

Places In Time

LAWRENCE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Fall 2004



McPherson Inaugurates Tanner Lecture Series

About 100 history buffs came to the Presbyterian Church of Lawrenceville to hear famed Princeton historian, Dr. James McPherson discuss the worldwide effects of the American Civil War. It was a fitting tribute to Mary Tanner, who introduced the speaker at the first in the lecture series in her honor. McPherson explained that in the 1860's, the aristocrats of the monarchies of Europe hoped that the 80 year old American democracy would be destroyed, while the ordinary citizens were inspired by Abraham Lincoln. Today one can find statues of the Emancipator all over the world.

At the reception later, many audience members expressed their delight at the lecture series and wanted to know who would be the next speaker.



LHS Calendar of Events:

Saturday, October 2nd Master Gardener, Ron Lemahieu will be at the Brearley House garden from 10AM to 11AM to show visitors the newly refurbished herb garden and to answer questions (related story page 2).

Sunday, December 5th **5th Annual Wassail Party**
at the Brearley House 1PM-4 PM

Friday, December 31st **Hogmanay: New Year's Eve Bonfire** in "The Great Meadow" 6 PM
Hogmanay is a Scottish tradition. Pieces of paper with "bad happenings" from the past year are thrown into the fire in hopes that they won't reoccur. Bagpiper/Fiddler, Graham Kronk, is invited to perform. Refreshments will be served

Saturday, January 1st, 2005 **The Annual Colonel Hand March to Trenton** will begin at the steps of the Lawrence Township Municipal Building led by LHS Trustee Bill Agress.

Annual Membership Meeting to be Held Sunday, February 20th, 2005 at 2 PM in the Lawrence Municipal Building

Regularly 2004-05 Scheduled Tours of the Brearley House 10 AM-12 Noon The first Saturday of each month:

September 4 th	October 2 nd	November 6 th
December 4 th	January 1 st	February 5 th

Tours of the Port Mercer Canal House can be scheduled by calling (732) 873-3050. On occasion, tours and hikes from Port Mercer coincide with tours of the Brearley House.

To keep up-to-date on all LHS events, visit the Society website at www.thelhs.org or call 895-1728. Recent editions of *Places in Time* can be found on-line.

Picture—top left: James McPherson addresses a crowd on May 16th. Left: Mary Tanner and Dr. McPherson at the reception. Those wishing to honor Mary and/or to support the lecture series are urged to send donations to the Society earmarked for the Tanner Lecture Series.



The herb garden behind the Brearley House has been restored by volunteer Ron LaMahieu

Brearley Herb Garden Restored...

The 18th century style herb garden created four years ago as an eagle scout project by Paul Nicholas has now been magnificently restored by master gardener Ron LeMahieu. Ron offered his services to the Society last fall and donated \$45 worth of plant material. The Board voted to allocate \$500 more. Ron consulted the plant chart created for the original garden, most of whose plants were gone, and did some research into what other plants might be added and where to get them. With the help of fellow gardeners Gloria Cartusciello, and Milton and Mimi Levin and their grandchildren, the garden is now full of thriving plants neatly confined to raised beds separated by gravel paths. What's more, Ron plans to place permanent labels by each kind of plant and create a pamphlet that explains what each herb was used for. Be sure to stop and smell the rosemary next time you are at the Brearley House

A delightful sequel to this story occurred on July 6th when Horticulturalist Megan Varnes of Historic Morven brought a group of interns to see the garden, and accompanying them was none other than Paul Nicholas himself. Now a junior history major at Boston University, Paul is home for the summer working at Morven. He was delighted with the work on the garden and made the perfect tour guide for the interns. They each selected a plant for him to identify and explain its usefulness to an 18th century household. The group also admired our little grove of heritage apple trees and correctly identified the wild grape vine that is strangling one of the trees. They returned in August and cut back the invasive plant before it killed the tree.

Society Participates in Memorial Day Parade

The Lawrence Historical Society was well-represented in the township's 2004 Memorial Day Parade on Saturday, May 29. In sunny weather made for a parade, Joe Logan again drove his pick-up truck, which had been converted into the society's float, south on Princeton Pike to Veteran's Park.

In keeping with the parade's theme of "Women in the Military," Alice Lahoda, 11, and Helen Lahoda, 8, who were dressed as Clara Barton and Molly Pitcher, waved flags from atop the float, which was decorated with banners as well as patriotic signs constructed by Photo Haven of Lawrenceville.



With John Halvorsen (left) and Joe Logan at the wheel, the LHS participated in the Lawrence memorial day parade.

