

# Lawrence Historical Society

P.O. Box 6025, Lawrenceville, NJ 08648

CHRISTMAS  
OPEN HOUSE:

Our Christmas Open House was a success and everyone enjoyed themselves. Personalized gingerbread men were a hit thanks to Lori, Drew and Sandra. The house was decorated for the holidays and refreshments were served, including Milton's famous Wassail. A big thank you to everyone who helped make this a pleasant afternoon.

ANNUAL  
MEETING:

At our annual meeting in February, a program on the history of Colonial Heights in Lawrence Township was presented by area resident, Gary Saretsky. Mr. Saretsky and his family live in an historic house in Colonial Heights. The house was formerly owned by John and Winona Nash, who spent years of hard work restoring it. Mr. Saretsky presented a very interesting and informative slide and lecture program. The meeting was well attended and everyone enjoyed the program.

TRI-CENTENNIAL  
CENTENNIAL:

Lawrence Township will be celebrating its Tri-Centennial in 1997. A Canoe The Canal event will be held Columbus Day weekend in October, 1991 to kick off a series of events celebrating 300 years of history. The canoe trip will finish at the Canal House and refreshments will be served. Anyone interested in participating should contact Steve Groeger, Recreation Department, at Town Hall.

HISTORICAL  
SOCIETIES  
MEETING:

The Historical Association of Central Jersey will meet Sunday, April 21st, at 2 p.m., at the Griggstown (Canal) Barracks. The meeting is sponsored by the Van Harlingen Society and the Griggstown Historical Society. Anyone needing more information can call Sue Rightmire (908) 359-6288 or Liz Palins (908) 874-3820. Members of our Board have found it very beneficial to attend these meetings with other area historical societies and organizations. Experiences and information are shared on restoration projects and the trials and tribulations of non-profit organizations.

OUTHOUSE &  
TOOL SHED:

Work continues on bringing the outhouse and tool shed to the Canal House. We're in the final stages of approvals and bids. We're still thinking positive the outhouse will be in place before our June Open House. Before making the final decision to build a replica, the Outhouse Committee investigated the possibility of moving an old outhouse to the site. There were two possibilities. Both were eliminated - one was in very poor condition and the other too far away to make it cost effective. The house moving company we consulted didn't return our telephone call at first....they thought the message left on their answering machine inquiring about the cost of moving an outhouse was a prank call!

1,000 FOOT  
GREENWAY:

The Society has written a letter to the West Windsor Planning Board in support of the request by the Port Mercer Civic Association for a 1,000 foot greenway (buffer zone) to protect Port Mercer from future development on the corner of Route #1 and Province Line Road.

MEMORIAL DAY: The Society will participate in Memorial Day recognition at the Upper and Princessville cemeteries as well as the memorial marker next to the Lawrence Middle School. Flowers will be placed at all three locations and Frances McCarthy will read the Gettysburg Address at the Memorial Day ceremonies in Veterans Park.

INTERPRETIVE  
SIGN: The interpretive sign project undertaken by the Sierra Club is complete. The sign sponsored by the Lawrence Historical Society, The D&R Canal Watch and the Lawrence Township Historic & Aesthetic Committee is now erected at Port Mercer.

OVER PLEASE

D & R CANAL  
HIKE:

On Sunday, April 7th, the Canal Society of New Jersey, sponsored a hike along the canal. Approximately 20 people participated including members of the D & R Canal Watch. The Canal House was open to give the hikers a chance to see the house and refreshments were served. The hikers were very appreciative. Anyone interested in future hikes sponsored by the Canal Society of New Jersey can write to the organization at 214 North Bridge Street, Somerville, New Jersey 08876.

BOOK PROJECT:

A committee has been formed to start work on the reprinting of the "Old Lawrenceville Book" by Don Tyler. This book has always been popular and the original printing has been sold out. Members of the committee are Ken Rubin, Milton Levin, Lori Jakubek, Nick Loveless and Lisa Rubin. The Society has taken steps to secure the copyright from the Historical Society of Princeton. This is a major project that will take approximately 2 - 3 years to complete. Several mistakes in the original book will be corrected and the book may possibly be expanded. Winnie Nash, Mary Tanner, Iona Fackler Myers, Doug Sargent, as well as others will be contacted to ensure accuracy. Anyone interested in getting involved on this project can contact Ken Rubin (609) 695-6979.

