

Places In Time

LAWRENCE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

HOLIDAY ISSUE 2003



Mary C. Tanner (left) and LHS President Janet Bickal sit on a bench installed by the D&R Canal State Park in honor of Ms. Tanner by the Delaware and Raritan Canal Watch. Mary was a charter member of the organization from 1988 to 2000. The bench is located by the historic Brearley-Great Meadow marker on the towpath.

Annual Membership Meeting to be Held Sunday, February 22nd, 2004 at 2 PM

Princeton University Professor Emeritus, T. James Luce of Pennington will be the event's featured speaker at the Annual LHS membership meeting. Luce is the author of *New Jersey's Sourland Mountain* and will present "Mills, Hills and Stills..." in the Lower Level Community Room at Lawrence Township Hall. Refreshments will be served.

On the Inside...

In Search of Brearley
Mystery Quilt Donated
Scouts Encampments

Gatterdam Honored
The Digs Continue
The Bridge is Up

Annotated LHS Calendar of Events:

Saturday, December 6th **Tour of the Brearley House**
10 AM-12 Noon

Sunday, December 7th **4th Annual Wassail Party**
at the Brearley House 1PM-4 PM (note: the party starts
one hour earlier than previously published due limited
daylight).

Wednesday, 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
and Lawrence Township resident, Graham Kronk, is
invited to perform. Refreshments will be served

Saturday, January 3rd, 2004 **The Annual Colonel Hand
March to Trenton** will begin at the steps of the
Lawrence Township Municipal Building led by LHS
Trustee Bill Agress.

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

January 3 rd	February 7 th	March 6 th
April 3 rd	May 1 st	June 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.

The **Second Annual May Fair** Saturday, May 1st
10 AM until 4 PM The Great Meadow

Lawrence Middle School Archeological Digs—Early
May. Check www.LTPS.org for dates and findings.

Memorial Day Parade—Saturday, May 29th

Canoe the Canal Day, Sunday, June 13th. Join LHS
members at the Port Mercer Canal House from 2 to 4
PM for churned ice cream and live music.

To keep up-to-date on all LHS events, visit the Society
website at www.TheLHS.org. or call 895-1728.



Holiday decorations adorn rooms throughout Brearley House as part of the annual Wassail Party

New Stock in Brearley Shop

A wealth of interesting new donations will make holiday shopping in the Brearley House shop rewarding this year. Currently in stock is an antique tin pint measuring cup, a novelty teapot/cup combo and a wealth of candles and candlesticks. There is also a small wall chest made of wood from a Lawrenceville village tree by Harry Pratt and a comical ceramic piece entitled "Pig with Deviled Egg" made by a popular potter in Roosevelt. New gold and silver jewelry has also arrived. Come browse while the selection is excellent.

Mystery Quilt Donated to Brearley House

Lawrence Road Quilters Honored at November 1st Reception

When Claire Stuebben of the Homemakers of Lawrenceville reached into a large bag of fabric scraps that had been donated to that organization, she was amazed to discover a large quilt top. There was no clue as to how old it was or who had pieced it together so lovingly. It looked quite old and a bit worn here and there, but clearly still useful. It was turned over to the Lawrence Road Quilters, a group of women who have been quilting together at the Lawrence Road Presbyterian Church for many years.

And so began a project which culminated when the quilt top, its 1,680 triangular pieces now beautifully hand quilted into a double-bed-size quilt, was formally presented to the Lawrence Historical Society at the 1761 Brearley House.

Mafalda (Sally) Tiziger, the most senior member of the Lawrence Road Quilters, made the presentation.

Gatterdam Honored by Lawrence Township

On the evening of June 17th, 2003, Lawrence Township Council Chambers were filled to capacity. With over one hundred people in attendance, seven individuals including LHS Past President Paul Gatterdam, were recognized and honored for service to community. Mayor Greg Puliti read "Resolutions of Appreciation" prior to the start of the regular Township Council meeting. Excerpts from the Gatterdam resolution "to those individuals who volunteer their time and services for worthy causes" are as follows:

Whereas, Paul has proven to be masterful in the details of management and in his ability to bring the necessary professionals together to restore the Port Mercer Canal House to its present beauty...

Whereas, Mr. Gatterdam continues to be active in the Society by concentrating his efforts on the upkeep of both the Canal House and the Brearley House, thereby preserving a part of Lawrence Township's history for the present and future generations...

Whereas, Paul further imparts his community spirit as an active member of the Holy Trinity Lutheran Church where he sings in the choir...

Whereas, it has been said that the words most befitting Paul are "kind", "compassionate" and "patient" and that all these qualities are enlivened by his delightful sense of witty humor.

