

Places In Time

LAWRENCE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

WINTER ISSUE 2005

Annual Membership Meeting to be Held Sunday, February 20th, 2005 at 2 PM

The Lawrence Historical Society's Annual Meeting will be held at 2 PM on Sunday, February 20th in the lower meeting room of the Lawrence Municipal Building. History will be made as well as celebrated. First, the proposed new mission statement and long range plan of the Lawrence Historical Society will be presented to the members for their consideration and approval (see page 3).

What better way to begin demonstrating a new vision for the LHS then by "building a bridge from the past to the future". A joint effort between the Society and Eggerts Crossing Village will celebrate their 30th anniversary. On hand for the Annual Meeting will be three members of the Eggerts Crossing Village Steering Committee, Tom Wilfrid, Joan Semenuk, and Tonia Moore. Showing his documentary film about the village will be LHS Trustee, Jim Williams. The Board of Directors will be elected and refreshments will be served.



Eggerts Crossing Village President Fred Vereen and LHS's award winning film maker Jim Williams at the October 23rd premier of the ECV documentary. Over 200 people gathered at ETS's Conant Hall to celebrate the 30th Anniversary of the Lawrence Non-Profit Housing, Inc.

A Hogmanay "Thank You" to Chantal and Bill McCarroll and Joann Graja who kept the kitchen and the shop going during the blaze-- to Paul Gatterdam, Dan Oberst, Dick Graja and Jim Williams for traffic and parking patrol and Grand Firemaster Joe Logan and his assistant Tom Ledwith.



James Brearley (aka Bill Agress), PNC Bank Manager Terese Fernandez, Janet Bickal, LHS President and Ann Garwig of the Lawrenceville Main Street Program

PNC Bank Celebrates and Supports History

The Lawrenceville Branch of PNC Bank celebrated the historically accurate restoration of its 188 year old landmarked building this November with festivities and a \$1,000 gift to the Lawrence Historical Society. As the latest proprietors of another Brearley building, the 1816 Joannah Brearley Crocker House, the bank sought the advice of the Society in researching the history of their house. In return, they have made this generous donation. It turns out that Joannah was the granddaughter of James Brearley for whom our house on Meadow Road was built. To express our gratitude, the Society will host a reception at *our* Brearley house for members of the PNC staff.

Bonfire Draws Record Crowd

Thanks to mild weather and a wonderful article in *US1*, (complete with picture of a blazing Viking ship) some 500 celebrants thronged to the Great Meadow on New Year's Eve 2004. The Society was overwhelmed by the crowd, which created a traffic jam on Meadow Road and quickly dispatched our hot cocoa supply.

Graham Kronk, LHS Bagpiper and fiddler, returned to the Meadow to perform for guests. It is the fifth year that the Society has helped bring in the New Year with a Hogmanay bonfire.

Calendar of Events

- The first Saturday of every month: **Brearley House Tours**
 February 5th
 March 5th 10 AM to 12 Noon
 April 2nd
 May 7th
 June 4th
- Saturday: **Port Mercer Canal House Open House** 1 - 3:30 PM
 January 22nd Vicki Chirko, Resource
 February 19th Interpretive Specialist for the D&R Canal State Park
- Sunday, February 20 **Annual Meeting** 2 - 4 PM
 Lawrence Municipal Building
 Lower Level Conference Room
- Saturday May 14 **May Fair**
 3rd Anniversary Celebration
 Brearley House and Great Meadow: 10 AM – 3 PM
- Sunday June 12 **Garden Party on Canoe the Canal Day** 1 - 4 PM
 Port Mercer Canal House
- October: **Second Mary Tanner History Lecture**
 Date and Speaker TBA



A lovely quilt made by Weedie Stokes' daughter, Jill Halbert, using antique quilt squares. The material was augmented with new squares made of antique fabric donated by her friend Carolyn Lynch. The quilt is on display on the second floor of the Brearley House.

More pictures on the web—The Brearley House has become a popular site for non-profit and for-profit events. Please visit www.TheLHS.org for a pictorial summary of the events and updated rental information.

The LHS Nominating Committee has submitted the name of the following to serve on the Board of Directors for 2005.

Bill Agress	Ruth Barringer
Janet Bickal	Bruce Bitcover
Paul Gatterdam	Joann Graja
Dick Graja	John Halvorsen
Eleanor Horne	Chris Lahoda
Dan Oberst	Laura Nawrocik
Karen Perkins	Jim Washburn
Jim Williams	

A formal vote will be taken at the Annual Meeting.



Master Gardener Ron Lemahieu (left with hat) talks about the refurbished garden with visitors.



