

Lawrence Historical Society

P.O. Box 6025, Lawrenceville, NJ 08648

SPRING 1995



Greetings! Spring is just around the corner, and our caretaker David reports that the garden at Port Mercer is already showing signs of life, a bit earlier than usual. And so is the Society, so we're sending out our newsletter a little earlier to remind you of some upcoming events you'll want to be a part of, and to report on some of our recent happenings.

Holiday Update

Unfortunately, there was no holiday open house this year, due to repairs to the house and construction along Quakerbridge Road. Happily, the house is now ready for visitors, and traffic is again moving (heavier than ever) along Quakerbridge Rd. The impact of the new Wal-Mart/Home Depot/Sam's Place complex is not yet clear. Maybe it will bring in new membership!

Annual Meeting

We did, however, have our annual meeting. Dr. William Guthrie, of Rider University, gave a fascinating talk on "Who lived in Lawrence 600 Years Ago". (The Leni Lenape Indians, that's who.) Dr. Guthrie brought quite an assortment of artifacts, clothing, toys, and animal skins and shared them with us. Apparently, we only saw a small part of his collection, so hopefully we'll have him back to see the rest. This was the biggest crowd we've had in a while, and we hope it represents a trend.

At the same meeting, our new officers were installed by Mayor Rick Miller. They are:

President:	Kevin Connell
Vice President:	Bob Glover
Treasurer:	Ruth Barringer
Secretary:	David Kimzey
Trustees:	Jean Carver, Collette Coolbaugh, Milton Levin Mary Berlin Loetscher

We're interested in expanding our board, so if you or anyone you know is interested, please call Kevin Connell at 882-7002.

Art Exhibit As previously announced, the Society is sponsoring an exhibition of the works of Harry Pratt at the Lawrence Gallery, located in the Lawrence Shopping Center (near Channel). The exhibit will run from March 19 thru April 15. An opening reception will be held at the gallery on Saturday, March 19, 1995 from 1 to 4 P.M. and all members are welcome.

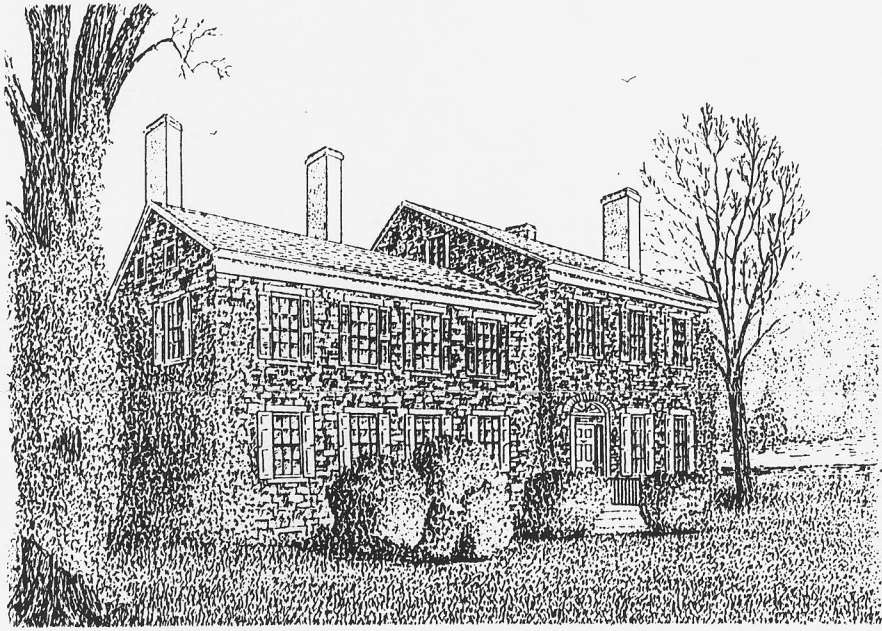
Book Signing If you frequent bookstores, you may have noticed the recently published Old Photographs of Lawrence Township by Kathleen Middleton. It's a fascinating collection of pictures, anecdotes and history, and is beautifully put together. The author will be at the Canal House on Sunday, June 11, for a book signing and talk related to her book. The lecture will begin around 3:00 PM. The Society has plenty of copies available, and if you're thinking of buying one (or several) we'd appreciate you buying it from us. They are available now, and will be on sale at the signing. And if you purchase your copy through the Society, you don't pay sales tax. If you'd like a copy before June 11, call Ruth Barringer at 883-3462. The cost is \$16.99 per copy.

Brearley House At our last board meeting Winona Nash and Gretel Gatterdam presented us with a proposal concerning our involvement in renovating and utilizing the Brearley House, one of Lawrenceville's oldest and most historic structures. Possible uses include a "passive park" on the site, and even a future home for the Historical Society, but in order to make this happen they need our support, both in terms of commitment to fundraising, and operating and maintaining the house in the future. This is a serious undertaking, but also a unique opportunity. We will have cards asking for your input and involvement at the Pratt art exhibit on March 19 and urge you to fill them out and return them to us as soon as possible.

Open House Our annual Open House will be held on Sunday, June 11, at the Port Mercer Canal House, from 1-4 PM. We will be hosting the Cultural & Heritage Commission's Canoe Day participants and have a variety of activities planned. In addition to the book signing mentioned above, we'll have music, homemade ice cream and refreshments, crafters, and other surprises, so mark your calendar now.

Future Events We are in the process of planning activities for the late summer and fall, including lectures and excursions in the tri-state area. We'll be updating you as they become more definite. If you'd like to join our planning committee, please call Kevin Connell at 882-7002. Any ideas will be welcome. That's about it for now. Thanks for your continued participation and support. We hope to see you soon at our events.

A T E R C E N T E N N I A L T R I B U T E



A S P E C I A L C O L L E C T I O N
O F
P E N A N D I N K S K E T C H E S

B Y

H A R R Y L. P R A T T

March 19th thru April 15th, 1995

Lawrence Gallery

Lawrence Shopping Center

Route One and Texas Avenue

Lawrenceville, NJ

Reception : Sunday March 19th, 1 to 4 P.M.

No Admission

Public Welcome

Refreshments Served

Sponsored by the Lawrence Historical Society

Press Release

LAWRENCE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

There will be something for everyone at the Open House festivities to be held on Sunday, June 11, from 1-4 PM at the Canal House at Port Mercer sponsored by the Lawrence Historical Society.

This event will highlight the kick-off of the fund raising effort recently undertaken by the Society to support the restoration of the Baker-Brearley House. Built in 1731, it is one of the last remaining 18th century homes in the township.

"We've lost the Monroe and Hill houses to out-of-town sales. The Princessville Inn burned down. We cannot afford to throw away one of the last remaining links in our 300 year heritage," said Kevin Connell, President of the Society.

As its initial fund raising measure, the Society will offer for sale a special commemorative T-shirt featuring the Baker-Brearley House as a "great historic place." Shirts will sell for \$15-\$17.

Another special event will be the appearance by Kathleen Middleton who compiled "The Old Photographs Series of Lawrence Township." Ms. Middleton will autograph her books at 3 PM which are on sale by the Society.

Other activities that day include a house tour, jewelry making, talking with Syd the parrot, and home made ice cream.

For a full afternoon, people may also "Canoe-the-Canal" for four miles, with the final destination being the Canal House. For further information on canoeing, call the Lawrence Township Recreation Department at 844-7065.