orders for Lombardy poplars, a species introduced into the country approximately thirty years earlier by William Hamilton of Philadelphia, to be planted along the head-race of the mill.

Fifty Lombardys would certainly have lent a rather unique and European aspect to the factory complex. It is not known if the poplars were ever planted; however, six Yellow Willows ordered for the creek banks and the four Weeping Willows for the Homestead were planted, as several remained when the first photographs of Boulton were taken.

Henry showed an interest in both beauty and utility in the slate fence posts used on some areas of the farm. The records indicate that the garden and the Homestead property as a whole were fenced. Although many of the farm fences appear to have been of conventional wood post and rail design,

Henry installed the rather elegant slate post fence along Henry Road.

They may have been as a sales exhibit. At this point, Henry was trying to exploit all of his resources, and must have known of the slate outcrop, which later became a small, but successful quarry.

Certainly the most surprising of Henry's designs, however, is his plan for the new garden for the Homestead proposed on August 24, 1820. It is not known if the design was ever installed, although it is possible that later buildings, the drive, and the septic tank installed in the 1890s caused its removal.

The garden was of a large size, by modern standards, and was of the formal parterre arrangement, similar to those in early Nazareth. The four large beds were probably meant for vegetables, perhaps bordered or cornered with herbs and flowers. The two small oval beds and large half-circle on the north could have served as display areas for specimen plants. In all probability vine crops grew on the fences that surrounded the garden.

The inclusion of a pond within the garden was perhaps as much for appearance as for a nearby source of water during the dry months.

In summary, the years before William Henry's departure from Boulton saw the expansion of agricultural activities to create a self-sufficient farmstead. That expansion was unusual because of Henry's obvious concern to create a more useful landscape both at the factory and on the farm.

Now You Know—BLUE STAR MUSEUM

Jacobsburg Historical Society is participating with museums across the USA in the Blue Star Museum program. Because of this, Active Duty Military and their families are provided free admissions to museums and exhibits at participating organizations and events. We salute our military and thank them for their service and encourage them to come and visit with their families. Please spread the word.

Virginia Lopresti

and her late husband Joe, have been mainstays of our archeological work at Jacobsburg. Working together, they laid much of the groundwork that helped in the battles to preserve the historical and critical environmentally important areas within the proposed park and impoundment area of the dam to be built across the Bushkill Creek.

They continued their volunteer efforts for many years, helping to interpret and talk about their findings in schools, at community events and meetings, throughout the Lehigh Valley and beyond. Look for more information about their many discoveries that will be chronicled on the JHS web site.

NOTE: Virginia Lopresti now resides at Gracedale. She celebrated her 98th birthday on Friday March 29.

Notes and cards are always welcome
Mail to: Virginia at
Gracedale, Nazareth, PA 18064

An Archeology Report that was published in the Sept/Oct 1980 JHS newsletter, list the following summary:

1972 – Jacobsburg Historical Society organized to preserve the history of Bushkill Valley

1973 – Excavations started in Colonial Village in March by volunteers and students of Moravian College under the direction of Prof. C. Walter Tremer

1974 – Excavated portions of tannery with five Manpower boys under the direction of Virginia and Joseph Lopresti

1975 – Excavated part of tannery and area above it (the site of the bridge to blast furnace) with the aid of 11 students from the Philadelphia School for the Deaf

1977 – Excavated Spoonheimer Home, Mathew S. Henry office, part of Mathew S. Henry home with help of Lehigh Valley Manpower boys

1978 – Excavated Mathew S. Henry home, Forge area with LV Manpower and J & V Lopresti

1979 – Excavated part of the mill where William Henry 3rd made guns 1792 to 1812. Work done by Joe & Virginia Lopresti and one boy and one girl from LV Manpower.

1980 – In March the Loprestis started excavating outside Jacobsburg Inn built in 1780. In May, they started work on the site of the Jacob Hubler grist mill that was turned by William Henry 3rd into a forge. On June 23, with only one boy helping at a time, Joe & Virginia Lopresti started seven weeks of excavating the mill site.

End results – 1 roomful of artifacts; 6 carousels of slides; 1 box of notebooks, maps, research material, etc.

Man hours volunteered during this period by Joe and Virginia Lopresti – 18,500 ++.

In the Boulton Gardens - Spring 2013



Well, its been a long, if not particularly hard, winter. Winter is trying to hold on, but the warm weather can not be held back forever and everyone is eagerly awaiting the gentle winds of Spring.

Here at Jacobsburg the snowdrops are bursting out of the ground and the hellebores are blooming in the cold wind. In the vegetable garden the rhubarb is pushing up its large, tart leaves and the dandelions are awaiting the observant and adventurous cooks to prepare some "spring greens." Soon the asparagus will be sending its spears skyward so they, too, can join the dinner table.



