

# Lawrence Historical Society

P.O. Box 6025 - Lawrenceville, NJ 08648

Formed 1975  
Incorporated June 15, 1976

**EARLY HOLIDAY GREETINGS TO ALL**

**HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE** Will be Sunday, **NOVEMBER 19, 1995**, from 1-4 pm. There will be the Premier Display of five original pen-and-ink sketches by the late Harry Pratt recently donated by his daughter, Ruth Pratt Fenner. The late Harry Pratt lived in Lawrenceville for decades, was a former Superintendent of Lawrence Public Schools, and began sketching local scenes upon his retirement. The Society is indebted to Mrs. Fenner for this generous donation. There will be Victorian cookies by Emmaline and the traditional wassail. Free admission. Holiday and gift items will be available.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Due to construction, please use Route 1 North to the exit for Provinceline Road

**BREARLEY HOUSE** As we have told you before, as our contribution to the 300th birthday of Lawrence Township, the Society in July committed to a fund raising effort to restore the Brearley House at the end of Meadow Lane. The house and 40 acres is owned by the town, purchased with Green Acres Funds. The house, unoccupied for more than a decade, is in surprisingly good condition, especially considering it was built in 1761. BUT it is not habitable and needs restoration. The funds raised will be earmarked to make it possible for the township to apply for a matching grant from the State. The deadline for this application is early January. Knowing that this Newsletter is going to those who have an interest in historical restoration (the Canal House was restored), the Board of Trustees invites you to be a part of the Brearley House restoration by making a contribution. All funds received are in a separate account earmarked exclusively for the Brearley House. Enclosed is a flyer regarding this. Volunteer help is always welcome. Call Ruth Barringer at 883-3462.

**PASSIVE PARK** Plans have been made for a passive park surrounding the Brearley House and on October 15 about 30 interested citizens walked a route over the Shipetaukin Creek to the Delaware & Raritan Canal which will be improved in the spring with volunteer help from the students at Lawrence High School and Lawrenceville School. The firm of Clarke Caton Hintz donated the planning for the trail which will be handicap accessible. Watch for visible progress in the spring. With all the surrounding development in the area, take advantage of hiking the completed trail where there are no traffic lights, telephone poles, parking lots or shopping malls and try to image life in 1761.

BREARLEY HOUSE T-SHIRTS

Are for sale as a fund-raiser. They are available at the Four Star Video on Main Street in Lawrenceville and at the Canal House at the Open House on November 19. They are available in festive colors and in adult and children sizes. Call Colette Coolbaugh at 771-0711 to place an order.

CANAL HOUSE

The Canal House, the headquarters of the Lawrence Historical Society, was built in the 1830's with a kitchen added in the latter part of the 19th Century. It is the first bridgetender's house completely restored along the Delaware & Raritan Canal, and the first restored by a non-profit organization. Among the many visitors from different areas over the years were three Soviet visitors in July, 1988, as part of the program, "Soviets Meet Middle America."

OUTHOUSE

The pre-Civil War outhouse, originally on a farm in Dutch Neck, was donated by Thomas and Mary McHale of Glen Cairn in Lawrence, and was dedicated on June 13, 1993. Since then, the outhouse has been painted and given a new roof.

JUNE GARDEN PARTY

Was held on Sunday, June 11, and was enjoyed by all. The traditional home made ice cream was a big hit, as was Syd, the parrot, who has his own way to communicate. The canoers had a beautiful day and were welcomed with refreshments. Evelyn Cranstoun displayed lap quilting, and Kathleen Middleton, compiler of "The Old Photographs Series, Lawrence Township" came and autographed the book. This book is on sale at the Canal House - with no tax added. You can purchase a copy at the Holiday Open House or call Colette Coolbaugh at 771-0711.

MAIN STREET, LAWRENCEVILLE

Watch the Lawrence Ledger for future information, but you'll want to know that there will be a meeting for all concerned citizens to show support for the effort to improve Main Street through qualifying for the State of New Jersey Main Street Program. We applaud this effort.

HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR AWARD

For the outstanding senior history student this year went to Eleonora Borcea. Congratulations! For a long time, the Society has been recognizing such a student. Nick Loveless made the presentation.

OPENINGS ON THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Society is soliciting those having a general interest, ideas for historical projects, and historical issues to serve on the Board starting in February, 1996, for a one year term. To ask questions and to get information, please contact Ruth Barringer at 883-3462.

MEMBERSHIP IN 1996

Yes, it seems early to think about it, but this is the time of year when the Society begins to plan for 1996. We are proud of the house and gardens, but maintaining a house over 160 years old requires constant care. As you can tell by reading the Newsletter, the Society is involved in many activities. The dues have not been increased in many years, and the Board of Trustees feels it has been a good steward of your support. New programs can be pursued as funding is available. Thank you for your support over the years.

*Lawrence  
Historical  
Society*

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HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE

DATE: SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 1995

TIME: 1-4 PM

WHERE: CANAL HOUSE, PORT MERCER

FREE ADMISSION

PREMIER DISPLAY OF FIVE PEN AND INK ORIGINAL SKETCHES BY  
HARRY PRATT RECENTLY DONATED BY RUTH PRATT FENNER

"One of the First Schoolhouses in Lawrence"

"Foundation House, Lawrenceville School"

"The Red Cross House, Lawrence"

"Main Street"

"Watson House"

The late Harry Pratt lived in Lawrence for decades, was the former  
Superintendent of Lawrence Public Schools, and began sketching  
upon his retirement.

HOLIDAY AND GIFT ITEMS ON SALE  
INCLUDING BAKER-BREARLEY HOUSE T-SHIRTS IN FESTIVE COLORS  
ADULT AND CHILDREN SIZES

WASSAIL BOWL

VICTORIAN COOKIES  
BY EMMALINE

DUE TO CONSTRUCTION, PLEASE USE ROUTE 1 NORTH TO EXIT FOR  
PROVINCELINE ROAD, GO APPROXIMATELY ONE MILE AND TURN LEFT JUST  
BEFORE THE WOODEN BRIDGE