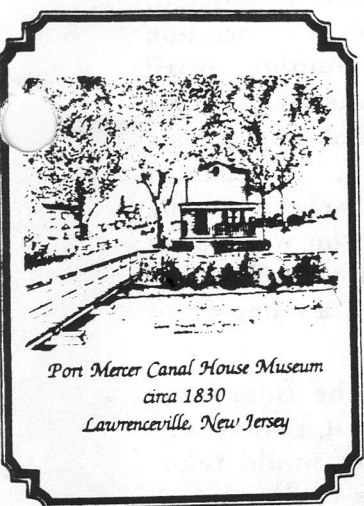


Lawrence Historical Society

P.O. Box 6025, Lawrenceville, NJ 08648



Port Mercer Canal House Museum
circa 1830
Lawrenceville, New Jersey

SPRING NEWSLETTER.....1993

Christmas At Port Mercer

Our Christmas Open House was well attended in spite of the torrential rains that weekend. The house was beautifully decorated for the holidays. Bill Manning sold Christmas trees, wreaths, garlands, cheese, wool, bird houses and maple syrup from December 4th right up to December 23rd. This undertaking was very successful and the Society realized a \$1,000.00 from this effort which is being applied to the House Fund. More important, those who purchased items from Bill were pleased that the money was supporting two non-profit organizations. They enjoyed the ambiance and the opportunity of touring the house.

Annual Meeting:

Our Annual Meeting was held Sunday afternoon, February 7th, from 2 - 4 p.m., at the Lawrence Library. The new Board of Trustees was installed by Mayor Gloria Teti. The program on "Life At Port Mercer And The Delaware and Raritan Canal" by Gordon Keith was informative and most interesting.

Harmony Day:

All seven schools in the Township have worked together to plan "Harmony Day". Many events have been planned to take place at the Lawrence High School, May 15th, from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., rain or shine. Various organizations have been asked to participate as well as this gives many new residents of our community to become acquainted with services offered in our Township. Harmony Day is a fundraiser for all the schools and monies raised will be divided equally among the schools. The Lawrence Historical Society plans to have a table at this event.

Graduation Award:

Nick Loveless, a Trustee of our Board, will present the monetary award of \$150.00 to the outstanding graduating history student at Awards Night held at the Lawrence High School in June. The name of the student is not known at this time but will be included in our Fall newsletter.

Docent Committee:

A Docent Committee has been organized by Frances McCarthy. The responsibility of a Docent is to greet visitors at the Port Mercer Canal House when our two yearly open house events are held. If you enjoy being a host or hostess and enjoy talking to people, this is an opportunity for you to get involved to share knowledge of the house, the Port Mercer area and the Delaware and Raritan Canal. A training program is planned one evening, 7 to 8 p.m., in May. If interested, please call Frances in the evening at 882-9032.

Tri-Centennial Celebration:

Lawrence Township will celebrate its Tri-Centennial in 1997. Activities are being planned each year leading up to the year 1997. The Society will plan an activity in recognition of the Tri-Centennial. More information will be given at a later date.

Vounteers:

given at a later date.
Anyone interested in becoming active on a Committee or on the Board, please contact Frances McCarthy (evening - 882-9032) or write to Lawrence Historical Society, c/o Frances McCarthy, P.O. Box 6025, Lawrenceville, NJ 08648.

Bentley's Market:

The Board intends to voice concern about the possibility of Bentley's Market being torn down by the new owner, V. J. Scozzari, a local Building Contractor. The Lawrenceville School sold the building but retained ownership of the land.

**Lawrenceville
Presbyterian
Church**

The oral history project undertaken by members of the Lawrenceville Presbyterian Church has been completed. Reverend Dana Fearon had a special service of recognition of older church members at 10 a.m. on Sunday, April 18th. Immediately following, a reception was held in the Auditorium. A brief program was presented and guests were introduced by Mary Tanner. The book, "A Different World", oral histories by longtime residents, were available for sale. The book costs \$10.00. All those who worked on this project deserve recognition of doing an outstanding job. The book is most attractive, interesting, and an important addition on the history of our community.