Flames shoot 25 feet in the air on December 31st as Great Meadow guests celebrate Hogmanay

Lawrence Historical Society Long Range Plan: Members to Vote at Annual Meeting

The Board of Trustees has approved a Long Range Plan for the Lawrence Historical Society (outlined below). This plan evolved from responses to a questionnaire sent to members and widely distributed throughout the community. The questionnaire and the draft of the plan were created by a planning committee consisting of seven (7) Trustees and seven (7) community leaders. The responses, tabulated free of charge by Bruno & Ridgeway Associates, showed a widespread agreement that the Society is doing a good job of preserving and promoting the history related to the two historic houses under our care, the 1830 Port Mercer Canal House and the 1761 Brearley House. However, our relevance and appeal to members of the community who do not identify so closely with 18th and 19th century town history was deemed lacking. The Mission Statement and set of Goals and Objectives that comprise our proposed Long Range Plan reflect our attempt to continue with our current strengths and enhance and broaden our activities. We urge every member of the Society to study this plan and come to the Annual Meeting on February 20 to discuss it and cast your vote.

**MISSION: The Society's purpose is to preserve and promote the richly diverse history
of Lawrence Township by building a bridge from the past to the future.**

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GOAL #1: Establish the Lawrence Historical Society as the township's central clearinghouse for historical issues and programs pertaining to pre-history through the present.

OBJECTIVE: By January 1, 2008, increase Lawrence Historical Society's visibility level among Lawrence Township residents as measured by increase in contacts/exposures.

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GOAL #2: Offer a range of programs, alone or in partnership with community groups and organizations, that appeals to a broad cross section of cultural and ethnic groups and those of all ages in Lawrence Township.

OBJECTIVE: By January 1, 2006, assess whether to expand, modify, or delete any current programs and activities now offered by the Society.

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GOAL #3: Raise sufficient new funds to meet the Lawrence Historical Society's expanded operating and capital needs and to ensure the long-term financial health of the society.

OBJECTIVE: By January 1, 2008, increase the amount of funds raised annually by diversifying the society's fundraising efforts.

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GOAL #4: Put in place an organizational structure that will actively engage volunteers and enable the Society to implement its mission.

OBJECTIVE: By January 1, 2006, actively engage an additional 15 individuals in the work of the Lawrence Historical Society and by January 1, 2007 engage an additional 15 individuals in the work of the Society.

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Join the Lawrence Historical Society!

Join the society today or renew your membership! Members receive the society newsletter, and notice and discounts of society events. The society is a non-profit, charitable organization.

Name _____ Tel (____) _____

Street _____

Town _____ State _____ Zip _____

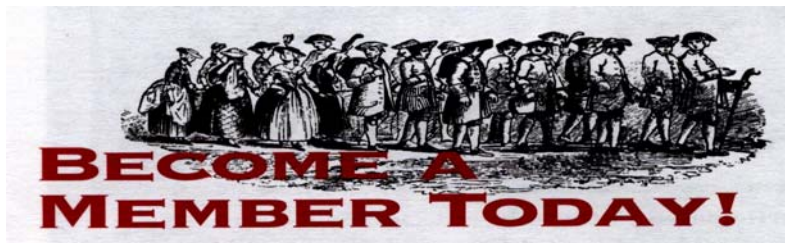
Is this a renewal? _____

Student \$5
 Family \$35
 Lifetime \$250
 Senior \$5
 Patron \$50
 Business \$50
 Individual \$15
 Benefactor \$500

Mail to:
 Lawrence Historical Society
 PO Box 6025
 Lawrenceville, NJ 08648

I am enclosing a special contribution
 to commemorate _____

Birthday and anniversary cards can be sent if you supply us with an address.



* Contributions to the Mary Tanner History Lecture Series are also welcome

The Lawrence Historical Society
 P. O. Box 6025
 Lawrenceville, New Jersey 08648
Return Service Requested

Generous Gifts...

The year 2004 saw a number of fascinating gifts to the Brearley House from friends both old and new. Kathryn Lamb, whose blanket chest has graced our hall for some time, gave us the Tillinghurst family Bible. Another fine old volume came from Ray Allen. It is *The American Generals* by John Frost, a 916 page work published in 1848 with illustrations on nearly every page. On the flyleaf is an inscription that looks like John Brearley, although the ink is a bit blurred.

From Mary Louise (Weedie) Stokes, who has been so generous to the Society over the years, comes a marvelously clear signature of James Brearley on a receipt for \$3 for assessing some property for her ancestor Absalom Reeder in 1824.

Yet another Brearley connection came from Mildred Brearley. She presented the Society with a treasure trove of family photographs and other mementos including a 1913 cookbook from the Presbyterian Church of Lawrenceville. In it are several recipes from several Brearley ladies. She also gave us three monogrammed silver forks, two serving spoons and a gravy ladle belonging to the family.

Thanks to all of them for their wonderful gifts.

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