

Places In Time

LAWRENCE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

SUMMER 2002

Mead Addresses Membership at 2002 Annual Meeting Gatterdam Re-elected for 3rd Term Roth Honored

Over 50 people attended this year's annual meeting of the Lawrence Historical Society. **Linda Mead**, Executive Director of Delaware & Raritan Greenway, Inc, presented an update on the American Revolution National Heritage Areas network being considered for the central portion of the State of New Jersey. For future updates, visit: www.nps.gov/crossroads/home.htm



Deputy Mayor Pam Mount (right) reads a proclamation acknowledging the contributions of **Allison Roth** (left) for her seven years of service on the Lawrence Historical Society. LHS Treasurer **Ruth Barringer** (middle) looks on (more on page 2).

LHS Receives \$5,000 Grant to Continue Middle School Archeological Digs:

The Lawrence Township Community Foundation (LTCF) announced in May that 8th graders will continue to have the opportunity to do research in the Great Meadow. Digs have been conducted for the past four years (Fall and Spring) according to Board Member Chris Lahoda. To date, over 1,200 students have participated in the archeological digs. This year, several artifacts including arrowheads, a piece of a native American pipe and cracked rock were found on the site. The award from LTCF will insure that these explorations into our past will continue in the future.

LHS Board Sets Pricing Structure for Use of Brearley House

After several months of review and discussion, the LHS Board adopted the dual rental structure for utilization of the Brearley House at their May meeting. The key distinction is between Meetings and Parties: The following criteria for utilization of the Brearley house:

Meetings

Lawrence Township and Township
Appointed Committees: No Charge

Other Historical Societies: No Charge

501(c)3 Non-Profit Organizations:
Up to four (4) Hours: \$50
Up to eight (8) Hours: \$100

Business Organizations:
Up to four (4) Hours: \$150
Up to eight (8) Hours: \$300

Parties

Fewer than 50 People: \$250
50-100 People: \$300
100-150 People: \$500
Over 150 People: \$700

A \$100 non-refundable deposit is required to reserve a date and time.

Balance of payment due no later than 30 days prior to the event.

A damage deposit of \$300 is required and refundable within 14 days upon satisfactory post-event inspections.

In addition, renters must sign a "hold harmless" agreement and apply by strict guidelines set forth in the "Agreement and Guidelines for Use of Facilities".

Guidelines include:

- a mandatory portable toilet for groups of 100 or more;
- all appropriate permits must be secured by the renter;
- all events must conclude by 11 PM.

Rental applications can be printed from the LHS website: www.TheLHS.org or at the Brearley House.



Caryn Goldenberg and Brearley "Coat of Arms"

A rising sophomore at The Lawrenceville School, Caryn Goldenberg has an interest in history. Her interpretation of the Brearley Family Coat of Arms won a design competition sponsored by the LHS. Caryn was also elected to the Board of Directors.

Calendar of Events:

Saturday, August 3 Tour of the Port Mercer Canal House 9:30 AM. (Meet at the Canal House followed by a tour and a walk to the Brearley House). Tour of the Brearley House 10 AM until 12 noon.

Saturday, September 7 Tour of
10 AM-12 Noon Brearley House

Saturday, October 5 Tour of
10 AM-12 Noon Brearley House

Sunday, October 6 Lawrence Township
Community Day

Saturday, November 7 Tour of
10 AM-12 Noon Brearley House

Saturday, December 7 Tour of
10 AM-12 Noon Brearley House

Sunday, December 8 Christmas at the
2 PM-5 PM Brearley House

Tuesday, December 31 Hogmanay:
6 PM New Year's Eve Bonfire at The
Great Meadow by the Brearley House.

Tanner to be Published

An article by Mary Tanner on the involvement of Joseph Brearley and the ill-fated attempt to pull present day Canada into the American Revolution will be published in a future edition of *New Jersey Heritage Magazine*. The narrative features excerpts from letters exchanged between family members as Joseph marched with his regiment through New York on his way to Montreal in February of 1776. With the arrival of British reinforcements, under the direction of General Johnny Burgoyne, colonial troops retreated to New Jersey with Brearley arriving just prior to the battles of Princeton and Trenton.

Volunteers Needed

The LHS now has over 200 members. In addition to monthly house tours, activities at the Brearley House and within the community need human resources! Docents are always needed, especially during special events such as archeological digs, weddings and picnics.

Training is available and hours are flexible. Items for resale at the gift shop are always welcome. There is also the need for individuals to help with routine maintenance of the apple orchard and the 18th century garden.

Please call 895-1728 if you would like to get involved.



Community Day Volunteers: LHS Board Members (l to r) Williams, Bickel and Oberst. This year, the date is Sunday, October 6th.

Places in Time is published twice a year by the Lawrence Historical Society. It is printed courtesy of Educational Testing Service (ETS). The majority of photographs were taken by Jim Williams and Paul Gatterdam. Dan Oberst is the www.TheLHS.org webmaster. Don Meisel is the "PIT" editor.