Marchers Paul Gatterdam, Dick Graja, Dan Oberst, John Halvorsen, and Chris Lahoda distributed flags and toys to hundreds of spectators along the route.

Canoe the Canal Honors Founder

A veritable flotilla of canoes arrived on Sunday afternoon, June 13, at the Port Mercer Canal House to enjoy the Society's annual garden party and to meet Robert Immordino, who originated Canoe the Canal Day. With his wife Jenny and his daughter Carolyn Macloud, Bob told guests about swimming in the canal as a boy and how he talked a few township officials into canoeing from Cherry Tree Lane to Port Mercer long before the Canal House was restored. His daughter even brought her boyfriend and her dog on that first trip. This year, the boaters were entertained by old time tunes played by John Brown and Frank Carr. As she has for many years, quilter Evelyn Cranstoun greeted guests in the parlor. Meanwhile, the Society's maestro of ice cream, John Halvorsen, was busy on the patio churning out home made ice cream to go with lemonade and cookies.

Long Range Planning Committee Makes Progress

The society continues its work to construct a strategic plan that will guide its future direction. An ad hoc committee consisting of society trustees and prominent community leaders recently met to review the results of the survey that was completed by almost one hundred respondents.

An early review of the results indicates that the society has opportunities to broaden its focus beyond early American history and to coordinate its efforts with a broad array of other civic and cultural groups in the town. The planning group is now reviewing drafts of the mission statement and strategic plan its consultant, the Stoolmacher Group, has prepared, with the goal of presenting its updated direction at its next annual meeting in early 2005.

The society has already begun to pursue several themes highlighted in the survey results. In early July, for example, several board members met with representatives of Eggerts Crossing Village to determine how the society can help the Village celebrate its 30th anniversary of providing affordable housing in South Lawrence. Society trustee Jim Williams is now working with that organization to create a video production for the Village's gala celebration in October.



Members of the Long Range Planning Committee (L to R): Ian Burrow, Paul Gatterdam, Dan Oberst and Max Riley.

The **Lawrence Historical Society Board of Trustees** meet on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 7:30 PM in The Brearley House. LHS membership is cordially invited to attend Board meetings. If you would like to become more involved in Society activities and events, please call 895-1728 and express your interest. Volunteers are crucial to the continued success, function and growth of the Society.

LHS and Brearley House Highlights—Submitted as part of Annual Report to Lawrence Township (July 2003– July 2004)

EVENTS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:

Twelve monthly house tours
Wassail Party, Dec. 8th
Hogmanay Bonfire, Dec. 31st
May Fair--May 1st (pictured below)



SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

Archeological Programs, Lawrence Middle School— May, October
Eldridge Park second grades house tour—May

PRIVATE EVENTS RENTING BREARLEY HOUSE

Mind, Body, Spirit Retreats, Jan. 24 & 31, Mar. 6, 13, 20, & 27, Apr. 3, 17 & 24, May 8 & 15
Bridal Shower, May 16th
Corporate picnics, June 13th & July 24th

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Luncheon Meeting with Chris Wooley, Dec.
Moms' Club tour, April 21st
Historical Societies of Central Jersey Meeting, Apr 25th
Farewell Reception for Mary Tanner, June 22nd
Long Range Planning Committee, June 10th & July 15th
Morven interns tour July 13th

HONOR

Princeton Area Community Foundation--Grant, of \$2500 to develop a Long Range Plan for the Society.



A family pulls in for ice cream and music at the Port Mercer Canal House as part of Canoe the Canal Day.



The Band plays for an audience at Canoe the Canal Day



Cyclists prepare to leave the Great Meadow for a 10 mile ride as part of a recent East Coast Greenway Alliance fundraiser. Proceeds from the event will help Anne and Mike Kruimer complete a 2800-mile Maine-to-Florida bicycle ride beginning on Sept. 12 in Calais, Maine. They're destination is Key West. Visit www.greenway.org for more information

The Brearley House Guestbook...

(since January 2004)

Jean Elizabeth Brearley Jones, a descendent of the Brearley family visited the house in April.

New Jersey
 Cranbury
 Dayton
 Forked River
 Franklin Park
 Monmouth Junction
 Monroe Township
 Morganville
 Mountainside
 New Brunswick
 Riverton

Out-of-State Guests

Baltimore, Maryland
 Benton, Kentucky
 Jackson, New Hampshire
 Reston, Virginia
 Rochester, New York
 Georgetown, Delaware
 San Francisco, California
 Trenton, Michigan
 Woodstock, Vermont

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