BENTLEY'S &  
THE JIGGER  
SHOP:

The Society is aware of the concern of many area residents concerning the fate of Bentley's and the Jigger Shop. We attended a meeting between the Landmarks Advisory Committee and the Lawrenceville School. The Society is in the process of gathering information and giving input. There will be a meeting in the near future of concerned residents and public meetings in the future. Anyone interested in getting involved with the group of area residents can contact Lisa Hullfish at 896-0224.

GRADUATION  
AWARD:

The Society will participate in the Lawrence High School Award Program again this year by presenting a check of \$150.00 to an outstanding graduating history student at Awards night in June.

JUNE  
OPEN HOUSE:

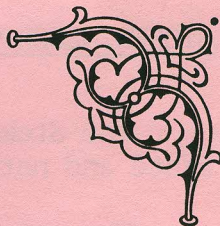
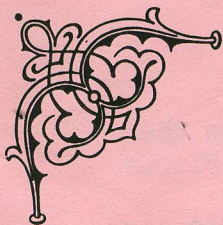
On Sunday, June 9th, our Nineteenth Century Craftsmen By The Canal Open House will be held. The hours are from 1 - 4 p.m. Bring the family and enjoy homemade ice cream, demonstrations of pre-industrial crafts and the garden in full bloom. Howell Living History Farm will also be there to demonstrate corn threshing. Admission is free and refreshments, in addition to the ice cream, will be served.



HOUSE TOUR  
& RECEPTION:

The Lawrence Historical Society is celebrating its fifteenth anniversary by having a House Tour and Reception at the home of Mr. & Mrs. W.J.B. Stokes, II. The Stokes/Mershon house will be open for tour between 2:30 - 5 p.m. on Sunday, May 5th. Refreshments will be served and gift items will be for sale in our Spring Gift Nook. Admission is \$5.00 per person and children under six are not encouraged. Join us for a wonderful Spring afternoon and bring your friends. The tour is open to the general public.

You won't want to miss our Fifteenth Anniversary Celebration!

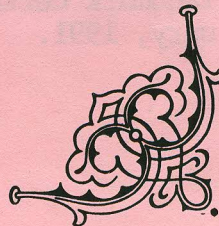
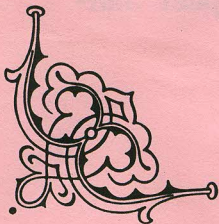


THE LAWRENCE HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
FIFTEENTH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION  
HOUSE TOUR AND RECEPTION

SUNDAY, MAY 5, 1991 2:30 - 5 P.M.

STOKES/MERSHON HOME

3801 PRINCETON-LAWRENCEVILLE ROAD, LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP



## STOKES/MERSHON HOUSE

The Stokes/Mershon House is listed on the state and national Registers of Historic Places.

The original wing was built about 1740 and another wing was added about 1800. An additional wing was added in 1933.

The main portion of the house, which was constructed about 1800, is largely original. It has high ceilings, and the original door and window trim and fireplaces.

A historic survey was prepared by consultants Kinsey and Hand of Princeton. The survey stated "This house is an excellent example of a predominant building type in the Lawrence area - a small early-mid 18th century house with a larger Georgian/Federal style house built to the side a generation or two later."

"Of the seven examples of this type surveyed in Lawrence Township, the Stokes house is one of the two best preserved on both exterior and interior. This house also compared favorably in terms of architectural design and state of preservation to similar types of houses found in nearby Princeton," the report said.

The house was acquired by Mr. Stokes' grandfather, a Trenton industrialist, in 1925. When Mrs. Stokes married Mr. Stokes, she learned that the house had been built by one of her Mershon ancestors.

The Historic Preservation Advisory Committee of Lawrence Township presented a township historic landmark certificate to Mrs. Stokes this past January, 1991.