Now, therefore, be it resolved by the Township Council... that it hereby extends to Paul Gatterdam its most sincere appreciation for his many years of dedicated service to the Township of Lawrence and wishes him health, happiness and success in all his future endeavors.



Paul Gatterdam (l) receives his "Resolution" from Lawrence Township Mayor Greg Puliti

Middle School Students Experience Archeology at Brearley House

About 150 eighth graders came to the Brearley House in October to participate in the ongoing archeology project, which is in its sixth year. After demonstrating how an excavation is performed, professional archeologists from Hunter Research worked with small groups of students to clean, identify, and record artifacts uncovered in previous years.



Archeologist Ian Burrow (center) addresses 8th Grade students from Lawrence Middle School in the Great Meadow in mid-October.

Among these artifacts are specimens known as fire-cracked rock, which are shards created when Native Americans dropped large super-heated rocks into soft animal-skin sacks of cold water to boil the water. This year the archeologists demonstrated the process by dropping rocks in a camp fire heated to over 800 degrees into a large metal pan of 58 degree water. As the students (who wore goggles) watched, the water boiled in about a minute. Many of the rocks, now softened, cracked when dropped on the ground as they were removed from the fire.

Society docents were also on hand to take all the students on tours of the Brearley House. The next digs are scheduled for three days in May, 2004.



Young "archeologists in training" dig at the Main Street Jubilee earlier this spring.

In Search of Brearley...

LHS Board Member and Lawrenceville School student Caryn Goldenberg was awarded a William Welles Grant last spring. The following is the first paragraph of her research and journey. Find her entire report at the Society's website—www.TheLHS.org.

On June 8th, 2003, as I was sitting on the plane at Newark Liberty International Airport, waiting for it to take off. I was full of anxiety and anticipation and not sure of what I was going to find in England pertaining to my Brearley Family research. I have spent several years studying the family both before and after they arrived in America in 1682. I was curious to find more about where and how the Brearleys lived in England before coming here. As I checked over my itinerary for my ten-day expedition, visiting Liverpool, York, and London, I knew that this trip would be an experience that would change my life. My mother was my chaperone and I was eager was to learn more about this interesting family. We were both looking forward to enjoying the sights and sounds of England.



This pedestrian bridge was installed across Route One in the early morning hours of October 18th. The bridge reconnects the towpath of the D&R canal for the first time since the early 1970's. A formal dedication and opening is expected in spring, 2004.

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 Applies for Planning Grant...

The Board of Trustees has submitted a grant application to "re-examine our mission" and to develop a long range (five year) plan for the Society. The proposal was submitted to the Princeton Area Community Foundation. PACF recently relocated their non-profit offices to Lawrence Township. The formation of a Long Range Planning Committee will examine and evaluate issues such as whether programs increase active participation by its members, the school age population and the community-at-large and whether Society membership reflects the diversity of Lawrence Township. A questionnaire/survey of the membership would be developed, distributed and evaluated as part of the planning process. Throughout 2004, a draft of the plan would be packaged and distributed with the 2004 fall edition of *Places in Time*. The LHS continues to maintain the circa 1830 Port Mercer Canal House and the 1761 Brearley House, is entering its sixth year of hosting and sponsoring archeological digs for eighth graders and has a current membership of over two hundred. Featured events included the Holiday Wassail Party, Hogmanay, May Fair, monthly tours of the Brearley House and periodic tours of the Port Mercer Canal House.

Places in Time is published by the Lawrence Historical Society. Janet Bickal, Caryn Goldenberg, Paul Gatterdam, Chris Lahoda, and Jim Williams all contributed to this special holiday edition. Don Meisel is *PIT* Editor and Dan Oberst is the LHS Webmaster. Please visit us on the web at www.TheLHS.org.

LHS News Briefs...



Battle of Monmouth Revisited...

A group of 30 LHS members and friends traveled to Monmouth Battlefield State Park on June 29th to observe the re-enactment of one of the key battles in the Revolutionary War 225 years ago. Molly Pitcher was an active battle participant in the summer of 1777.

Scouts converge on the Great Meadow... for overnight camping adventures. After a several month delay due to rain, approximately 150 Lawrence Girl Scouts camped under the stars in September. A troop of Webellows endured wet weather and some paranormal activity in October as they transition from Cub to Boy scouts.

Williams on the Web... LHS Board Member and award-winning photographer Jim Williams captures many images of Society events through his camera lenses. Instead of simply filing and archiving his cd's and prints, Jim's creative efforts will be posted on www.TheLHS.org website for all to view and appreciate.



LAWRENCE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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