D&R Historian Vicki Chirco presents a visual history of the Canal this past February.



Rick Dutko draws a crowd for "Bat Night" earlier this spring. The bat population at the Brearley House is down from 500 before restoration began to just a handful. However, "bat houses" have been provided by a local Boy Scout troop to encourage repopulation.



Scouts camped out in the Great Meadow late last fall.

LHS Annual Meeting: 2002 (cont)...

Paul Gatterdam was re-elected President for his third consecutive term. Bruce Bitcover was elected Vice-President, as both Alice Jones (Secretary) and Ruth Barringer (Treasurer) were re-elected. Other Board members elected include:

Returning:	New:
Bill Agress	Caryn Goldenberg
Janet Bickel	Bernard Shull
Brooke Doerler	Frank Spiegle
John Halvorsen	Jim Washburn
Eleanor Horne	Jim Williams
Chris Lahoda	
Donald Meisel	
Dan Oberst	
Mary Tanner	
Karen Perkins	



Board members are elected to one-year terms.



Alison Haley (in period dress) and family. Alison, a student at Notre Dame High School, completed a video project on Historic Preservation featuring The Brearley House. The video is available for viewing at the house or on-line: www.TheLHS.org.

Recent Donations...

Katherine Lamb recently donated an 1840 painted blanket chest that has been in her family for years. It was owned by her grandfather, Pardon Tillinghast. A lovely shawl, which belonged to Pardon's wife, Eunice, was also donated. Both items are on display at the Brearley House.

Ice Cream, Cookies and Song Lure Visitors to the Port Mercer Canal House

On Sunday afternoon, June 9th, the LHS opened the Port Mercer Canal House for tours as part of "Canoe the Canal Day".



This vintage 1926 wooden canoe made the trip. Visitors were treated to music by the John Brown band. John Halverson and friends hand cranked ice cream for guests of "The Garden Party".



Vicki Chirco, Historian for the Delaware and Raritan Canal State Park, was on-site as a tour guide as were several LHS volunteers. Return visitors from last year noted the enhanced appearance of the house, thanks to a \$20,000 appropriation from the State of New Jersey.

In addition to the fresh coat of paint, wooden floors and a cracked sewer pipes have been repaired, electrical upgrades have been made and work has been done on the chimney flues. Many of these improvements were made as the house was still suffering from damage inflicted by Hurricane Floyd in 1999.

Next year, visitors will experience additional improvements to the grounds as a site plan has been approved to beautify the landscape and drain storm water away from the structure. Doerler Landscapes will begin the project this fall.

Port Mercer House Open this Summer

On Saturday, August 3rd, the Port Mercer Canal house will open at 9 AM. Historian Vicki Chirco will give guided tours of the Canal House beginning at 9:30. Tours will be followed by a walk to the Great Meadow where docents will be on hand at the Brearley House for the regular tour from 10 AM until 12 noon. Please mark your calendars to take advantage of this unique opportunity. **If the tours are well received, additional Port Mercer tours may be added for the fall.** Call 895-1728 or check the LHS website for added tour dates and times.

The Port Mercer Canal House has a new caretaker. He is Ed Canzano—a New Jersey native with family members in Belle Meade and neighboring Pennsylvania. Ed specializes in house restoration and painting. No doubt he will be called upon for small projects that come with maintaining circa 1830 house.

LHS Hosts Society of Colonial Wars Luncheon

The generous contribution of \$15,000 to the LHS from the Society of Colonial Wars for the restoration of the Brearley House was acknowledged this past fall. Mr. and Mrs. James Brearley (Bill Agress and Janet Bickel) "hosted" a luncheon at the Brearley House for 20 members of the Society. Governor of the Society, Richard Bynam, presented LHS President Paul Gatterdam a "ceremonial check" while Mary Tanner, Allison Roth and Janet Bickel made presentations on the colonial wars, the Brearley family, fund raising and acquisitions. Peggy and Jack Whitehead were also acknowledged for their efforts in preparing for the event.



LHS President Paul Gatterdam is all smiles as two Junior Colonists from Girl Scout Troup 1058 display a "sampler" for the walls of the Brearley House.

Activities in "The Great Meadow" On the Rise

In the month of June, the grounds of the Brearley House played host to a picnic for 300 employees and guests of PRG (Princeton Radiology Group). The site was accented by tents, snow cone and cotton candy makers, balls, lawn games and many, many children.



James Brearley chats with a PRG visitor

The **Emily Atwood-William Pott** wedding reception was held in the "Great Meadow" on Saturday, June 15th. Over 150 guests attended. The reception was catered by Main Street Catering. The entire event will be featured in a future edition of *Victoria* magazine. Their on-line address is <http://magazines.ivilage.com/victoria>.