Once the weather settles, the spring onions, lettuce seed, potatoes, broccoli and cauliflower seedlings can all be set out. We'll wait till the weather really warms up for the rest of our planting. The garden is always perfect this early in the season, great ideas and no weeds!

The garden committee is hoping to see some new volunteers this year....NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY!! We will train and encourage and share knowledge.

Open House is the 1st weekend in May, but the garden needs help long before that. We are also having our annual Spring Plant Sale starting at 9 am till 1 pm or until the plants are gone on that date.

Call or e-mail to volunteer your time.

Thanks From The Garden Committee



While you are sending cards and notes, **ROBERT FRICK**, our long time and very devoted Board member, curator, and a Past President of our Society is now a resident of Moravian Hall Square in Nazareth.

We wish Robert well, and thank him for his years of help.

*Forty Years Later ...
... and still growing.*

Jacobsburg Historical Society was an idea born in the Fall of 1972. Members of various community groups worked together for a common cause – to preserve the beauty of the Bushkill Creek Valley – particularly the Henry’s Woods area; and to also bring to life the rich history and culture of a long lost industrial community area, namely Jacobsburg, Filetown, and Boulton.

What appeared to be a great idea of creating a new State Park, ran into immediate opposition from almost all corners of the community. The fisherman opposed the proposed lake ([*all PA state parks must have lakes*](#)) because of trout habitat destruction; boaters opposed the small lake and wanted a much larger one for power boating; hunters did not like the loss of prime small game hunting fields. Everyone was opposed to flooding Henry’s Woods and nobody wanted the campgrounds, concession stands, the swimming pool, and especially the SEWER LINES to support all of this development.

There is a lot more to the story, and we will visit it in future newsletters and on our website. The resulting journey brought many, many people from all parts of the community together to support the preservation of the history and the unique geographical area now primarily encompassed by the Jacobsburg Environmental Center and also preserved and interpreted by the Jacobsburg Historical Society.

We are two distinct entities. JHS is a non-profit organization and JEEC is a PA state agency. This endeavor has been very cooperative over the years.

Our Society is recognized not only as the repository for many unique and rare firearms in our PA Long Rifle Museum, but also for the interpretive and educational exhibits that document the history of this truly early American industry and art form. JHS is also working to preserve the history of a community that was very important in the early days of the start of our great Nation.

Many people have been involved in these efforts over the last 40 years and we will highlight and chronicle some of these efforts in our newly redesigned web pages. We have accomplished much, but we still have much to accomplish. To do this, we need more resources. We need more volunteers and more financial help.

Jacobsburg Historical Society has been very fortunate in the past, receiving much support from the community and many generous individuals, but we need to do more, if we are going to continue to offer the educational resources to future students of history. We thank those that have helped in the past and thank you in advance for your willingness to continue to support our commitment to the community.

FOR EVERY SEASON THERE IS A CHANGE

From The President's Desk

Howie White

As we begin a new season here at 'Boulton', there are a number of changes you should be made aware of.

By the time you have received this edition of the Jacobsburg Record we will have hired a new Executive Director/Site Manager for the Jacobsburg Historical Society. Lyndsey B. Frigm left the position of Executive Director at the end of November and we wish her well in her new endeavor with the Y.M.C.A.

The long awaited Craft Center has been completed. This newly renovated space will allow the Society to pursue a more effective use of the Homestead lower level. The Center is located behind the John Joseph House in the former shed spaces. This completion will allow more room for the individual classes which are taught along with the wreath making class and any future event we may wish to begin. When you see Frank Willis tell him 'well done' for the time and effort spent completing the project.

If you have tried to visit our website you will notice it has not been updated. There is a very good reason for no updates; a new website is being created and should be operational shortly. So please keep your eyes open and check the site, we are all sure you will be extremely pleased.

Most of all, this is your website also, so please provide us feed back and suggestions.

REMEMBER, this is the 200th Anniversary of Bushkill Township; and the Society will be hosting a special exhibit in the lower lever of the Pennsylvania Long Rifle Museum (Henry Homestead).

Mark **MAY 4, 2013** on your calendar; this is opening day at 'Boulton Plantation'; coming and visit YOUR Society for YOUR opening Day.

Special Thanks

The Board of Directors would like to give a THANK YOU to Doctor Lanzansky for his endowment to the Gun Making Course and Bill Beehler for all his labors of love (renovation)

REMEMBER:

**OUR SEASON BEGINS ON MAY 4TH
AND CONTINUES UNTIL THE LAST
WEEKEND OF OCTOBER—
RENDEZVOUS AND MARKET
FAIRE WEEKEND.**

Marcia M. Hahn, State Representative 138th Legislative District has been working very hard to make the *Pennsylvania Long Rifle as the official firearm* of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. **HB 910** was voted out of committee and was on its way to the PA House for consideration.