Membership:

Membership Dues are very important for the Board to realize goals for the Society. If you have not paid your dues for 1993, it would be appreciated if you would take the time now to do so. A membership form is enclosed for those who have not paid yet. Also, a notice is enclosed for those who have not paid for two years. If dues are now delinquent two years, this will be the last newsletter you will receive. We can't afford to lose friends. Cost of printing and mailing per member averages \$3.00. Your membership helps us to continue the monetary award to an outstanding graduating history student, upkeep of the house and garden, refinishing furniture, school programs, and cost of our two open house events. We would like to reprint the Old Lawrenceville book by Don Tyler. A new brochure is in the process of being printed. This is only a partial list! As you can see, we make your membership count!

Furniture Refinishing:

The House Committee, Denise, Frances and David, are pleased to announce that the furniture refinishing project is able to be considered at this time. The dining room table, the china closet, and the side-by-side will be refinished by the Furniture Mill. All will not be completed by our June event but will be finished before our December event.

Acquisition:

A lovely watercolor of the General Store that was located across the street in Port Mercer will be framed and will hang in the dining room. This was a donation made to the Society several years ago.

Resignation:

The Board of Trustees accepted the resignations of Drew Jacubek and Lisa Rubin due to their other commitments in the community. Assistant Secretary and Treasurer, David Kimzey will become the Recording Secretary. Frances McCarthy is Corresponding Secretary but is not part of the Executive Board.

**Historical Associations
of Central Jersey:**

This organization was formed by a number of local historical societies several years ago. The purpose of forming this organization was for societies to become acquainted with each other and to share information and concerns with each other. The Spring meeting was held at the John Abbott II house on Saturday, May 1st, and was hosted by the Hamilton Historical Society. Denise, Frances and Milton attended.

**A Port Mercer
Sunday Afternoon**

and Milton attended.

Bring family and friends to enjoy a pleasant Sunday afternoon at the Port Mercer Canal House. Everyone has the opportunity to help make homemade ice cream and enjoy it too! Refreshments will be served. The house and garden will be open for tour. Pre-industrial crafts will be demonstrated. Syd, the Mercer County Library Parrot is a star attraction. Syd's owner, Linda Toth, will give mini talks throughout the afternoon on birds as pets during the Victorian era. Another highlight of the afternnon will be the opportunity to see our newest acquisition. Our pre-Civil war outhouse will be on its new foundation and open for viewing. Phase II of this project will be to do the necessary repair work on the outhouse. Canoeists will canoe the D & R Canal. If interested in canoeing, contact Steve Groeger off the Lawrence Township Recreation Department. There is no admission charge for our Port Mercer Sunday Afternoon. Syd will be looking for you to share a special Sunday afternoon, June 13th, from 1 - 4 p.m.! This event will be held rain or shine!

A PORT MERCER SUNDAY AFTERNOON™

JUNE 13, 1993 4 - 4 P.M.

PORT MERCER CANAL HOUSE...

BY THE DELAWARE & RARITAN CANAL

Quakerbridge Road, Port Mercer, Lawrence Township, NJ

Pre-Industrial Crafts

- * Broom Making
- * Calligraphy
- * Corn Threshing
- * Herbs and Vinegars
- * Lap Quilting

Syd... "Mercer County Library Parrot"...and owner,
Linda Toth, will lecture on
"Birds As Pets In Victorian Times"

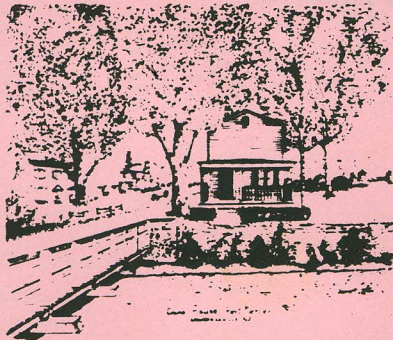
Sponsored by:

Lawrence Historical Society

- Map on back

***Homemade Ice Cream *Refreshments *Admission Free**

*** House and Garden Tour...including
debut of our pre-Civil war outhouse**



*Port Mercer Canal House Museum
circa 1830
Lawrenceville, New Jersey*