Junior Colonists from Troup 1814 stand at the front door of the Brearley House. They conducted a colonial living demonstration on the Brearley grounds May 4th of this year. Marcey Yousefinejad is the Troup Leader.

The **Lawrence Center for Mind-Body-Spirit** (a non-profit organization) will be holding two all day sessions (**August 17th and September 28th**) at the Brearley House this summer. The Center is "dedicated to providing ongoing programs for personal growth, physical health and spiritual well being and support for people in transition. For information, please call **882-3222**."

LHS Celebrates Memorial Day...

by joining in the parade. Joe Logan drove his freshly painted truck festooned with banners thanking our veterans and urging memberships in the Society. The banners, made by Emory Perkins, feature photos of the Brearley House and Port Mercer Canal House. Riding in the truck (l to r) are Martha Logan in 19th Century dress and Janet Bickel in 18th Century dress. Also pictured are Andrew Agress and Mary Tanner (hat). They were joined by John Halverson and Dan Oberst (not pictured).



Many groups are finding out about the Brearley House...

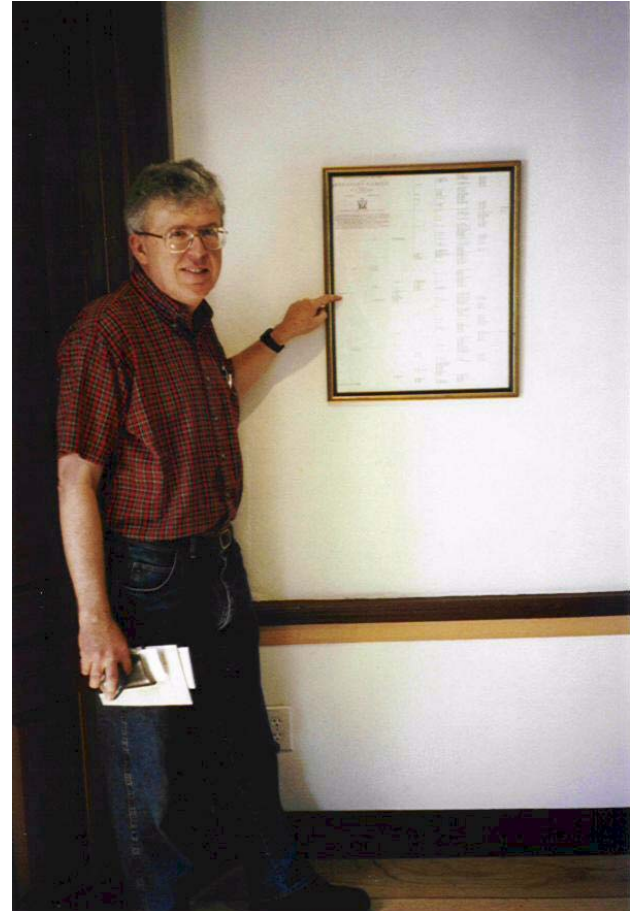


LHS Treasurer Ruth Barringer (far left) makes a presentation to Brearley House visitors.



Member of the Lehigh Valley Historical Society pose

Visit the Lawrence Historical Society on the world wide web:
www.TheLHS.org



Brearley descendent Jim Otton points to his lineage on a recent tour.

A PhD geologist with the United States Geological Survey received a personal tour of the Brearley House on a recent visit to Lawrence Township. Dr. Otton currently lives in Colorado and is a direct descendent of John Brearley.



Future Archeologists!!

These youngsters used their bare hands to dig for artifacts at the recent Main Street Jubilee. LHS has sponsored this event since "the good olde days" have been "back on Main Street".



Multi-talented Graham Kronk plays the Bagpipes...

Holidays At The Brearley House



and the fiddle at Hogmanay.

The bonfire before...



during...



and after.



The Brearley House is also home to the Lawrence Historical Society Gift Shop. Persons are welcome to make tax deductible contributions to the Society for resale. Please call 895-1728 for more information or to arrange a delivery.

Florence Grey of Dover, New Jersey recently donated items for sale. Ms. Grey belongs to the Society for the Restoration of Old Stone House in Montegue, NJ. The Old Stone House is open on Sunday afternoons during the summer months.



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.

The Brearley House Guestbook...

Since Hogmanay 2001, several hundred guests have visited the Brearley House. Below is a list of addresses left behind...

New Jersey Towns

Cherry Hill
Dover
East Windsor
Ewing
Griggstown
Hamilton
MD
Lawrenceville
Manville
Monroe Township
Princeton
Princeton Junction

Out-Of-State

Alexandria, VA
Arlington, VA
Benton, KY
Bucks County
Denver, CO
Federalsburg,
MD
Levittown, PA
Rockville, MD
Sebastopoe, CA
Sudbury, VT
Washington
Crossing, PA
Yardley, PA
Ontario, Canada

Ridgefield
Secausus
Summit
Trenton
West Windsor

Princeton had the most residents sign the guestbook while Virginia provided the most out-of-state visitors.



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

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