Please contact state Representatives and Senators to have this historic legislation passed.

Email: mhahn@pahousegop.com

History is made in Pennsylvania and we need to remind our children how important our history is.

Membership Update

Technology is the proverbial double-edged sword for historians. As a Society, we struggle to preserve the past and sometimes seem to be “fighting” the future; but in truth, we all need the tools of the future to find the answers to the past. We want the latest, most accurate information, to help us interpret and tell the stories of days gone by.

The use of technology is becoming very important and Jacobsburg Historical Society is moving in that direction. We have been digitizing our photos and much of our archives and inventory. We are reviewing our membership list and various specialty mailing lists to keep them current.

Preparing regular newsletters and other mailings are very time consuming and costly to produce and mail; but we want to keep members updated with the latest events and happenings at Jacobsburg. Our web site should resolve those problems. We will have all the information from our newsletters on the web.

We want to be an accurate, up to date source for researchers and students alike, as well as having interesting material to share within our local community, in a timely fashion. We are doing this with our new website. We will provide regular updates, articles, blogs, and even the sale of books and other appropriate items. All of this will be at your fingertips, literally.

By going to jacobsburg.org regularly you will get the latest on activities, programs, classes, and historical information.

WE NEED YOUR HELP to gather some information that will help our Society better serve you.

1. *Please check your mailing label* – if the date “2013” is not on the label, we have not yet received your current membership dues. Membership has its benefits, including free admission to our open house programs, free or discounted admission to many Society events, discounts at our new on-line store, invitations to “Members Only” events and classes, and of course, you will be helping Jacobsburg Historical Society serve the community. Join NOW. (Use the Form in this newsletter).

2. You can help save valuable resources, including trees and dollars by choosing to receive your copy of the newsletter and other information, by e-mail. The newsletter will be posted on our website, but you will get an e-mail to let you know when it is posted. With your e-mail, we can let you know of any Society special events and activities.

IMPORTANT NOTICE: Your email address will not be sold, loaned, given to, or used for any other purpose than to keep you informed about Jacobsburg Historical Society activities. You can help our Society’s programs by opting to receive a notice for our newsletter by email, which will reduce our printing and mailing costs. You will be given a link to take you directly to that site.

more **Boulton Notes - Classes**

Our latest construction project is the Craft Center and we are already using it for our **Spring Rifle Making classes** under the direction of Carl Landis and his staff. Carl will be scheduling Fall classes soon.

Frank Willis has scheduled the following Craft Classes:

Advanced Powder Horn class – Limited class size.

June 8th (Sat. 10:00 am to 4:30 pm) and Sun. June 9th 2013 (10:00 to 3:00 pm). Cost \$120.

Materials and tools provided.

Course will cover scrimshaw techniques, artwork layout, staining, engraving and properly finishing.

Leather class – how to make a hunting bag.

October 2, 9, 16, 23- Wed. evening from 6:00 pm until 9:00. Cost \$250.

Materials and tools provided.

Powder horn class – January 7, 14, 21, 29, - 2014 - 12:00 pm until 5pm. Cost \$250.

Materials and tools provided.

Jacobsburg@rcn.com for registration information

MEMBERSHIP & email Survey

Name: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____ City, State, Zip _____

Phone: (____) _____

Membership Category:

Family: \$35. _____ Individual: \$20. _____ Student: \$10. _____

I wish to make an additional gift to help Jacobsburg Historical Society: \$_____

All gifts are tax deductible as provided by law.

Send my JHS Newsletter and notices electronically on the internet (Email notification) _____

I prefer to receive my Newsletter and notices delivered by mail—(US Postal Service) _____

Please send this section to JHS PO Box 345 Nazareth, PA 18064

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At a Glance

Museum Hours *

Pennsylvania Long Rifle Museum (PLRM) — \$5 suggested donation, JHS members and children under 12 free. Open on weekends, Noon to 4pm, from May through October.

John Joseph Henry House Open for tours on the 3rd Sunday of the month Noon to 4pm, from May through October.

Office Hours

By appointment.

Contact Us

You can call the Society office at 610-759-9029. email: jacobsburg@rcn.com or

On the web at www.jacobsburg.org.

Directions to Boulton:

Jacobsburg Historical Society
402 Henry Road, Nazareth, PA. 18064

Directions from PA-33

Take Exit toward Belfast onto Henry Road (turn west towards woods).
Cross the bridge, drive up the hill just before intersection of Schoeneck Road and Henry Road.

The **Pennsylvania Longrifle Museum** will be on the right (parking at the end of the long driveway).

The **John Joseph Henry House** (JHS office & historic house museum) will be on the left.



JACOBSBURG
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

Jacobsburg Historical Society

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Preserving History*